

RUGBY NOVA SCOTIA Disciplinary Policy

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 For the purpose of this policy the following definitions shall apply:

- (i) Committee - Disciplinary Committee
- (ii) Chairman - Director of Internal Competition, RNS; Disciplinary Committee Chairman
- (iii) N.S.S.R.U.R. - Nova Scotia Society of Rugby Union Referees
- (iv) Union – Rugby Nova Scotia
- (v) Board - Board of Directors, Rugby Nova Scotia.
- (vi) On-field - Incidents involving one or more players participating in a game of rugby.
- (vii) Off-field - See section 4.1
- (viii) Member Club - See Article 7, Rugby Nova Scotia Constitution and By-Laws
- (ix) Associate Member - See Articles 7 and 8, Rugby Nova Scotia Constitution and By-Laws.

2. MANDATE

2.1 The Board of Rugby Nova Scotia (RNS) delegates the primary responsibility for discipline issues to the RNS Discipline Committee in accordance with Article 31 of the By-Laws of RNS.

3. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The Director of Internal Competition shall chair the Committee. Its powers and mandate are in conjunction with Rugby Canada's appendix to the Laws of the Game of Rugby Football dealing with disciplinary matters. The Chairman may appoint any Committee member to chair any meeting in his absence.
- 3.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall have as its members, in addition to the Chairman, an Executive Member of the NSSRUR, four individuals from the Rugby community and the Executive Director of RNS to act as Secretary. Four of seven members constitutes a quorum. The Chairman may only vote in the event of a draw.
- 3.3 The Committee's jurisdiction covers all incidents, both on and off-field where the Constitution and By-Laws of the Union have been contravened, involving any member Club or associate member while in or outside the Province of Nova Scotia; or any visiting rugby team or Club and its members while in the province of Nova Scotia. This policy also covers all Nova Scotia provincial representative sides.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 3.1 A member of the Committee is considered to be in conflict of interest if the individual appearing at a hearing is a member of the Committee member's club.
- 3.2 The Committee member will not participate in hearing any case in which he/she has a conflict of interest.

4. GUIDELINES FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 4.1 If a member of the Committee has been reported to the committee:
That member of the Committee must abstain when the report is heard.
- 4.2 If a member of the Committee is affiliated with "Club A" and a member of "Club A" has been reported to the committee: **That member of the Committee must abstain when the report is heard.**

- 4.3 If a member of the Committee is affiliated with “Club A” and a member of “Club B” has been reported to the committee as a result of an incident occurring during a game between “Club A” and “Club B”: **That member of the Committee must abstain when the report is heard.**
- 4.4 If a member of the Committee is a referee representing the NSSRUR and that member has sent a report to the committee: **That member of the Committee must abstain when the report is heard.**
- 4.5 If a member of the Committee is a referee representing the NSSRUR and if a member of a club has been reported to the Committee for referee abuse: **That member may act as a member of the Committee when the report is heard. (Unless Rule 6 applies)**

5. CARDING

- 5.1 Yellow Cards issued to players shall be reported by referees to the RNS office and a Yellow Card count will be kept on all who receive this card.
- 5.2 A player receiving 4 Yellow Cards in a season will automatically be suspended for 1 game.
- 5.3 The Yellow Card count for a player, who is suspended for 1 game as result of receiving 4 Yellow cards, shall be cleared after he/she has served the suspension.
- 5.4 At the end of regular season, the Yellow Card count for all players will be cleared with the exception of a player who receives their fourth Yellow Card in the last game of the season shall serve a 1 game suspension.
- 5.5 When a player who has received a Yellow Card, is subsequently sent off in the same game:
- (i) The Committee shall consider the initial Yellow Card in the discipline hearing held relative to the sending off of the player.
 - (ii) The Yellow Card shall not be included in the player’s cumulative Yellow Card count.

6. ON-FIELD DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

6.1 The Referee

When a referee has deemed it necessary to remove a player from the playing enclosure, the following steps shall take place:

- (i) The referee shall inform the player and his or her captain that the player has been Sin-Binned (Red or Yellow Card) and is to leave the field of play and briefly why. The player is then obligated to leave immediately and no further discussion is to take place either by the player or his or her captain. Yellow Card – 10 minutes; Red Card – game ejection and further disciplinary action.
- (ii) The referee shall inform the Chairman, by phone, Email or fax of the incident within 24 hours of the incident, exactly who was Red Carded and the name of the respective club; to be followed by a complete written report, to be posted within 48 hours of the incident, with a copy to the Secretary of the N.S.S.R.U.R..

6.2 The Player

Shall be suspended from all facets of the game until further notice from the Committee. **Any player suspended from play shall serve his or her suspension in the division in which he or she was suspended. Until such suspension is served, that player shall not be eligible to play in any other division.**

6.3 The Player's Captain

Shall immediately inform his club executive of the incident.

6.4 The Club Executive

- (i) Shall inform the Chairman or Rugby NS within 48 hours of the incident, by telephone, Email or fax, the offending player's address and telephone number, and by this action confirm their knowledge of the incident, their acknowledgement that the player is not available for selection until further notice from the Committee, and whether or not they intend to file a report as outlined under 6.4 (ii).
- (ii) Shall at their option, file a report with the Chairman, indicating any relevant information, club sanctions imposed, etc.. This report shall not challenge the decision of the referee or the facts surrounding the incident as relayed by the referee. **“ The referee is the sole judge of fact and law. All his decisions are binding on the players.”** If a Club chooses to file a report along these lines, the Committee has the right to disregard the report in its entirety. This report must be posted within 48 hours of the incident in order to be considered. The Committee shall proceed if it is not received within 96 hours.

6.5 The Disciplinary Committee

- (i) The Chairman has the option to call for a meeting immediately upon receipt of the referee's report, to be held as soon as possible ensuring sufficient time has elapsed to allow for receipt of all other relative reports.
- (ii) The Committee shall be guided by the following ranges of suspensions for incidents involving individuals who have had incident reports filed against them within the current or preceding two (2) calendar years:

OFFENCE	IRB Range of Penalties	RNS Range of Penalties	Norm(games)
To strike an opponent with the hand, fist or arm including the elbow.	7-84 days	1-12 games	3
To hack, stamp or trample an opponent	21-182 days	3-26 games	Head - 12 Body - 6
To kick an opponent	21-182 days	3-26 games	Head – 26 Body - 12
To trip an opponent with the foot	7-42 days	1-6 games	2
To strike an opponent with his/her head	49-252 days	7-36 games	20
To strike an opponent with his/her knee(s)	7-84 days	1-7 games	4
To bite an opponent	12-36 months	12-36 months	18 months
To attack an opponents eyes with an part of the hand	18-36 months	18-36 months	24 months
To tackle early, late or dangerously, including the action known as a “stiff arm tackle”	7-56 days	1-8 games	3
To charge or obstruct an opponent who has kicked the ball	7-42 days	1-6 games	2

To hold, push, charge, obstruct or grasp an opponent not holding the ball except in a scrummage, ruck or maul	7-42 days	1-6 games	2
In the front row of a scrummage to form down some distance from the opponent and rush against them	7-42 days	1-6 games	2
In the front row of a scrummage to lift an opponent off his/her feet or force him/her upwards out of the scrum	7-42 days	1-6 games	2
To cause a scrummage, ruck or maul to collapse	7-42 games	1-6 games	3
While the ball is out of play, to molest, obstruct or in any way interfere with an opponent or be guilty of any form of misconduct	7-42 games	1-6 games	2
Having received three cautions or temporary suspensions	7-42 days	1-6 games	2
To verbally abuse match officials	4-12 weeks	4-12 games	8
To use threatening actions or words at match officials	12-24 months	12-24 months	18 months
To physically abuse match officials	2 years-Life	2 years-Life	5 years

In addition to the penalties outlined in above, the Disciplinary Committee may, on consideration of the offence, including the severity of the offence and previous offences by the person or Club concerned, direct more severe penalties for any form of verbal or physical abuse to a referee.

- (iii) In the event that there is a previous incident on file regarding the individual involved within the current or previous two (2) calendar years, or if the Committee deems the incident so severe that a hearing is warranted, the Chairman shall convene same to deal with the incident. In this instance, the Committee shall not be restricted to any maximum limits. The Chairman shall inform the club with three (3) days prior notice of the hearing and they or their appointed representative may be in attendance and be heard. The Chairman may enter into evidence any other documentation deemed by him to be relevant.
- (iv) The Chairman shall communicate any decision verbally to the player's club executive, followed by written communication to the offending player, the club executive and the secretary of the N.S.S.R.U.R.. Said decision must include a re-eligibility date.

7. DEFINITION OF A GAME FOR DISCIPLINE PURPOSES

- 7.1 A game is defined as a league, exhibition, representative game or a tournament at the same divisional level, or above, that in which the offense occurred.

- 7.2 This means that an individual ejected from a 1st Division game, may not count a 2nd Division game as part of his/her suspension, but may count an exhibition game, a representative fixture, a tournament or Provincial or Regional competition as part of the game count for the suspension in accordance with 7.4 below.
- 7.3 A suspended player may use a defaulted game as part of the game count for the suspension if the player was not a member of the defaulting team and in accordance with 7.4 below.
- 7.4 An exhibition game, a representative game, a tournament, or Provincial or regional competition may only be counted towards a suspension if the player or his/her club requests in writing to the Chairman of the Committee to count these competitions as part of the suspension.
- 7.5 A tournament is deemed to be equivalent to one divisional game.
- 7.6 The Chairman of the Committee has the sole discretion as to what constitutes a legitimate exhibition game or tournament.

8. OFF-FIELD DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 8.1 The term off-field refers to any incident of contravention of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Union by a member club or associate member, where the offending party is not directly involved in a rugby match when said contravention is alleged to have occurred.
- 8.2 A complaint may be lodged in connection with this type of incident by any party who is financially liable as a result of the incident, by any member club of the Rugby Nova Scotia or by the Union under whose jurisdiction the event occurred.
- 8.3 All such complaints shall be forwarded to the Chairman as soon as possible after the incident, but no later than fourteen (14) days. On receipt of the written complaint, if the Chairman deems the situation warrants, he shall convene a hearing to deal with the incident. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with section 3.5 (iii) of this policy, except that rather than the referee on the day being present, the complainant has the option to be present and be heard.
- 8.4 The Chairman may solicit any eye witness accounts and or other documentation and enter same into the proceedings as evidence. The eye witness accounts must be presented to the hearing either in person or in writing.
- 8.5 Whether or not a complaint is acted upon, the Chairman must present all complaints to the Board for review. After said review the Board may override a decision by the Chairman not to act on any specific complaint and direct him to convene a hearing.
- 8.6 Until such time as a proper hearing can be conducted, the parties accused may continue to participate in all Union activities as under normal circumstances.

9. APPEALS

- 9.1 The Board shall handle all appeals.
- 9.2 An appeal may be launched by;
- (i) the disciplined club or disciplined player's club.
 - (ii) the club against whom the incident took place.
 - (iii) the party who filed the original complaint under section 3 of this policy.
 - (iv) the N.S.S.R.U.R.

- 9.3 All appeals must be presented to the Board, in writing, within 30 days of the Committee's decision outlining the reason for appeal, which must fall under the following acceptable grounds:
- (i) The availability of new and pertinent information that was not available at the initial hearing.
 - (ii) The question of whether the Committee has exceeded its authority or jurisdiction as defined by this policy or as conferred on them by the Board.
 - (iii) The appropriateness of the sentence or conditions imposed of both severity or leniency provided the suspension is in excess of three (3) games.
- 9.4 The appeal must be accompanied by a \$100.00 bond (certified cheque) which may be refunded in whole or in part at the discretion of the Board if it considers the grounds for the appeal sufficiently valid (whether or not the appeal is upheld).
- 9.5 The Board shall deal with the appeal at its' next regularly scheduled meeting. In the interim, any sanctions imposed by the Committee shall remain in effect.
- 9.6 In order to ensure a fresh hearing of the incident, any Board member who has prior involvement in the incident or disciplinary decision shall not be eligible to vote on the appeal. In the event the foregoing prevents a quorum of votes, the President may co-opt any other associate members to attend and vote on the appeal.
- 9.7 The decision of the Board relating to any appeal shall be final.

10. GENERAL

- 10.1 The Committee has the power to carry out the following sanctions:
- (i) Suspend or restrict associate members or any visiting teams or clubs and its players while in Nova Scotia from participating in any or all facets of the Game of Rugby Football for a specific period of time.
 - (ii) Restrict the playing activities of any member Club for a specific period of time.
 - (iii) Levy fines on member Clubs to a maximum of \$500.00 on its own and higher, subject to the approval of the Board.
 - (iv) Cause member Clubs to post performance bonds to a maximum of \$1000.00 for a specific period of time. Higher bonds may be imposed with the approval of the Board.
 - (v) Suspend the touring privileges of any member Club or associate member for a specific period of time.
 - (vi) Exercise any other sanction it deems fit under the circumstances.
- 10.2 The address for submissions to the Committee Chairman is:
- The Chairman
Disciplinary Committee
Rugby Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 3010 South
Halifax, NS B3J 3G6
- 10.3 Any Club who knowingly allows a player to participate in a rugby match while under suspension;
- (i) shall lose the subject match by default.
 - (ii) may be liable for a fine of up to \$1000.00.
 - (iii) in addition to the foregoing, may be subject to further disciplinary sanctions as levied by the Committee.
- 10.4 The Chairman is responsible to ensure accurate records are maintained relative to all incidents dealt therewith.