

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION



President: D. N. Herriman, 48A Glebe Lane, Widnes WA8 9JG Telephone 0151 424 4099 (H)

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Chairman C. Barker, 4 The Fields, Standish, Wigan WN6 0GF

Hon. Secretary B. Leigh, 36 Knowsley Road, Beech Hill, Wigan WN6 7PZ e-mail: cb-honsec-lancs@therfu.com

Telephone 01257 422535 (H)

Telephone/Fax 01942 244110

1st March, 2008

To: Hon. Secretaries of all Member Clubs

Dear Colleague,

Discipline – Verbal Abuse

I write to express the concern of the County with regard to the increase in the abuse of match officials during the present season from players, coaches, officials and spectators. Of the total sendings off to date no less than 21% have been for abuse of the referee. Even more alarming is that half of these cases emanated from the U14 – U19 age groups.

The recruitment of referees by both the Liverpool and Manchester Referee Societies continues apace but retention of these officials is proving somewhat difficult and there is clear evidence that we are losing referees because of the abuse they receive at games.

The Lancashire County RFU Disciplinary Committee is determined to support the referees and anyone, i. e. player, coach, official or member, who is either sent off or reported for abuse of the referee can expect little sympathy when they appear at a disciplinary hearing. This very week, we dealt with four players sent off for abuse of the referee and they received suspensions totalling 36 weeks.

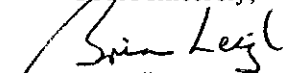
The powers of the Disciplinary Committee are far reaching and I would refer you to paragraph 8.2.2 of the RFU Disciplinary Regulations which reads:

“For the avoidance of doubt “appropriate punishment” referred to in Rule 5.12 shall include, but not be limited to for a person, a reprimand, a financial penalty or suspension from playing, administration or both and for a Club, in addition to these penalties, deduction of League points, relegation or exclusion or disqualification from any competition. Where a competition does not fall within the jurisdiction of the RFU a Club may be required to withdraw from that competition.”

I would also point out that a Club is responsible for the behaviour of its spectators and this is particularly relevant to Mini-Junior rugby where the behaviour of some parents is less than acceptable. Concern has also been expressed by the RFU this week and you should have already received documentation from Twickenham advising on penalties recommended for parents and other spectators guilty of unacceptable behaviour.

I shall be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of all your Club Officials, coaches, players and members and would appreciate your co-operation in eradicating this blight from our game.

Yours sincerely,


Brian Leigh
Hon. Secretary

SURRIDGE
www.surridgesport.com


BUTLERS
ESTD farmhouse cheeses 1932

SALE
SHARKS



SPIRAL
SPORTSWEARE