



**To: North Midlands Clubs' Hon Secs
and Youth Rugby Officers**

11th September 2014

Dear All

Re: New Age-Grade Disciplinary Procedures

As most of you are aware, I was appointed to be the North Midlands Youth Discipline Secretary at the end of last season.

As you know there are very few age-grade disciplinary incidents (in particular significant ones) whether that be in schools, colleges or clubs and, therefore, my workload is mercifully light. In a recent letter the RFU Discipline department acknowledged that, in their experience, age-grade cases, when they do arise, are handled in an efficient and fair manner.

However, the RFU has noted that there is more work to do around communication. This is important because **all** players (including juniors) are provisionally suspended from playing the Game until their case has been dealt with by a club, school or college disciplinary panel and that any playing suspension that is imposed will apply to all of the player's forthcoming matches (again, no matter who the player is scheduled to play for). It is therefore imperative that information about disciplinary cases and any sanction that is ultimately imposed is shared with those in rugby union that need to know. In the first instance that person is me.

The RFU concluded the age-grade disciplinary procedures in the RFU Handbook needed significant revision. The RFU Discipline department and others met to review them and decided that we needed a fresh set of procedures. Considerable work went into getting the principles correct and then into drafting the new age-grade disciplinary procedures to reflect the agreed principles.

I attach the latest version of RFU Regulation 19, Appendix 6 that has been approved by the RFU Council and which came into force on 1 August 2014. Please can you ensure that you and your M&J teams take a few minutes to read through them. There has been no news from the IRB about having a different sanctions table for age-grade players that would apply to the game worldwide. As such, the sanctions table that we have been using for the last few years (subject to some minor improvements) will continue to be used until we hear otherwise.

We are expecting guidance from Charlotte Mitchell-Dunn at the RFU to sit alongside the disciplinary procedures. These will be shared once they are published

As you will have seen from the above, my title has changed from North Midlands Schools & Youth Disciplinary Secretary (NMSYDS) to North Midlands Youth Disciplinary Secretary (NMYDS). This is because the RFU has moved the responsibility for monitoring all schools' and colleges' discipline to the ERFSU (the Schools' CB) who will work through their network of County Schools Unions (CSU) to advise and monitor cases locally. Principals and Head Teachers remain in charge of discipline of their pupils.

The disciplinary procedures state that Schools and Colleges should report disciplinary incidents to the NYDS. However, to clarify the NYDS oversees all age grade discipline matters. In respect of Schools and Colleges the ERFSU's disciplinary officer will be the first port of call. (Currently this is Nigel Orton, but he hopes to pass the baton over in the coming weeks to Chris Davy who will share with him the Schools' case load).

Where a Club has a player Sent Off I will offer advice and support and I am able to revert to Nigel Orton, the NYDS, for guidance at any time. Please inform me of any sending off as soon as possible.

I wish you a safe and successful season. I hope that disciplinary incidents remain few in number.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David Warner

North Midlands Youth Disciplinary Secretary
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