

NEW SANCTIONING PROCESS

The new system is that players are only sanctioned when they reach a set number of points. Therefore, if you were to be charged with On Field misconduct you would not instantly receive a sanction as is currently the case. Charge grades would be allocated points which players will accumulate and will be rescinded after a period, so they do not remain on your record.

Points allocation for each Charge Grade

GRADE	POINT ALLOCATION
A	1
B	3
C	5
D	12
E	Refer to Tribunal

The number of grades has been dropped to coincide with the change in policy of the sport to only charge incidents which would have merited some form of on field action by the match referee such as a sin bin or a dismissal.

More points are given for grades which would be considered serious misconduct.

Tariffs

POINTS	TARIFF
0-2	No further action
3-5	Fine
6-8	1 match suspension
9-11	1 match suspension and a fine
12-14	2 match suspension
15-17	2 match suspension and a fine
18-20	3 match suspension
21-23	3 match suspension and a fine
24-26	4 match suspension
27-29	4 match suspension and a fine
30-32	5 match suspension
33-35	5 match suspension and a fine
36-38	6 match suspension and a fine
39-41	7 match suspension and a fine
42-44	8 match suspension and a fine
45-47	9 match suspension and a fine
48-50	10 match suspension and a fine
51-53	11 match suspension and a fine
54 +	12 match suspension plus and a fine

LEVEL	Fine – Match Review Match Review Panel	Fine – Operational Rules Tribunal
Scholarship	£0	£0
Championship Reserve/Academy	£25	£25
Super League Reserve/Academy	£25	£50
League 1	£40	£75
Championship	£125	£250
Super League*	0.5% of Player's salary	1% of Player's salary

Where players reach 24 points or more, they will automatically be referred to the Operational Rules Tribunal to determine the appropriate sanction which can range from match suspension (s), points allocation to a players record and/or monetary fines.

Similarly, where players commit a Grade E offence and are automatically referred to the Tribunal, the Operational Rules Tribunal are to determine the appropriate sanction which can range from match suspension(s), points allocation to a players record and/or monetary fines.

NB Fines for players in Womens Super League, Championship, League 1, Reserves, Academy and Scholarship will remain as set out in the 2024 On Field Sentencing Guidelines. Mens Super League fines are capped at £1,000.

Aggravating and mitigating factors – on field actions

Where an opponent is removed from the field of play and unable to return because of charged misconduct will constitute an additional 3 points being allocated to that player disciplinary record.

Where a player is charged with on field misconduct but has been dismissed in the first half will constitute a removal of 2 points from a player's disciplinary record. Where a player is charged with on field misconduct but has been dismissed in the second half will constitute a removal of 1 point from a player's disciplinary record. In the unlikely event that a player does not have enough points on their disciplinary should points be removed, for example where a player is charged with a Grade A offence (1 disciplinary point) but was dismissed in the first half (removal of 2 disciplinary points) and they have zero disciplinary points on their disciplinary record, their disciplinary record will restart at zero disciplinary points on their disciplinary record.

Unreasonable and/or frivolous challenge

Currently in a situation where the Operational Rules Tribunal unanimously finds that an offence was correctly graded and/or where no legitimate or valid arguments have been advanced by the player or Club on his behalf, it is likely to make a frivolous and/or unreasonable ruling and impose an additional match suspension on the player. Under the new system, should a player fail in respect of a challenge to a Grade A to D charge at an

Operational Rules Tribunal hearing, then 5 points will automatically be added to the points allocated to the initial charge of On Field misconduct and any resulting tariff imposed. For example, if a player receives a Grade A offence and is issued with 1 point on top of his current record of 0 points and decides to challenge the imposition of the Penalty Notice and fails in their challenge, then the player will receive an additional 5 points meaning they have 6 points and will receive a 1 Match suspension. The RFL feels that this is a reasonable and proportionate measure to deter Players and Clubs from advancing challenges in certain circumstances.

Offences not related to the act of playing the Sport

All matters which fall outside of what would be normal and expected elements of playing the sport of Rugby League will automatically be graded as a Grade E and will be referred to the Operational Rules Tribunal. These would include but are not limited to Unacceptable Language and/or Behaviour, punching, kicking, headbutting, biting, gouging, genital grabbing, unacceptable contact with a match official and other contrary behaviour. For such offences, tariffs would begin at a minimum of 6 matches plus.

Carry Forward Penalty Points

When a player serves a sanction – fine or suspension – half of the points that led to that sanction will be deducted. Where a player starts on 0 points and is charged with a Grade D offence with no deductions or additions, they would receive 12 points, meaning a two-match suspension. Once that suspension is served, their points total going forward would be halved to 6 points – with those 6 points remaining on their record for the 12 months following the charge being determined. Further examples are listed below.

Opening points	Grade	Offence points	Total Points	Sanction	50% applied	Carry Forward Penalty Points
0	A	1	1	N/A	No	1
1	A	1	2	N/A	No	1
2	A	1	3	Fine	Yes	0.5
2.5	C	5	7.5	1 match	Yes	2.5
5	B	3	8	1 match	Yes	1.5
6.5	D	12	18.5	3 matches	Yes	6
12.5	A	1	13.5	2 matches	Yes	0.5

Removal of points allocated

A player's points would be removed 12 months after the date that the charge came into effect.