

Berkshire Referees Society – Discipline and Abuse Policy

This applies to all senior and junior games (Society or Club appointed), in and out of County where BSRFUR members or Berkshire club referees are involved. The following areas are covered:

- Red Card Action
- Referee Abuse
- Citing
- Abandoning a match
- Berkshire Disciplinary meetings
- Schools and Youth Rugby

Please note that the BSRFUR Committee take a firm stance on Disciplinary issues, especially with respect to Referee Abuse. Therefore, we are committed to support all referees in the Berkshire RFU jurisdiction.

Red Card Action

When dismissing a player or club official, the referee must note the following:

- name,
- number,
- time of the dismissal,
- score at the time,
- nature of the offence.

Immediately after leaving the pitch make detailed notes of the incident and establish the name of the player if not already done so.

* The incident must not be discussed at the Club after the match.

(The recommended response to any questions is 'It will be in my report'),

* A written report MUST be lodged with the Society's Disciplinary Officer ***within 48 hours*** of the end of the game as per RFU Regulations 19.3

A blank Sending Off Report Form can be found on the Society's website - www.bsrfur.com

Advice/Assistance for completing the Sending Off Report can be obtained from the Society's Disciplinary Officer or any member of the Committee.

* Email the completed Report to the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer who will forward it the relevant Constituent Body. If you can only submit a handwritten report, send it to the Disciplinary Officer at the address as found in the front of the BSRFUR Handbook as soon as possible.

Abuse

If you are subjected to verbal and/or physical abuse, do not react abusively or take any threatening action yourself, 'Don't participate and don't escalate'. If the source of the abuse is a player or players, deal with the matter using a Red Card/Sending Off Report.

If the Abuser(s) is a Coach/Club Official or a member of the crowd, try to identify the individual(s) concerned and take a note of their names. If the person(s) withhold their name(s), make a note of their refusal to co-operate.

N.B. If it is your judgement that to try and obtain the name of a non-player while the game is still in progress would cause additional and/or accelerate the problems, this should be attempted at the conclusion of the game. If their name is withheld, make a note of their refusal to co-operate.

Immediately after leaving the pitch make detailed notes of the incident and try to establish the name of the persons involved. Use the captains or coaches or Officers of the Club to assist you in gathering this information. If it is not forthcoming advise the Captain that sanctions may be applied to the club as a whole.

Notify the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer of your experience so that the relevant County Body can be given notice that Abuse has occurred.

It is **MANDATORY** that ALL incidents of verbal and/or physical abuse are reported. You have a duty of care to all other Referees to report the incident.

Failure to comply with this instruction may render you liable to internal BSRFUR disciplinary action.

Complete a Society Match Abuse Report and submit it via the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer within **48 hours** of the end of the game. Consult the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer if you need advice or assistance.

In cases of extreme or repeated abuse, the Society reserves the right to withdraw appointments of referees to the club in question. This can be to a club section or whole club if necessary

Citing

There may be occasions when action may be taken to cite a player. This will be rare and can only happen where the referee has, for a number of reasons (unsighted, yellow card or penalty), not dismissed a player for an act of foul play.

As soon as you become aware of any citing action being considered, make your own detailed notes about the game, as you would probably be called as witness at the subsequent disciplinary hearing.

Society or Club Referees and Advisors must not to discuss the citing in the club after the match.

Abandoning a Match

If you have to abandon a match on disciplinary grounds or with respect to the safety of the players or the crowd but NOT due to the condition of the playing surface, you have in fact dismissed both sides and will need to submit a BSRFUR Sending Off Report. It is important to record the time of the abandonment, as this may have competition implications.

Discuss the situation with the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer who will advise you on the appropriate course of action.

Berkshire Disciplinary meetings

The BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer or Senior Society member will attend County discipline meetings as an observer but will take no part in the decision making process.

Referees are to be encouraged to attend the meeting, where the facts are contested, especially in cases of abuse. A senior Society member will be present to accompany them and Expenses will be paid at the Society rate in force at the time to those who attend.

Schools and Youth Rugby

PLAYERS SENT OFF IN SCHOOLS MATCHES

It is accepted that Discipline in Schools Rugby is within the province of the Head Teacher.

The completed Sending Off form shall be sent to the Disciplinary Officer within **48 hours**. He will then send a copy to the Head Teacher of the school concerned and the relevant Officer of Berkshire County RFU.

The Head Teacher shall consult the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer before coming to a decision, and then write to the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer, stating the sanction, if any, applied.

PLAYERS SENT OFF IN YOUTH MATCHES

Clubs are responsible for all disciplinary procedures involving their youth teams. The same processes outlined above for senior rugby teams apply equally to youth rugby teams including the submission of a report to the BSRFUR Disciplinary Officer. The report will also be forwarded to the Berkshire RFU who will monitor any subsequent disciplinary action taken by the relevant club

Conclusion

If you have any queries, concerns or observations concerning Discipline, please contact the Society Disciplinary Officer whose details can be found in the front of the BSRFUR Handbook.