

## FOUL LANGUAGE & SLEDGING POLICY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS RUGBY



Bay of Plenty Rugby is working hard at tidying up the behaviour of our players, coaches, managers and supporters at clubs and schools grounds. A number of new initiatives, such as the introduction of technical zones, the movement of crowd control barriers from 2 metres to 5 metres back from the field of play and the introduction of a “Positive Rugby Environment” web site are three such initiatives. Another initiative that was introduced last year is the foul language and sledging policy.

The World Rugby laws Of The Game Playing Charter details the principles of the game and includes **Integrity** (generated through honesty and fair play) **Passion** (passionate enthusiasm for the game), **Solidarity** (unifying spirit that leads to life-long friendships), **Discipline** (a reflection through adherence to the laws) and **Respect** (respect for team mates, opponents, match officials and others involved.)

**Foul Language** (defined as not in accordance with accepted standards or established rules) **and sledging** (the act of one sports player insulting an opponent with the view of making them angry, or destroying their concentration, confidence or self-esteem) are two aspects of student players behaviour that the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union believes does not fit within World Rugby’s charter and as a result it is NOT permitted in any secondary schools rugby match.

Examples of this include:

- Any comment directed towards a referee involving foul language whether intentionally directed at the referee or not. For example a player who makes a comment “what the F#\*K ref”.
- Foul language directed at the opposition team or individuals. For example, “come on boys lets F#\*K these C#@ts up” or “I’m gunna F#\*KEN smash you”.
- Sledging of opposition players, for example players pointing and commenting, “we gunna smash you” or “Come on bro bring it on”.

This policy does NOT apply when players use foul language in the course of the game, for example:

- A player makes a mistake with a kick, pass dropped ball and swears.
- A player is tackled or is injured and swears out loud eg “F#@k me”.
- Players speaking amongst themselves using swear words eg “come on bro we got to work F#@ken harder”.

Referees are directed to deal with foul language and sledging in a similar way to which New Zealand Rugby has directed them to deal with mouth guards. **A zero tolerance policy is to be followed.**

1. **The first instance** where foul language or sledging is detected by the referee the offending player is to be penalised and a warning issued to the offending team’s captain that the next such instance of that behaviour will result in a yellow card.
2. **The second instance** by the same team is to be penalised and a yellow card is to be issued. Again, the captain is to be issued a warning that the next such instance is to be dealt with by way of RED card.
3. **The third or subsequent instance** is also to be penalised and a red card is to be issued. Note, all red cards will then be subject to the disciplinary process outlined in the New Zealand Rugby Disciplinary Rules (Black Book) and may result in further sanctions being imposed.

**Adams Centre for High Performance, 52 Miro Street, Mount Maunganui**

**P: 07 574 2037 F: 07 574 2046 W: [www.boprugby.co.nz](http://www.boprugby.co.nz)**



boprugby



@BOPRugby



@boprugby



BOPRugbyUnion



The various law references include:

- 10.4(m) Acts contrary to good sportsmanship (1<sup>st</sup> infringement)
- 10.3(a) Repeated Infringement by a Player
- 10.3(b) Repeated Infringement by the team
- 10.4(s) Players disputing referees decisions.

It is not our intent not to be the moral standards police when using this policy. It is intended to eliminate situations where a player's language and behaviour towards match officials, opposition players and coaching staff is likely to be contrary to the spirit and charter of the game and inflame possible heated and tense situations.

**Adams Centre for High Performance, 52 Miro Street, Mount Maunganui**

**P: 07 574 2037 F: 07 574 2046 W: [www.boprugby.co.nz](http://www.boprugby.co.nz)**

