

# Romsey RUFC

## Disciplinary Procedures

The club has for many years now nominated a Chairman of Disciplinary Committee. This position is known as 'Discipline Secretary' on the RFU site 'This is Rugby'

The Disciplinary Committee is not a standing committee. The Chairman convenes a panel usually of two more appropriate people whenever a disciplinary matter has to be dealt with. Usually such matters have occurred on the field of play but any form of indiscipline on or off the pitch may be within the remit of the Disciplinary Committee.

For disciplinary matters arising from a sending off or a citing, Romsey RUFC complies with the procedures that are clearly laid down by the RFU and by our Constituent Body (CB). Briefly this means that we have to report a sending-off to the Constituent Body's Disciplinary Secretary and deal with the paperwork that results.

A player receiving a red card is immediately suspended until their case has been ratified by the CB so hearings will be conducted as soon as possible.

In the meantime the player concerned will be approached as to when he and his representative and/or witnesses can make themselves available to appear before a club disciplinary panel. All concerned will be contacted via email.

At the hearing at which the player is given every opportunity to plead his case and to call for witnesses and character referees he may be questioned by the members of the panel. At this point the player retires and the panel considers its verdict and appropriate sanctions. Sanctions will always be within the RFU guidelines which are clearly laid down on the RFU website and in handbooks. If the player accepts the judgment of the committee The Constituent Body is informed and we await its decision. If the player is then required to attend a disciplinary hearing held by the Constituent Body, he will be accompanied by a member of the clubs' disciplinary panel. A player/spectator is required to appear before the CB panel in all cases of match official abuse.

It should be noted that in the case of foul play or misconduct by a member of a mini or junior team, The Club's Safeguarding Officer should be present at the hearing but not a be a member of the panel in addition to the player's parent or guardian. Whilst the procedure will be the same, the RFU recommended sanctions are generally somewhat more lenient lest the player should be put off the game for life. Also in these cases the Head Teacher of the school attended by the player concerned has to be informed and the player's commitment to school matches etc. taken into account when sanctions are being considered.

For disciplinary matters not relating to the playing of the game e.g. misbehavior in the clubhouse or on the touchline, the Disciplinary Committee would be convened in the same way but the sanctions are not laid down in writing anywhere and could vary from a ticking -off to exclusion from the club.

A brief summary of the conduct required of our members is and has been printed in the club Fixture List/Directory for at least the past ten years.