

## SENTENCING GUIDELINES

References to 'Warning / Advice' in the table below means that the offence will be placed on the player's record but that rather than a suspension being imposed the emphasis will be on advising the player how to avoid a similar offence occurring in the future (such advice might be delivered by the Club).

Where there is a reference to 8+ in the table below, the Competition Disciplinary Tribunal shall have the discretion to impose either a ban for a number of matches or a term of suspension (i.e. a suspension that will run until a stated date).

Law	Charge	Recommended Ranges – Depending on Fixture			Guideline Description
		Under 11 – Under 14	Under 15 – Under 18	Open age (irrespective of age of player)	
<b>15.1(a)</b>	<b>Trips, kicks or strikes another player</b>				
	Trips	Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	1-2	Reaction trip
		1	2 - 4	2-4	Intentional trip
	Kicks	1-2	2-4	4-6	Intentionally kicks body
		2 – 4	5-8	8+	Intentionally kicks head
		Warning / Advice	2-4	2-4	Intentionally stands on
		1	3 - 5	4-6	Trampling
		2 – 4	3 - 5	4-6	Stamping
	Strikes	Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	1-2	Recklessly strikes with hand, arm or shoulder
		1	2	2-4	Intentionally strikes with hand, arm or shoulder
		Warning / Advice	1-2	2-4	Recklessly strikes with elbow or forearm
		2 – 4	4-6	8+	Intentionally strikes with elbow or forearm
		2 – 4	4 - 6	8+	Intentionally strikes with elbow or forearm - off the ball

	Strikes - knee	Warning / Advice	1-2	1-2	Raising knee in tackle
		1	2	4-6	Strikes with knee
		2 – 4	3 - 5	8+	Strikes with knee in a violent & aggressive manner
	Strikes - head butting				
		1	2 – 4	2-4	Head Butting – makes light contact
		2 – 3	3 - 4	3-5	Head butting – makes full contact
		3 – 5	4 - 6	5-8	Head butting – makes full contact in aggressive violent manner
	Strikes – punching				
		Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	SOS-1	Reaction to opponent – lashing out
		Warning / Advice	1-2	1-2	Punching – self defence
		Warning / Advice	1-2	1-2	Punching – one on one
		2	2 - 4	2-4	Punching – sustained, repeated
		3 – 4	4 - 5	5-8	Punching – sustained, repeated, violent & aggressive
		2	2 - 3	4-6	Running in & punching
		2 – 4	3 - 5	5-8	Running in & punching – opponent off guard
	Other striking offences	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	
15.1(b)	<b>When tackling or attempting to tackle makes contact with head or neck of an opponent</b>				
		Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	SOS-1	Careless – flat hand off balance
		Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	SOS-1	Careless - Ball carrier dips
		Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	SOS-1	Careless - Stepped and reaching
		Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	SOS-1	Careless – initial contact with ball or chest
		Warning / Advice	Warning / Advice	SOS-1	Careless – second tackler in – wrapping tackle up

		Warning / Advice	1-2	2-3	Reckless – whole body to go at – tackler in control
		Warning / Advice	1-2	2-3	Reckless – tried to tackle but reckless about outcome
	Intentional				
		2 – 3	3 - 5	5-8	Intentional – clenched fist – intent to make contact with head
		2 – 3	3 -5	8+	Intentional – stiff arm tackle – no attempt to tackle legitimately – violent
	Other Tackling offences	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	
<b>15.1(c)</b>	<b>Drops knees on an opponent on the ground</b>				
	Drops knees first	1	2 – 4	4 - 6	Intentional
<b>15.1(d)</b>	<b>Uses a dangerous throw</b>				
	Dangerous throw	Warning / Advice	SOS – 1	SOS – 1	Other tackler’s actions were part of the problem (only applies where Player is not aware of other tackler’s actions)
		Warning / Advice	1 – 2	1 – 2	Ball carrier’s actions were part of problem
		Warning / Advice	1 – 2	2 – 3	Lifting & dropping player
		Warning / Advice	2 – 3	4 – 6	Throwing player into ground
		2	4 – 6	8+	Spear Tackle – intentionally driving player into ground on head or neck
	Other Dangerous Throw	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	
<b>15.1(e)</b>	<b>Intentionally and continuously breaks the Law of the Game</b>				

		Discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	
<b>15.1(f)</b>	<b>Uses of offensive or obscene language</b>				
		Warning / Advice	1 – 3	2 – 4	Foul language
		1	2 – 5	4 – 6	Foul & abusive language
		1	2 – 5	4 – 6	Foul language towards match official
		2 – 3	3 – 8	8+	Foul & abusive language towards match official
		1	2 – 5	4 – 6	Questioning the integrity of a Match Official
		2 – 5	3 – 8	8+	Verbal abuse based on race, colour, religion, gender, sexual preference, disability, national or ethnic origin – heard by the match officials
		Reference to RFL	Reference to RFL	Reference to RFL	Verbal abuse based on race, colour, religion, gender, sexual preference, disability, national or ethnic origin – not heard by the match officials
	Other offensive or obscene language	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	
<b>15.1(g)</b>	<b>Disputes a decision of the Referee or Touch Judges</b>				
		Warning / Advice	1 – 2	1 – 2	Disputes decision
		1	2 - 4	2 – 4	Disputes using aggressive language or body language
		2 – 3	3 – 8	8+	Disputes using aggressive language & body language
	Other disputes decision	Warning / Advice	Discretion of Competition	Discretion of Competition	

			Disciplinary Tribunal	Disciplinary Tribunal	
<b>15.1(h)</b>	<b>Re-enters the field of play without the permission of the referee or touch judge</b>				
		Warning / Advice	2 – 4	2 – 4	
<b>15.1(i)</b>	<b>Behaves in any way contrary to true spirit of the game</b>				
		2 – 4	5 - 8	8+	Gouging
		2 – 4	5 - 8	8+	Biting
		2	5 - 8	8+	Spitting
		2 – 4	5 - 8	8+	Attack on testicles
		2	5 - 8	8+	Raking with studs
		2 – 4	5 - 8	8+	Threatening words or actions towards match officials
					Dangerous Contact*
		Warning / Advice – 1	1 – 3	8 + to 2 years.	Deliberate or reckless physical contact with a match official (e.g. placing hand on arm to attract attention)
		2 – 4	5 – 8	Sine Die	Physical assault of a match official (e.g. pushing / shoving)
		Sine Die	Sine Die	Sine Die	Violent and aggressive physical assault of match officials (e.g. punching)
		Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Other contrary behaviour
<b>15.1(k)</b>	<b>Shoulder Charge</b>				
		Warning / Advice	1-2	2-3	Indirect or secondary contact with the head of an attacking player
		2	2 - 3	4-6	Direct contact with the head of an attacking player
		Warning / Advice	1-2	2-3	Shoulder Charge - Other dangerous contact
	<b>Intentional Obstruction of an Opponent not in possession</b>				

		Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	Discretion of Competition Disciplinary Tribunal	
	<b>Team Fines</b>				
	Brawling	£100.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£100.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£100.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Brawl	£200.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£200.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£200.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	
	Abandonment of game	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	
	<b>Spectator or Club officials entering the field of play</b>				
		£150.00 and/or relevant RFL course	£150.00 and/or relevant RFL course	£150.00	
	<b>Spectator or Club officials usage of foul and abusive language</b>				
		£100.00 and/or relevant RFL course	£100.00 and/or relevant RFL course	£100.00	

\*Dangerous Contact includes:

- Applying forceful and unnecessary pressure to the head, neck or spinal column of a tackled player so as to keep that player at a disadvantage in or after a tackle.
- Forcefully and unnecessarily grasping (or jerking, or pinning or twisting) the head or neck of a tackled player.
- Contact with the legs (either direct or indirect) with the supporting leg(s) of an attacking player who is held in a vulnerable position, in a way that involves an unacceptable risk of injury.
- Forcefully twisting, bending or otherwise applying pressure to the limb(s) of an opposing player in a way that involves an unacceptable risk of injury.
- Making contact with the leg(s) of an attacking player who has kicked the ball in a way that involves an unacceptable risk of injury.