



HELPING TO UNDERSTAND THE RUGBY DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

The Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Rugby Disciplinary process is in accordance with the New Zealand Rugby's Disciplinary Rules (known as the Black Book). Any judicial matter will be dealt with by the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Judicial Committee consisting of;

- Ian Spraggon
- John Mackay
- Matthew
- Kerry Beach

The committee is independent of the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union and have many years of experience in the judicial process.

WHAT CASES DO THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE HEAR

The Judicial Committee can hear the following cases;

- Ordering Offs (Red Cards) and/or Misconduct* issued by a referee
- Yellow cards if the BOPRU Complaints Review officer deems this to be a higher offence than reported
- Match called off by a referee
- Citing's issued by a person other than the referee (refer to the Poor Behaviour Report on our website)

*Misconduct means any conduct, behaviour, statements or practises on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with a match that is unsporting, cheating, unruly, ill-disciplined or has the potential to bring the sport into disrepute.

PROCESS

1. The process of preparing for a hearing is the same no matter whether the case is the result of a red card, misconduct, match called off or a complaint.
2. The Referee and/or Assistant referee will complete an online report to the BOPRU on or before the preceding Monday (or within 48 hours if the game is not played on a Sat.)
3. An "Ordering Off" (Red Card) automatically means the player is suspended from all rugby for 2 weeks as per clause 18 of the Black Book (two weeks equates to two competition matches). The club/school will either be notified of the standard two week suspension via email or will be required to attend a hearing. If you wish to challenge the automatic 2 week suspension you must attend a hearing on the Wednesday at the Bay Union and communicate this to clubadmin@boprugby.co.nz by Tuesday 12pm at the latest.

High Performance Centre, 52 Miro Street, Mount Maunganui

P: 07 574 2037 F: 07 574 2046 W: www.boprugby.co.nz



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4. The BOPRU Club administrator will email reports/correspondence to the appropriate person within the club and to the TIC of the school. At this stage the club/school has the following choices
 - I. You can attend a judicial hearing. It is recommended that the player and a representative who can talk about the player's general conduct attend the hearing, as well as any relevant witnesses.
 - II. You can defer the hearing until the following week. The relevant player/s will be suspended from play until the hearing takes place
 - III. You may enter an early plea. This is where they are satisfied the player has committed the conduct and is guilty of the offence.
 - IV. You have the option of not attending a judicial hearing at all and leave it to the disciplinary panel to decide on the outcome.
5. If you attend a hearing any evidence/photos/reports/videos etc. that you wish to have presented at the hearing should be emailed to clubadmin@boprugby.co.nz before 12pm the Wednesday of the hearing so this can be passed onto the disciplinary panel.
6. In some cases, a hearing is postponed to the following week in order for clubs/schools to gather more information. In this instance the player or person involved is suspended from all forms of rugby until the hearing has taken place.

PURPOSE OF A HEARING AND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

A disciplinary hearing provides a forum to discuss the incident and the judicial committee has the responsibility of hearing and determining all matters that comes before it within the Unions jurisdiction. In the end, the committee looks to reach a reasoned decision in accordance with the Black Book.

The hearing will almost always take place at the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Head office, 52 Miro Street, Mount Maunganui on a Wednesday night. Generally there is more than one hearing per night so it is important you arrive on time. The first hearings generally start at 6pm and are then scheduled one after the other. The following gives you a rough idea of what a disciplinary hearing looks like;

- The judicial Chairman will first ask whether the red card was properly awarded. If you wish to defend on this question, the only thing that can be argued is that the player did not do what is alleged, or that it is a case of mistaken identity.
- Everything else is mitigation and does not come under the Chairman's first questions, for example "the punch wasn't that hard" or "I was provoked" or "Hes a really good club man, no prior record etc". All of this will come under the mitigation section which will eventually conclude with the length of the suspension.
- The chairman will usually give the decision orally at the end of the evening, but sometimes they need to discuss the sanction further.
- The decision or sanction will be in writing via email to the club/school by the Friday.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

If the player/person wishes to appeal the decision of the Judicial committee he/she can do so to the BOPRU Appeals Committee but the appeal must be lodged within a period of 7 days after the date on which the written decision was issued and be accompanied with a \$1000.00 appeals deposit. The appeal must include a detailed letter explaining the grounds of why you are appealing. If after the appeals committee has reviewed the letter, and provided feedback as to wither there is valid grounds for an appeal, the player still wishes to continue with an appeal hearing there will be a meeting scheduled. Please note, the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union has the right to retain part or all of the \$1000 bond.

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