

ON FIELD SENTENCING GUIDELINES**1. INTRODUCTION AND UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES****1.1. Introduction**

These procedures and guidelines set out the process that will be followed and the sanctions that should be imposed in relation to any Misconduct. The On Field Sentencing Guidelines are intended to aid consistency and decision-making when applying sanctions for breaches of the Laws of the Game and/or RFL Operational Rules and should be read in addition to the RFL Operational Rules.

In the event of a conflict between these guidelines and the RFL Operational Rules, the Operational Rules take precedence.

Player is used throughout these On Field Sentencing Guidelines; however, for the avoidance of doubt, non-playing personnel can be charged under the On Field Sentencing Guidelines at the discretion of the Competition Officer.

1.2. Underlying Principles

- Rugby League is a hard, fast, contact sport.
- In a sport with high-speed collisions, there will always be injuries, and players take part with this knowledge.
- The disciplinary system is not intended to sanitise the sport; however, there is no place in the game for players who jeopardise the safety of others by intentional, dangerous or malicious acts.
- The disciplinary system must support and protect Match Officials.

2. PENALTY NOTICES**2.1. Purpose / Introduction**

A Penalty Notice means where a Player is charged with On Field Misconduct, the exact sanction will be determined by a Player's previous record in accordance with 2.6.

A Player will be charged with On Field Misconduct following receipt of a Dismissal Report and any Citings whereby the Competition Officer determine such incidents merit a charge, save any incidents which are Reserved Cases, which will be dealt with in line with the Operational Rules.

The Competition Officer may not elect to issue a Penalty Notice and refer a matter to the Competition Disciplinary Panel where they deem appropriate.

2.1. Process – General

The RFL has the right to vary the processes set out below, including, but not limited to, Matches which take place over a bank holiday weekend or in later Rounds of the Season. The RFL will notify Clubs of any such variations.

2.2. Process – Regular Season

In relation to each round of League and Cup Matches, Penalty Notices for On-Field Misconduct that is charged will be issued on the Thursday following the round of Matches in question.

2.3. Process – Last round of the Regular Season/Play-Offs/Cup Matches played consecutively

In relation to each Match in the last round of each of the Regular Season and the Play-Off phase for each of those competitions, where applicable and where Cup matches are played on consecutive weekends, Penalty Notices for On Field Misconduct that are charged will be issued on the Monday following the round of Matches in question.

2.4. Citing's

If a Club wishes to bring any incidents of alleged violent On Field Misconduct, they must notify the Competition Officer by:

- a) no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday following the day on which the incident took place.

Citations should include:

- i. A brief description of the incident.
- ii. the players involved.
- iii. the precise time of the incident.
- iv. Unedited footage and other relevant information in relation to the incident, including statements.

For the avoidance of doubt, any non-violent acts or acts that occur unintentionally and/or during normal passage of play cannot be cited. The Competition Officer retains the ultimate discretion in interpreting whether a particular incident amounts to a violent offence.

2.5. Penalty Notice Sanction

The sanction for the offence contained within a Penalty Notice will be determined in accordance with the Sentencing Guidelines.

2.5.1. If a Player has been found guilty of:

- a) no offences within the preceding 12 months, they will receive the lowest range of the tariff sanction.
- b) one offence within the preceding 12 months, they will receive the middle range of the tariff sanction.
- c) two offences within the preceding 12 months, they will receive the highest range of the tariff sanction.

Should a player be charged with on field misconduct and have been found guilty of three offences within the preceding 12 months; their case will be referred to a Competition Discipline Panel.

An offence within the preceding 12 months will be from the date of the match from which a Penalty Notice was issued.

2.6. Notice of Charge

If a Player is charged with an Offence, they will receive a Notice of Charge via their Club, which will include:

- The Law(s) of the Game the Player is alleged to have breached.
- The details of the alleged Offence.
- The sanction in accordance with these guidelines.
- Details of how the Penalty Notice can be challenged.
- In the event of a challenged Penalty Notice, the date of the hearing, the evidence that would be relied upon and a summary of the Player's rights at that hearing.
- In the event of an automatic referral to the Operational Rules Tribunal, the date of the hearing, the evidence that would be relied upon and a summary of the Player's rights at that hearing.

2.7. Multiple Offences

In the event that a Player is charged with multiple Offences from the same Match, the Penalty Notice for the first Offence will be issued in line with section 2.6 of these guidelines. Any subsequent Penalty Notices for further Offences in the same Match will consider the first Offence as a relevant matter under 2.6.1(a).

The Player may challenge the Penalty Notices in relation to each Offence. If the Player challenges the Penalty Notice in the first Offence and is found not guilty, then the Penalty Notice for the second Offence will be amended as if the first offence did not take place (subject to the previous disciplinary record of the Player and section 2.6 of these guidelines).

If a Player is found guilty of multiple Offences, any suspensions should ordinarily be served consecutively unless otherwise directed by the Panel.

2.8. Challenge

Subject to the other provisions of this clause, a Player who has been issued with a Penalty Notice may challenge the Penalty Notice by informing the Competition Officer of their intention to do so by the deadline specified in the Charge Letter. Any such appeal shall be heard in accordance with Section 4 below.

If such an intention is not lodged with the RFL by the specified deadline, the Penalty Notice will be deemed to have been accepted, and the sanctions specified will be imposed.

2.9. Sanction

A Player who does not challenge the Penalty Notice will forfeit the right to any hearing.

3. MISCONDUCT HEARINGS AND TRIBUNALS

3.1. Competition Discipline Panel – Composition and Process

- Cases where a Player is not eligible for a Penalty Notice, or where the matter is deemed sufficiently serious, may be referred directly to the Competition Discipline Panel.
- The panel shall consist of members appointed by the Competition Management Group.
- The Panel will consider all evidence submitted, apply the On Field Sentencing Guidelines (Section F9), and issue sanctions accordingly.
- Hearings will normally be conducted by video conference but may, at the discretion of the Competition Officer, be held in person.
- A record of the hearing will be taken and retained only for as long as necessary.

3.2 Operational Rules Tribunal – Reserved Cases

- Cases which are deemed to be Reserved Cases will be dealt with in line with Section D.
- Where cases are referred to an Operational Rules Tribunal appointments for hearings will be made from the Operational Rules Panel.
- At the Tribunal, an independent chairperson and two independent side members will consider all the evidence, subject to the Sentencing Guidelines and the Operational Rules.
- The RFL will take a recording of the hearing, which will only be retained for as long as is necessary.

3.3 Burden and Standard of Proof

- The standard of proof shall be whether Misconduct has occurred to the reasonable satisfaction of the Panel or Tribunal, with due regard given to the seriousness of the allegation.
- This standard of proof is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

3.4 Submission of Evidence

- Players are entitled to submit evidence, including witness statements, written evidence, and further footage (in a format of their choice), including photographs, of the incident for which they have been charged.
- Such evidence must be submitted to the Competition Officer by 12 pm on the day prior to the hearing.
- Recordings of other unrelated incidents shall not be permitted.

3.5 Alternative Charges

- For the avoidance of doubt, both the Competition Disciplinary Panel and the Operational Rules Tribunal may amend the offence a Player has been charged with, both in terms of sanction and description.

3.6 Referral to Competitions Officer/Compliance Manager

- If the Tribunal does not consider that it can reach a decision on the evidence before it, it may refer the incident to the Competition Officer/Compliance Manager for further investigation.

4. CHALLENGES TO PENALTY NOTICES**4.1. Challenging a Penalty Notice – Submitting a Challenge**

A Player may challenge the imposition of a Penalty Notice by informing the Competition Officer by the time and date specified in the Charge Letter, in which case the matter shall be determined by the Competition Disciplinary Panel. A refundable deposit of £20 must be lodged when submitting a challenge to a Penalty Notice. If the challenge is successful, the deposit shall be returned. In the event that the challenge is unsuccessful, meaning a guilty verdict is reached, the Operational Rules Tribunal shall impose the fine as set out below.

Players can challenge a Penalty Notice on the following grounds only:

- a) Guilt; or
- b) Incorrect Offence by the Referee or Competition Officer.

The Player must confirm in writing at the time of notifying the Competition Officer that they wish to challenge the Penalty Notice and what the grounds for the challenge are. For the avoidance of doubt, the Player can only submit a challenge based on one of the above grounds.

4.2. Order of Proceedings

The chairperson will determine the order of proceedings, however usually:

- The chairperson will read the charge;
- The Player or their representative will explain the grounds for challenging the Penalty Notice;
- The evidence in relation to the incident will be specified.
- The Player or their representative will present the Player's case;
- The hearing will conclude and the panel will retire to determine a verdict which will be one of the following;
 - Not guilty
 - Guilty and the chairperson will confirm the sanction with reference to the Penalty Notice and these Guidelines, in particular section 4.3 and the hearing will conclude.
 - Change the Offence to what was initially charged, the chairperson will confirm the sanction with reference to the Guidelines.

4.3. Consequences of Challenges

If the Player is unsuccessful on their ground of challenge, the Panel shall impose the sanction outlined in the Penalty Notice and shall impose a fine as set out in Section 5 and shall increase the suspension by an additional match. As an example, a Penalty Notice which specifies a one (1) Match suspension may be increased to a two (2) Match suspension. The Panel shall have discretion to consider the concept of totality when deciding to issue additional Matches in the event of multiple unsuccessful Penalty Notice challenges.

In the event that a Player is successful in challenging that the Offence was incorrect and they are Guilty of another Offence, the Player will receive the suspension they would have received had the correct Offence been issued in the Penalty Notice. For example, if the Player was originally charged with multiple punching and their previous record meant that the Penalty Notice specified a five (5) Match suspension (pursuant to 2.7.1) and they are successful in their challenge with the Operational Rules Tribunal finding that it is a single punch, the Player will receive a three (3) Match suspension. In the event of a successful challenge to a Penalty Notice no fine shall be imposed.

4.4. Adjudications

The Competition Disciplinary Panel's adjudications will:

- Summarise the reasons for the decision.
- Confirm the sanction (if any) handed down, including detailing the imposition of the one-match suspension increment if a Player has unsuccessfully challenged a Penalty Notice.

4.5. Right of Appeal

The respective Management Group, the Player or Club have a right of appeal subject to section D of the Operational Rules. Appeals must be lodged within 7 days of the hearing.

The only grounds for appeal are that the Competition Rules Tribunal:

- came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come; or
- failed to act fairly in a procedural sense; or
- The sanction imposed was so excessive or lenient (in the case of the Management Group) as to be unreasonable.

Appeal hearings will be conducted by way of review and will not be 'de novo' hearings.

When submitting an appeal, a Player or Club must submit a deposit of £40 and must specify the grounds for the appeal. In the event that the appeal is successful, the deposit shall be returned.

4.6. Appeal Hearing – Order of Proceedings

The chairperson will determine the order of proceedings, however usually:

- The chairperson will read the charge;
- The Appellant or their representative will confirm the grounds for appeal and will make relevant submissions
- The respondent will be given the opportunity to respond or ask any questions in relation to the Appellant's submissions;
- The hearing will conclude, and the panel will retire to determine a verdict which will be one of the following;
 - a. dismiss the appeal;
 - b. quash a sanction or finding;
 - c. remit the matter for rehearing;
 - d. substitute an alternative finding or sanction;
 - e. reduce or increase the original sanction; or
 - f. make such orders as it considers appropriate

Fresh evidence shall be only presented to the Panel with its leave. Leave shall only be given if the evidence is both relevant and credible, and if it was not available at the time of the original hearing. Ordinarily leave will only be given for fresh evidence if it is set out and attached to the Notice of Appeal.

5. CASES REFERRED DIRECTLY TO OPERATIONAL RULES TRIBUNAL

The provisions in this Section 5 apply to cases where the Competition Officer has determined that the matter should be referred directly to an Operational Rules Tribunal.

5.1. Order of Proceedings

The chairperson will determine the order of proceedings; however, usually:

- The chairperson will read the charge;
- The Player, Club or their representative will:
 - admit the Offence
 - deny the Offence but admit Guilt for another Offence.
 - deny the Offence.
- The evidence in relation to the incident will be specified.
- The Player, Club or their representative will present the Player or Club's case;
- The hearing will conclude, and the panel will retire to determine a verdict which will be one of the following;
 - Not guilty
 - Guilty and the chairperson will confirm the sanction with reference to the Penalty Notice and these Guidelines, in particular section 4.3 and the hearing will conclude.
 - Change the Offence to what was initially charged, the chairperson will confirm the sanction with reference to the Guidelines.

5.2. Normal Suspension Ranges – Guidelines Only

Players and Clubs should be aware that the normal suspension ranges are guidelines only, and the Operational Rules Tribunal has the discretion to step outside of the normal ranges in the following two circumstances:

- If the Operational Rules Tribunal has previously advised the Player or Club that it will apply a higher sanction next time that Player or Club is found to have committed a Misconduct Offence; or
- If the Operational Rules Tribunal feels that in the light of the aggravating and mitigating factors present it is appropriate to step outside of the normal suspension range subject to section 5.3 of these guidelines and the imposition of any automatic one match suspension increment as a result of a Player challenging the imposition of a Penalty Notice.

5.3. Aggravating and Mitigating Factors

In determining the appropriate sanction, the Operational Rules Tribunal will take into account all relevant aggravating and mitigating factors (see below for a non-exhaustive list). For the avoidance of doubt the Operational Rules Tribunal shall apply appropriate weighting to any aggravating and mitigating factors when considering the relevant sanction, however it shall not be the case that each aggravating or mitigating factor invoked equates to a one match enhancement or reduction.

5.3.1. Aggravating Factors

Previous record
Violence
Retaliation
Injury caused
Incident not part of play
Other aggravating factors

5.3.1.1. Previous Disciplinary Record

- Player or Club has a record of the same or a similar Offence in the past - should result in a higher penalty than would otherwise be the case.
- Player or Club has a disciplinary record for dissimilar Offences – not necessarily taken into account unless the record is such that it shows a general disregard for the safety and welfare of other Players.
- Players who regularly commit acts of foul play – should receive ever increasing suspensions which may lead to a period suspension i.e. a Player with a serious record may receive a substantially longer suspension than a Player with no record for an Offence of the same nature.

5.3.1.2. Violence

- No place for acts of intentional violence or thuggery.
- Includes head butting, vicious attacks with fists, intentional high tackles, attacks on a prone opponent, an assault on an opponent from behind, gouging.
- Unprovoked violent assaults punished severely, and period suspensions considered.

5.3.1.3. Retaliation

- When retaliation is calculated and/or intentional it is an aggravating factor.

5.3.1.4. Injury caused

- If the Misconduct has caused injury to an opponent, this may result in a higher penalty than if no injury had occurred.
- For the avoidance of doubt, if an incident has caused a Player to receive a concussive injury, the Operational Rules Tribunal should consider it as an aggravating factor.

- The Operational Rules Tribunal may consider the length of time an injured opponent is likely to be out of the game when passing sentence.

5.3.1.5. Incident not part of play

- Where an incident is not part of play, i.e., off the ball or in back play then this may be an aggravating factor.

5.3.2. Mitigating Factors

Previous good record

Provocation

Technique or fitness in some cases

Genuine remorse

Other mitigating factors

NB: the fact that no injury was caused is not usually a mitigating factor.

Mitigating factors are not ordinarily sufficient to go below the minimum of the range of suspensions of the charge the Player is found guilty of, other than in truly exceptional circumstances.

5.3.2.1. Previous Good Disciplinary Record

- Where a Player or Club has a good previous record, this may be treated as a mitigating factor.
- Where a Player or Club has a previous record but has not committed a Similar Offence for a period of at least five years, their previous record may be discounted.

5.3.2.2. Provocation

- An immediate reaction to foul play by an opponent may be a mitigating factor, as it may be seen as self-defence.
- Due consideration must be given to the distinction between self-defence, provocation, and retaliation.

5.3.2.3. Technique or Fitness (*in some cases*)

- A Player who does not have the appropriate technique or fitness levels may be a danger to other Players.

5.3.2.4. Genuine Remorse

- Genuine remorse for the Offence and formal apologies to the opponent may be mitigating pleas.

5.3.2.5. Dismissal

- The Operational Rules Tribunal, when sanctioning a Player, may consider whether that Player was dismissed from the field and the time of dismissal.

5.3.2.6. Other Mitigating Factors

- Credit will not be given for a guilty plea at the appeal stage if the charge was contested at first instance.

5.4. Adjudications

The Operational Rules Tribunal's adjudications will:

- Be published in full;
- Include all aggravating and/or mitigating factors taken into consideration;
- Give clear and full reasons for the decision;
- Summarise the cases of the Competitions Officer and Player or Club respectively.
- Confirm the sanction (if any) handed down, including all aggravating and/or mitigating factors taken into consideration;
- Explain any deviation from the On-Field Sentencing Guidelines.
- Give clear and full reasons for the decision.

5.5. Right of Appeal

Both the Player or Club have a right of appeal subject to section D of the Operational Rules.

Appeals must be lodged within 7 days of the hearing

The only grounds for appeal are that the Operational Rules Tribunal:

- came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come; or
- made an error of law in reaching its decision; or
- failed to act fairly in a procedural sense; or
- the sanction imposed was so excessive or lenient as to be unreasonable.

Appeal hearings will be conducted by way of review and will not be 'de novo' hearings.

When submitting an appeal, a Player or Club must submit a refundable deposit of £40 and must specify the grounds for the appeal. In the event that the appeal is successful, the deposit shall be returned.

Appeals are to be conducted in accordance with the procedure specified in section 4.6.

5.6. Appeal Hearing – Order of Proceedings

The chairperson will determine the order of proceedings, usually:

- The chairperson will read the charge;
- The Appellant or their representative will confirm the grounds for appeal and will make relevant submissions
- The respondent will be given the opportunity to respond or ask any questions in relation to the Appellant's submissions;
- The hearing will conclude, and the panel will retire to determine a verdict which will be one of the following;
 - a. dismiss the appeal;
 - b. quash a sanction or finding;
 - c. remit the matter for rehearing;
 - d. substitute an alternative finding or sanction;
 - e. reduce or increase the original sanction; or
 - f. make such orders as it considers appropriate

Fresh evidence shall be only presented to the Panel with its leave. Leave shall only be given if the evidence is both relevant and credible, and if it was not available at the time of the original hearing. Ordinarily, leave will only be given for fresh evidence if it is set out and attached to the Notice of Appeal.

6. FINES

6.1 Player Fines

6.1.1 Where a Player is participating in an Open Age Competition, the Competition Disciplinary Tribunal may impose a fine in addition to any suspension, irrespective of the Player's age, in accordance with the following maximum levels:

- Tier 3 Adult Competitions: up to £20 per match suspension
- Tier 4 Adult Competitions: up to £10 per match suspension

6.1.2 Where a Player is participating in a Youth or Junior Competition (Under 18), no fine shall be imposed on the Player personally. Where appropriate, the Tribunal may impose a fine on the Team in accordance with the Competition Rules.

6.1.3 Fines must be paid before the Player is eligible to return to play, and in any event within 28 days of the decision, unless otherwise directed.

6.2 Team Fines

6.2.1 Where a Team, Spectator or Club Official commits an Offence, the Competition Disciplinary Tribunal may impose a fine in accordance with the Team Fines Table set out below.

The Tribunal may impose a fine within the stated range, taking into account:

- the seriousness of the incident
- any aggravating or mitigating factors
- the Club's previous record
- the steps taken by the Club to prevent or address the behaviour

6.2.2 If the Tribunal imposes a fine outside the stated range, it must provide written reasons for doing so.

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The table below references 'Warning / Advice', which means that the offence will be recorded on the Player's record, but rather than suspending, 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 Panel 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 No	Charge	Recommended Ranges – Depending on the Fixture			Guideline Description
		Under 11 – Under 14	Under 15 – Under 18	Open age (irrespective of the age of the player)	
15.1(a)	Trips, kicks or strikes another player				
	Trips	SOS - 2	SOS - 2	1 - 3	Intentional tripping
	Kicks	1 - 3	2 - 4	3 - 5	Kicking – makes contact not with the head
		3 – 5	4 – 6	4 - 6	Kicking – makes contact with the head
		4 - 6	5 - 7	7 - 9	Kicking – sustained and/or violent
		SOS - 2	SOS - 2	1 – 3	Trampling
		1 – 3	2 – 4	3 - 5	Stamping
	Strikes	SOS – 2	1 – 3	2 – 4	Strikes with hand, arm, elbow or shoulder – ball carrier
		SOS – 2	1 – 3	2 – 4	Strikes with hand, arm, elbow, or shoulder – tackling player
		1 – 3	2 – 4	3 – 5	Strikes with hand, arm, elbow, or shoulder – off the ball
	Strikes – knee	SOS – 2	1 – 3	2 – 4	Raising knee in tackle
	Strikes - Head Butting	1 - 3	2 - 4	3 - 5	Head butting – makes contact not with head
		3 - 5	4 - 6	4 - 6	Head butting – makes contact with head
		4 - 6	5 - 7	7 - 9	Head butting - sustained and/or violent
	Strikes Punching	1 - 3	2 - 4	3 - 5	Punching– makes contact not with the head
		3 – 5	4 – 6	4 - 6	Punching –makes contact with the head

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		4 - 6	5 - 7	7 - 9	Punching – sustained and/ or violent
	Running In	SOS – 2	SOS – 2	SOS – 2	Running In
15.1(b)	When tackling or attempting to tackle make contact with the head or neck of an opponent				
		SOS – 2	1 – 3	1 – 3	Contact to head or neck
15.1(c)	Drops knees first on an opponent on the ground				
		SOS – 2	1 – 3	1 – 3	Drops Knees
15.1(d)	Uses a dangerous throw				
		SOS - 2	2 - 4	2 - 4	Dangerous Throw
		1 – 3	3 – 5	4 - 6	Spear Tackle
15.1(e)	Intentionally and/or continuously breaks the Laws of the Game				
		SOS	SOS	SOS	
15.1(f)	Uses offensive or obscene language				
		SOS - 2	SOS - 2	SOS - 2	Foul and/or abusive language
		3 – 5 (REFER To RFL)	4 – 6 (REFER To RFL)	5 – 7 (REFER To RFL)	Verbal abuse based on race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national or ethnic origin or any other form of Unacceptable Language and/or Behaviour
15.1(g)	Disputes a decision of the Referee or Touch Judge				
		SOS - 2	SOS – 2	SOS – 2	Disputes decision
		1 - 3	2 – 4	3 - 5	Disputes using any foul and abusive or aggressive language and/or body language
		1 – 3	2 – 4	3 – 5	Questioning the integrity of a Match Official
15.1(h)	Re-enters the field of play without the permission of the Referee or Touch Judge				
		SOS - 2	SOS - 2	1 - 3	
15.1(i)	Behaves in any way contrary to the true spirit of the game (includes Dangerous Contact*)				
		SOS – 2	SOS – 2	1 - 3	Attempted strike
		1 – 3	2 – 4	3 – 5	Makes unnecessary contact with a Player who is or may be injured.
		2 – 4	3 – 5	4 - 6	Gouging
		2 – 4	3 – 5	4 - 6	Biting
		2 – 4	3 – 5	4 - 6	Spitting
		2 – 4	3 – 5	4 - 6	Genitals – attacking
		2 – 4	3 – 5	4 - 6	Raking with studs
		2 - 4	4 - 6	6 - 8	Threatening words or actions towards match officials

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		SOS – 2	SOS – 2	1 - 3	Unnecessary contact with a match official (e.g. placing hand on arm to attract attention)
		3 - 5	4 - 6	5 - 7	Intentional contact with a match official (e.g. pushing/shoving)
		Sine Die (REFER TO RFL)	Sine Die (REFER TO RFL)	Sine Die (REFER TO RFL)	Violent and aggressive physical assault of match officials (e.g. punching)
		Discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Panel	Discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Panel	Discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Panel	Other contrary behaviour
15.1(j)	Intentional obstruction of opponent not in possession				
		SOS	SOS	SOS	
15.1(k)	Shoulder Charge				
		SOS – 2	SOS – 2	1 - 3	Indirect or secondary contact with the head of an attacking player.
		SOS - 2	1 – 3	2 - 4	Direct initial contact with the head of an attacking player.
		SOS - 2	1 – 3	2 - 4	Other dangerous Shoulder Charge

*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) or using a technique which is likely to make dangerous contact (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.
- Endangering the safety of an opponent by making contact to the lower limb(s) of the opponent in an uncontrolled manner in a situation where there is no genuine attempt to make a tackle, and which involves an unacceptable risk of injury to the opponent.

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Recommended Ranges – Depending on the Fixture					
Team Fines					
		Under 11 – Under 14	Under 15 – Under 18	Open age (irrespective of the age of player)	
	Brawling	£100.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£100.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£100.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	
	2 nd Brawl	£200.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£200.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	£200.00 plus discretionary suspended fine	
	3 rd and subsequent Brawl	£200–£500, depending on aggravating/mitigating factors	£200–£500, depending on aggravating/mitigating factors	£200–£500, depending on aggravating/mitigating factors	
	Abandonment of game	£100–£500, depending on responsibility and circumstances	£100–£500, depending on responsibility and circumstances	£100–£500, depending on responsibility and circumstances	
Spectator or Club officials not listed on the team sheet entering the field of play					
		£50–£300, and consideration to Operational Rule D5:10:1	£50–£300, and consideration to Operational Rule D5:10:1	£50–£300, and consideration to Operational Rule D5:10:1	
Spectator or Club official's usage of foul and abusive language					
		£50–£300, and consideration to Operational Rule D5:10:1	£50–£300, and consideration to Operational Rule D5:10:1	£50–£300, and consideration to Operational Rule D5:10:1	
Breach of the Respect Code of Conduct					
		£50–£250, depending on severity and previous record	£50–£250, depending on severity and previous record	£50–£250, depending on severity and previous record	
Unacceptable Language and/or Behaviour					
		Refer to the RFL	Refer to the RFL	Refer to the RFL	