



1 June 2018

Dear All,

Please find attached the following documents:

- The new sanction table for the Adult game applicable as of **1 June 2018** (please note that the link on the RFU website will be updated on 1 June 2018); and
- An 'at a glance' guide to the changes

As you are all aware, Unions took part in a World Rugby consultation process last year. The RFU contributed to the consultation and a decision was made by the World Rugby Council that the new, simplified Laws of the Game and revised sanction tables would come into force globally as of **1 January 2018**.

Following that process, we submitted further feedback to World Rugby (alongside other Unions) and went to Dublin in March to present our findings to their Legal Counsel.

There have now been a number of further changes made to the sanction table that was issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and the new table is set out below in full for your ease of reference.

The first and perhaps most important change is the following note at the outset of the table:-

**Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head shall result in at least a mid-range sanction**

World Rugby have removed the final column of the sanction table which made reference to the mandatory entry points for certain types of offences and replaced it with a 'catch-all' provision for **any** contact with the head.

The remainder of the table is as follows:-

**9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:**

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 18 weeks	Top-end: 24+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks
Intentional Contact with Eye(s) <sup>1</sup>	Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 18 weeks	Top-end: 24+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) <sup>2</sup>	Low-end: 6 weeks	Mid-range: 12 weeks	Top-end: 18+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks
Contact with Eye Area <sup>3</sup>	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Punching or striking with hand or arm (including stiff-arm tackle)	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks

<sup>1, 2 & 3</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

Striking with the elbow	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Striking with shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Striking with head	Low-end: 6 weeks	Mid-range: 10 weeks	Top-end: 16+ weeks	Max: 104 weeks
Striking with knee	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Stamping or Trampling	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Tripping	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Kicking	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks

**9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Low-end: 6 weeks	Mid-range: 12 weeks	Top-end: 18+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 6+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.**

Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.**

Low-end: 6 weeks	Mid-range: 10 weeks	Top-end: 14+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.**

- a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.**

**a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.**

**c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 8+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 6 weeks	Top-end: 10+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.26 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:**

Hair pulling or grabbing	Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 6+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Spitting at anyone	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 18 weeks	Top-end: 24+ weeks	Max: 208 weeks
Other	Low-end: 4 weeks	Mid-range: 8 weeks	Top-end: 12+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
2 Yellow cards in a match	Please refer to the sanction table in Appendix 1 to RFU Regulation 19			

**9.27 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official**

Low-end: 2 weeks	Mid-range: 4 weeks	Top-end: 6+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.27 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Low-end: 6 weeks	Mid-range: 12 weeks	Top-end: 18+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.27 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.**

Low-end: 6 weeks	Mid-range: 12 weeks	Top-end: 18+ weeks	Max: 52 weeks
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**9.27 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.**

Low-end: 12 weeks	Mid-range: 24 weeks	Top-end: 48+ weeks	Max: 260 weeks
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**9.27 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.**

Low-end: 24 weeks	Mid-range: 48 weeks	Top-end: 96+ weeks	Max: Life
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The 'at a glance' guide will set out the changes in full but it's important to note the following main points:-

1. **Any** act of foul play which results in contact to the head shall result in at least a mid-range entry point.
2. As with the previous version, there is no corresponding reference in the sanctions table to new Laws 9.21-9.24. This is intentional from World Rugby as they are of the view that none of these offences will lead to a red card or a citing and therefore are for on-field use by the match officials only.
3. The omission of reference to Match Official abuse has been amended in this version. **Law 9.27** now includes specific reference to the following offences:-
  - a. *A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official*
  - b. *A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.*
  - c. *A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.*
  - d. *A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.*
  - e. *A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.*
4. We have now included reference to 2 yellow cards in a match under 9.26. This means that you should continue to frame the charge as a breach of Law 9.26 and refer to the appropriate sanction table in Appendix 1.

If you have any questions in relation to the changes, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Discipline Department Team ([discipline@rfu.com](mailto:discipline@rfu.com))

Kind regards  
Beccy

#### CC to

Andrew Rogers and Phil Winstanley, PRL – please would you send on to all Premiership Clubs  
Geoff Irvine and Ian Connell, Championship Club Representatives – For information  
Chris Burns and Tom Price, RFU – please would you send on to all Championship Clubs  
Brian Vincent, Norman Robertson & Alan MacCreadie, NCA – please send on to all National League Clubs  
Dr Tim Miller, RFU Referees Union Council Representative – For information  
Constituent Body Discipline Secretaries – please send on to all clubs within your CB and all CB Discipline Panel Members  
RFU Judicial Officers and Panel Members – for information  
RFU Citing Commissioners – for information  
Nathan Martin, RFU – please would you kindly forward to all RFU Team Managers  
Tony Spreadbury, Steve Leyshon, Chris White, Gareth Thomas – for information  
Kate Saddler and Alice Lawson, RFU – for information  
Paul Kaminski, Paul Astbury, David Clarke, Mike Gee, Divisional Organising Committees – for information  
Ian Skillen and Chris Davy, Schools Discipline – please circulate to all schools and CB Youth Discipline Secretaries  
Mark Saltmarsh, Chris Sigsworth, RFU – for information  
Patricia Mowbray, RFU – for inclusion in the next edition of Touchline magazine