FEBRUARY DISCIPLINE REPORT

The RFU Discipline Audit was completed on 12th December, both Tony Knightsbridge and myself were on the call along with Nicola McCombe and Rebecca Morgan from the RFU. We are in a good position with one or two action points to be reviewed by John Dunstan and Governance & Finance.

The RFU have sent out further details regarding the Wyboston conference 2/3 September 2023. RFU will not cover cost of hotel stay on the Friday night 1st September. John Dunstan has asked if the CB can cover this for the delegates attending. Delegates have been given a link to book accommodation on the Friday night so will be able to advise of cost.

On the playing front, there have been 7 red card cases up to 11th February, since my last report. We are currently on 16 cases for the season in the adult game.

A player from Camborne Crusaders was sent off in their game against Redruth Albany, Reg 9:18 Dangerous tackle, which resulted in contact of the head with the ground. Camborne gave their player a 3 week ban. The panel reviewed the case increasing the suspension to 5 weeks with one week allowed off if player undertook specific training regarding his tackle technique, which was agreed by the club.

A player from Newquay Hornets was given a red card under Reg 9:12, a player must not verbally or physically abuse anyone. The player charged in after the referee had blown the whistle delivering a flurry of punches at an opponent. Newquay Hornets felt this was a low-end offence and gave their player 2 weeks. The panel took a different view and placed the offence at mid-range resulting in a 4 week ban.

A player from Pirates Amateurs was sent off for verbal referee abuse Reg 9:28, the player was handed a 7 match ban, which included 1 game extra added on by the CRFU for Match Official Abuse. He was also instructed to do “An Introduction to Refereeing Course”.

In January a player from Lankelly-Fowey received a red card under Reg 9:12 for striking an opponent. I am still awaiting the club’s decision, they have been chased.

A player from Liskeard-Looe was sent off under Reg 9:12 again striking an opponent, he was given a 3 game ban by the club which the panel agreed with.

A player from Veor-Holman was sent off under Reg 9:12 for a head butt, he was given a 4 match ban by Veor, this was increased by the panel to 5 games.

A player from Redruth II was sent off against St. Ives, again under Reg 9:12 for punching. Redruth RFC gave their player a 3 match ban. The panel considered this too lenient and increased the ban to 5 matches.

In addition, on Boxing Day I learnt that Phil Hinchley (Penryn), who was banned last season following a citing for 6 weeks, and had only served 3 games of his sentence before disappearing, was going to sign for Falmouth and was down to play against Penryn that afternoon. Some hurried phone calls saw him pulled from the fixture, discussions with Falmouth have seen him serve out the last 3 games of his suspension.

There was a Match Official Abuse report concerning an overzealous touch judge in a league game at Penryn. This was settled amicably by exchange of letters between the referee and the Penryn linesman. No further action necessary.

A St. Austell player was cited by Sidmouth RFC following their league game on 7th January, this was brought under Reg 9:13 Dangerous tackle. The player and the club accepted the charge which saw a 3 match ban imposed by the club. Sidmouth were satisfied with the outcome.

Youth Disciplinary brought to my attention a serious incident concerning a Player Under 18 from Newquay Hornets playing in an adult game without the prescribed permission. The young player received a fractured jaw during their game played on Boxing Day. This will see a Reg 5:12 charge, conduct prejudicial to the game against the club Hearing date has been scheduled.

Regarding the referee abuse case involving a coach from Penryn Ladies. Penryn held their hearing concluding it amounted to disrespect and banned the coach for 4 weeks (including the CRFU extra week). The panel reviewed the case on 16th February and concurred with the sanction given by Penryn RFC. The coach was also asked to send a letter of apology to the referee.

A young match official abuse report was latterly received regarding youth coach at St. Austell RFC, the club are dealing with this under Reg 9:28. I have received their report, it has been referred to the panel.

*Item 7: The case involving Perranporth’s Justyn Irons brought by the RFU under Reg 5:12, conduct prejudicial to the game, was finally held. The judgment was lengthy due to the various aspects of this case. Mr Irons was given a 16 week ban. Perranporth lodged an appeal, this was held in January and heard by a RFU panel. The outcome was the appeal was partly upheld, Mr Irons ban was reduced to an immediate 12 weeks with a further 4 weeks suspended until April 2024. He is also required to write a letter of apology to the referee concerned via the RFU.*

Bill Hooper

CRFU Discipline Secretary