

APPENDIX 2 - RFU RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS

Law No		Entry Point based on Scale of Seriousness of the Player's conduct, which constitutes the offending. Lower End (LE), Mid-Range (MR), Top End (TE).	Maximum Sanction
10.4(s) 10.4(m)	Verbal Abuse of Match Officials	LE – 6 weeks; MR – 12 weeks; TE – 18+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(s) 10.4(m)	Threatening Actions or Words at Match Officials	LE – 12 weeks MR – 24 weeks TE – 48+ weeks	260 weeks
10.4(s) 10.4(m)	Physical Abuse of Match Officials	LE – 24 weeks MR – 48 weeks TE – 96+ weeks	Life
10.4.(s) 10.4.(m)	Incidental Physical Contact with Match Officials	LE – 6 weeks MR – 12 weeks TE – 18+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(a)	Striking another Player with a hand, arm or fist	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 8+ weeks	52 weeks
		A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point sanction.	
10.4(a)	Striking another Player with the elbow	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
		A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point sanction	
10.4(a)	Striking with knee	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
		A strike to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point sanction	
10.4(a)	Striking with head	LE – 4 weeks MR – 10 weeks TE – 16+ weeks	104 weeks
10.4(b)	Stamping/Trampling on an Opponent	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
		Stamping/trampling on the head shall result in a top end entry point sanction	
10.4(c)	Kicking an Opponent	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
		A kick to the head shall result in a top end entry point sanction	
10.4(d)	Tripping an Opponent with the foot/leg	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks	52 weeks

		TE – 8+ weeks	
10.4(e)	Dangerous tackling of an Opponent including early or late and including the action known as the “stiff arm tackle”	LE – 2 weeks; MR – 6 weeks; TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(e)	Dangerous tackling of an Opponent including:	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
	(i) a tackle or attempted tackle above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders	A dangerous tackle which results in a strike to the head shall result in at least a mid- entry point sanction.	
	(ii) grabbing and rolling/twisting around the head/neck area even if the contact starts below the line of the shoulders		
10.4(f)	Holding, pushing or obstructing an Opponent not holding the ball, by a Player who is not in possession of the ball, except in a scrum, ruck or maul	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 6+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(f) 10.4(k)	Dangerous charging or obstructing or grabbing of Opponent with or without the ball, including shouldering	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(h)	A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without use of the arms, or without grasping a player	LE – 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(i)	Tackling, pushing, pulling colliding with or otherwise making contact with an Opponent who is jumping for the ball in a lineout or in open play where there is no realistic prospect of the player competing for the ball	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(j)	Lifting a Player from the ground and either dropping or driving that Player’s head and/or upper body in to the ground whilst the Player’s feet are off the ground.	LE – 6 weeks MR – 10 weeks TE – 14+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(k)	Causing a scrum, ruck or maul to collapse	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 8+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	A Player must not grab, twist, squeeze or strike an opponent in the genital area (male or female) or, in the case of female players, the breast area	LE – 12 weeks MR – 18 weeks TE – 24+ weeks	208 weeks
10.4(m)	Biting	LE – 12 weeks MR – 18 weeks TE – 24+ weeks	208 weeks

10.4(m)	Contact with Eye(s)	LE – 12 weeks MR – 18 weeks TE – 24+ weeks	208 weeks
10.4(m)	Contact with the Eye Area	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Spitting at Players	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Verbal abuse of Players, Match Officials, spectators, coaches or support staff based on Religion, Race, Colour, or National or Ethnic Origin, sexual orientation or otherwise	LE – 6 weeks MR – 12 weeks TE – 18+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Any other acts (not previously referred to) which are contrary to good sportsmanship	LE – 4 weeks MR – 8 weeks TE – 12+ weeks	52 weeks
10.4(m)	Hair pulling or grabbing	LE – 2 weeks MR – 4 weeks TE – 6+ weeks	52 weeks
10(4)(m)	2 yellow cards in one match	Entry point - 1 week (Please refer to Appendix 1)	
10(4)(m)	Totting up of 3 foul play yellow cards within a season (applies only to Levels 1-4)	Entry point 1- 3 weeks (Please refer to Appendix 1)	
10.4(o)	Late charging the kicker	LE - 2 weeks MR – 6 weeks TE – 10+ weeks	52 weeks

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 2 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the Disciplinary Panel.

Notwithstanding the sanctions in Appendix 2, in cases where the Player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result in and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health and safety of the victim, the Disciplinary Panel may impose any period of suspension including (in the most serious cases) a suspension for life.

Bad Disciplinary Record

When dealing with a Club under the bad disciplinary record provisions a Disciplinary Panel may impose any appropriate sanction, including (but not limited to) a reprimand, a financial penalty or deduction of league points or relegation, exclusion or disqualification from any competition, or a combination of the above. Sanctions may also be suspended if considered appropriate.

Under age players who train/play in adult rugby

This recommended sanctions table relates to an entry point for a first breach of RFU Regulation 15. The sanction may be increased to reflect aggravating features or reduced to reflect mitigating factors (see below). A second breach is likely to incur a significantly higher sanction.

Classification of breach	Description of classification	Entry point for sanction
Low level breach	A player under the age of 18 trains with adults without required permission. No injury	Suspension of coach/person responsible for training for 4 weeks; and Club reprimanded

Mid-level breach	A player under the age of 18 plays with adults without required permission. No injury A player under the age of 18 trains with adults without required permission. Injury occurs	Suspension of coach/person responsible for team selection for 3 months; and Team suspended from playing for 4 weeks; and Points deducted from club 1st XV equating to 2 wins (possibly suspended); and Club reprimanded
High level breach	A player under the age of 18 plays with adults without required permission. Injury occurs or no injury but player plays in the front row	Suspension of coach/person responsible for team selection for 6 months; and Team suspended from playing for 3 months; and Points deducted from club 1st XV equating to 4 wins; and Club reprimanded

Aggravating features may include:

- Intentional breach of regulations
- Club failure to warn teams of regulation and consequences of breach
- Very young player
- Serious injury

Mitigating factors may include:

- Unintentional breach – Club did not know player was under 18 and it was reasonable to assume he was under 18
- Player nearly 18 years old
- Player capable of playing adult rugby and permission would have been granted had it been requested
- Injury not serious