



To: **Secretaries / Chief Executive Officers of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership of World Rugby**

From: **David Carrigy**
Director of Development & International Relations

Date: **December 2, 2021**

Re: **World Rugby Interim Meeting of Council November 24, 2021**
World Rugby Council Decisions: **Notice of Amendments to World Rugby Regulations**
Notice of Regulation 8 Ruling
Notice of Amendments to Laws of the Game – Sevens
Notice of Law 9.11 Reclassification
Notice of Approval of *GAME-ON* Law Variations
Notice of Amendments to the Bye-Laws
Notice of Amendments to Associate Membership Criteria

At its Interim Meeting held on November 24, 2021 Council agreed the following:

Notice of Amendments to World Rugby Regulations

- (1) Regulation 8: Eligibility to Play for National Representative Teams – [attached annex one \(page 3\)](#)
Implementation date: January 1, 2022
- (2) Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play – [attached annex two \(page 34\)](#)
Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Notice of Regulation 8: 60 Month Residency Requirement Implementation Ruling

- (1) Regulation 8: Eligibility to Play for National Representative Teams – 60 Month Residency Requirement implementation – [attached annex three \(page 107\)](#)
Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Notice of Amendments to the World Rugby Laws of the Game – Sevens Variation

- (1) Law 6.37: In-Goal Judges – [attached annex four \(page 109\)](#)
Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Notice of Approval of *GAME-ON* Law Variations for the Community Game

- (1) *GAME-ON* Law Variations – [attached annex five \(page 111\)](#)
Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Notice of Law 9.11 Reclassification

- (1) Law 9.11: Dangerous Play – [attached annex six \(page 118\)](#)
Implementation date: December 1, 2021
 - (i) Consequential amendment to Head Contact Process: Law Application Guidelines [\(page 121\)](#)
 - (ii) Consequential amendment to Head Contact Process: Coaching Intervention [\(page 125\)](#)



- (iii) Consequential amendment to Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play ([page 127](#))

Notice of Amendments to the World Rugby Bye-Laws

- (1) World Rugby Bye-Laws – [attached annex seven \(page 151\)](#)

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

- (i) Council approved consequential amendments to the Bye-Laws further to the approval of the GAME-ON Law Variations for the Community Game.

Notice of Amended World Rugby Associate Membership Criteria

- (1) World Rugby Associate Membership Criteria – [attached annex eight \(page 153\)](#)

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy'.

David Carrigy
Director of Development & International Relations



ANNEX ONE

Regulation 8: Eligibility to Play for National Representative Teams

- **Birthright Transfer Amendments**
- **Age of Majority Amendments**

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Regulation 8 – Eligibility

Birthright Transfer Summary

Player has previously represented Union A and now wants to represent Union B



- **36 month stand-down**

(player has not represented Union A for at least 36 months)



- **Player born in Union B; or**
- **Parent born in Union B; or**
- **Grandparent born in Union B**



- **Cannot transfer based on residency**

(Because residency already gives a player a route to represent a Union for which he/she had no original “genuine, close, credible and established national link” as per Reg 8)

- Process only available once per player
- Where the player who is transferring wants to represent Union ‘B’ in an Olympic Event, the player must also be a National of the country of Union ‘B’

REGULATION 8. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

8.1 Subject to Regulation 8.2, a Player may only play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team and the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union of the country with which the Player has a genuine, close, credible and established national link in which:

- (a) ~~he~~the Player was born; or
- (b) one parent or grandparent was born; or
- (c) ~~he~~the Player has completed sixty¹ consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing; or
- (d) ~~he~~the Player has completed ten years of cumulative Residence preceding the time of playing.

8.2 Subject to Regulations 8.6 and 8.7, Aa Player who ~~(subject to Regulation 8.6 to 8.12)~~ has played for:

- (a) the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union; or
- (b) the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union; or
- (c) ~~either of (i) the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union where the Player has reached the age of twenty on or before the date of participation; or (ii) the National Representative Sevens Team of a Union in the Olympic Games or the Rugby World Cup Sevens, having reached the age of majority on or before the date of participation in such tournament,~~

is not eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union².

8.3 For the purposes of this Regulation, a Player is deemed to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union if:

- (a) ~~He~~The Player is selected for such team to play in an International Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of another Union (or in a fifteen-a-side international Match against another Union's senior or next senior Touring Squad during a World Rugby approved International Tour) and is present at the Match played by that team either as a replacement, substitute or a playing

¹ The sixty-month residency requirement comes into effect after the cut-off date of December 31, 2021. The residency requirement up to and including December 31, 2021 is "thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing".

² Save where the Union the Player represented was a recognised regional development union.

member of that team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority; or

- (b) HeThe Player is selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad on an International Tour which includes an International Match or Matches approved by World Rugby and is present at any fifteen-a-side Match played on that International Tour either as a replacement, substitute or a playing member of a team selected from the Union's senior Touring Squad and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority; or
- (c) HeThe Player is selected to represent a Union's next senior Touring Squad on a World Rugby approved International Tour and during that International Tour hethe Player is present at a Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of another Union either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of a team selected from the Union's next senior Touring Squad and has, at the time of the Match reached the age of majority.
- (d) Before January 1, 2018, hethe Player is selected to represent the Under 20s National Representative Team of a Union which has been pre-designated as that Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team and the Player is part of the team which participates in an International Match as part of the World Rugby Junior World Championships, World Rugby Junior World Rugby Trophy or the Six Nations U20 Championship and is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority³.

8.4 For the purposes of this Regulation, a Player is deemed to have played for the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union if hethe Player is:

- (a) selected to represent a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union and is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team, and the Player has, on or before the date of the Match, reached the age of twentymajority; or
- (b) selected to represent a Union's National Representative Sevens Team in the Olympic Games or the Rugby World Cup Sevens and is present at such tournament either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team having reached the age of majority on or before the date of participation in such tournament.

³ With effect from January 1, 2018, Unions will no longer be permitted to name its Under 20s National Representative Team as that Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team.

8.5 Responsibility, breach and penalties for a breach of Regulation 8

8.5.1 Unions

Regulation 8 is a strict liability offence and shall be construed in accordance with the principles of strict liability under English law. It is not, therefore, necessary that fault or intent on the part of a Union be shown in order for a breach of Regulation 8 to be established. Nor is lack of fault or intent on the part of a Union a defence to a breach of Regulation 8. For the avoidance of any doubt (and without limiting a Union's other obligations and responsibilities for the conduct, acts or omissions of its members and Persons under its jurisdiction pursuant to any other Regulation) Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons under its jurisdiction in relation to compliance with the provisions of Regulation 8 and any breach of Regulation 8 by such Player(s) or Person(s) shall be deemed to be a breach of Regulation 8 by the Union concerned. Each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union, howsoever arising, will result in a minimum fixed fine being imposed on the Union concerned. The minimum fixed fines for each breach of Regulation 8 are as follows:

- (a) For a Union that is represented on the Council £100,000 sterling;
- (b) For all other World Rugby Member Unions £25,000 sterling.

Based on the facts and circumstances of any breach of Regulation 8 the applicable minimum fixed fine as set out above may be increased. In addition, other penalties as set out in Regulation 18.6-19.4 may also be imposed on the Union concerned.

- 8.5.2 In exceptional circumstances, a Union in breach of Regulation 8 may make submissions to the relevant disciplinary body appointed under Regulation 18.9 to adjudicate on the case as to why the Union should not be subject to the applicable minimum fixed fine. For the avoidance of any doubt, however, the relevant disciplinary body shall only be entitled to reduce the applicable minimum fixed fine set out in this Regulation where the Union is able to provide clear and indisputable evidence that truly exceptional circumstances exist and that the Union concerned had taken all necessary steps to comply with Regulation 8.

Players

- 8.5.3 Notwithstanding Regulations 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 above and without prejudice to any sanction imposed on a Union, Players may also be subject to sanction in accordance with Regulation 18.9 where they breach Regulation 8 in circumstances where they knew or ought reasonably to have known they were not eligible to play for the relevant Union at the time of participation.

Birthright Transfer

- 8.6 A Player who has represented one Union (as set out in Regulation 8.2 to 8.4) may apply to represent a new Union provided that:**

- (i) ~~(i)~~ the Player meets the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1(a) or 8.1(b) in relation to the new Union; and
- (ii) ~~(ii)~~ at least three years have passed since the Player last represented their former Union; and
- (iii) ~~(iii)~~ the approval of World Rugby is obtained.

8.7 Olympic Transfer

8.7.1 Where a Player who has represented an Olympic Sevens Team associated with a Union wishes to represent an Olympic Sevens Team associated with a different Union in an Olympic Event, the Player may apply to represent the new Olympic Sevens Team provided the ~~p~~Player has, in addition to meeting the requirements of Regulation 8.6;

- (i) ~~(i)~~ met the Olympic Eligibility requirements set out in Regulation 8.9; and
- (ii) ~~(ii)~~ obtained the approval of the International Olympic Committee and the relevant National Olympic Committee(s).

8.7.2 Only in respect of transfers to represent Olympic Teams, the standdown period of 36 months may be reduced or even cancelled with the agreement of the World Rugby and the National Olympic Committees concerned and by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case but noting that a Player may not represent two different Unions or a Union and an Olympic Sevens Team(s) of a National Olympic Committee in the same Olympic Event(s).

Limitation on Transfers

8.8 A Player may only transfer pursuant to Regulation 8.6 or 8.7 once so that no Player may represent more than two Unions in ~~his or her~~ their lifetime.

Additional eligibility criteria in relation to Olympic Events

8.69 In addition to complying with the criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 to 8.4 above (which applies equally to all Players), to be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games and/or as part of a potential qualifying team or a pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games in Olympic qualification events (together “Olympic Events”) or other events governed by the Olympic Charter all members of the senior National Representative Sevens Team(s) of a Union or the selected Olympic Sevens Team(s) of a National Olympic Committee must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee which it is representing in such Olympic Events. For the avoidance of doubt, these Regulations 8.69 to 8.1314 do not apply to National Representative Sevens Teams and Olympic Sevens Teams which are participating in an Olympic qualification event but are not able to qualify through that event and/or have already qualified for the

Olympic Games via a previous sevens series (save in the case of a pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games).

~~8.7 — A Player who is a national of the country or Union for which he has been captured under Regulation 8.2 and who holds the nationality of another country or Union, may apply to participate in an Olympic Event to represent his new country or Union subject to the following conditions;~~

~~8.7.1 — The application of a Player under this Regulation 8.7 must be submitted by the Union which the Player wishes to next represent in an Olympic Event (or a Union associated with the Olympic Sevens Team the Player wishes to represent) to the Regulations Committee with all relevant supporting documentation at least one month in advance of the Player's intended first participation for the new Union or Olympic Sevens Team. The application shall be pre-notified to the Player's Union (namely the Union whose National Representative Team the Player represented or a Union associated with the Olympic Sevens Team, as applicable);~~

~~8.7.2 — The Player as at the time of the consideration of his application by the Regulations Committee must have observed and be able to demonstrate a stand down period of at least three (3) years since the time the Player last represented his former Union and the time the Player first plays for the second Union or country, which must be in an Olympic Event. The Player may not represent the second Union in any other form of the Game until after he has participated in such Olympic Event.~~

~~8.7.3 — The Player's new Union or Olympic Sevens Team must not have already qualified for the Olympic Games (in the same gender as the Player) as at the time of the Player's intended first participation for the new Union or Olympic Sevens Team, as applicable (save in the case of a pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games).~~

~~8.8 — Where the Player is not a national of the Union for which he has been captured under Regulation 8.2, and he meets the Olympic eligibility criteria (in Regulation 8.6 to 8.13) as determined by the Regulations Committee, he shall be eligible for selection to play for the Union or country of which he is a national, in an Olympic Event, subject to satisfying the three-year stand down period.~~

8.910 A Player who is eligible or captured for a Union that cannot participate in an Olympic Event because there is no National Olympic Committee solely for the territory of such Union, may, subject to the Olympic eligibility criteria (in Regulations [8.69](#) to [8.131](#)), be eligible to play for the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee of which [he the Player](#) is a national, provided that such team is not associated with any one single Union. In such circumstances the following provisions shall apply:

8.910.1 Where the Player has been captured under Regulation 8.2 for a Union [he the Player](#) shall remain captured for such Union notwithstanding the

Player's representation for the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee in an Olympic Event;

- 8.910.2 Where the Player has not previously been captured under Regulation 8.2 and ~~hethey~~ represents the Olympic Sevens Team of a National Olympic Committee in an Olympic Event, ~~hethey~~ will be deemed to be captured for one of the underlying Unions which support the Olympic Sevens Team of the relevant National Olympic Committee, and the Player must elect which of those underlying Unions ~~hethey~~ shall be captured by for the purposes of Regulation 8.

~~8.10 A Player who has represented one Union or Olympic Team in an Olympic Event and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may apply to participate in an Olympic Event to represent his new Union or country provided that at least three years have passed since the Player last represented his former Union or country and the approval of the International Olympic Committee, the relevant National Olympic Committee(s) and World Rugby is obtained. This period may be reduced or even cancelled with the agreement of the World Rugby and the National Olympic Committees concerned and by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.~~

- 8.11 A Player may not represent two different Unions or a Union and an Olympic Sevens Team(s) of a National Olympic Committee in the same Olympic Event(s).

~~8.12 Once the Player has represented the Union or Olympic Sevens Team of which he is a national, in an Olympic Event, he shall thereafter be tied to that Union (or an underlying Union of the Olympic Sevens Team) for all forms of the Game and in all events but shall only be eligible to participate in an International Match in such other forms of the Game in addition to seven-a-side if:~~

- ~~(a) he participates as a Player in no less than half of the tournaments in a series of World Rugby or Regional Association Olympic qualification tournaments, being for the avoidance of doubt a series of tournaments which provides direct qualification to the Olympic Games for one or more team(s) based on their finishing positions at the conclusion of the series in circumstances where his team is able to qualify for the Olympic Games through that series of tournaments (save in the case of a pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games); and/or~~
- ~~(b) he participates as a Player in at least half of the matches in a standalone World Rugby or Regional Association Olympic qualification tournament, being for the avoidance of doubt a tournament which provides direct qualification to the Olympic Games for one or more team(s) based on their finishing positions at the conclusion of the tournament in circumstances where his team is able to qualify for the Olympic Games through that tournament (save in the~~

~~case of a pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games); and/or~~

~~(c) he participates as a Player in the Olympic Games; and/or~~

~~(d) (d) where the Player is a member of a pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games and his circumstances do not fall under (a), (b) or (c):~~

~~(i) he participates as a Player in no less than half of the Matches in any tournament(s) his team participates in a series of World Rugby or Regional Association Olympic qualification tournaments, being for the avoidance of doubt a series of tournaments which provides direct qualification to the Olympic Games for one or more team(s) based on their finishing positions at the conclusion of the series; and/or~~

~~(ii) he participates as a Player in no less than half of the Matches in another Olympic Event which his team participates in, where applicable; and~~

~~(iii) the Regulations Committee is satisfied that the Player is a legitimate international seven-a-side player and approves his transfer to the Union of the pre-qualified team of the host nation of the Olympic Games. In addition to (i) and (ii) above, the Regulations Committee may set out an appropriate qualification process on a case-by-case basis where it sees fit in order to satisfy itself of the legitimacy of the Player's application for the purposes of international seven-a-side participation.~~

~~Where a Player fails to reach the threshold participation criteria to participate in other forms of the Game set out in (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, the Player is deemed to have been captured for the Union and/or team for which he has participated in the Olympic Event and shall remain eligible for that new Union in the seven-a-side form of the Game only (and for the avoidance of doubt may not participate for any other Union in any form of the Game), until such time as the threshold participation criteria are achieved at which time he shall become eligible to participate for his new Union in all forms of the Game. In a particular case where exceptional circumstances may arise, the new Union of the Player may apply for a Regulations Committee ruling.~~

- 8.132** Players who participate in the Olympic Events accept and agree that any disputes relating to eligibility shall first be addressed pursuant to the rules of such Olympic Events and the World Rugby Regulations and that all internal procedures (including applicable National Olympic Committee rules/procedures) and/or World Rugby procedures shall be exhausted first. Thereafter, recourse may be had in respect of Olympic Events only (and not in relation to eligibility matters to which Regulation 8.69 to 8.164 does not apply) to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with the provision applicable before such court and which will resolve definitively the dispute in accordance with the code of sports related arbitration. World

Rugby has the right to appear, attend and/or participate as a party in any appeal to CAS involving eligibility considerations for Olympic Events.

8.143 Any Union wishing to obtain clarification around the eligibility of a Player to represent it in the Olympic Games or Olympic Events may do so by referring the matter to the World Rugby Regulations Committee in accordance with Regulation 2 ~~and Regulation 8.7.1 and 8.7.2.~~

8.15 — The list of Olympic Events is set out in Schedule 2 and shall be updated for each Olympic cycle.

8.164 The provisions of Regulation 8.5 apply equally to any alleged breach of the Olympic eligibility provisions.

Age and Gender

8.175 World Rugby's policies and guidelines in relation to eligibility requirements in respect of age and gender are available [here].

EXPLANATORY GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATION 8

ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

Following its deliberations on the question of Player eligibility, the Working Party has produced these Explanatory Guidelines on the implementation of Regulation 8. These Explanatory Guidelines must be read in conjunction with the terms of Regulation 8.

1. What is the Rationale/Philosophy of Regulation 8?

The rationale/philosophy of Regulation 8 is to ensure that Players selected to represent either the senior and next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Teams of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team have a genuine, close, credible and established national link with the country of the Union for which they have been selected. Such a national link is essential to maintain the unique characteristics and culture of elite international sporting competition between Unions. The integrity of International Matches between Unions depends upon strict adherence to the eligibility criteria set out in the Regulations.

2. Who establishes the eligibility criteria in Rugby Union?

World Rugby will continue to establish the criteria by reference to which a Player's eligibility to play for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team will be determined. Citizenship of a country and/or whether a Player holds a passport of a particular country are not, of themselves, determinative in identifying which Union a Player is eligible to represent. This will be determined solely in accordance with World Rugby's eligibility criteria. In relation to Olympic eligibility criteria see the Explanatory Guidelines on the Implementation of Regulation 8 – Olympic Eligibility.

3. What is the eligibility criteria in Rugby Union?

The existing World Rugby eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 will be maintained. This is based on the Player having a genuine, close, credible and established national link with:

- (a) the country in which the Player was born; or
- (b) the country in which one parent or grandparent of the Player was born; or
- (c) the country in which the Player has completed sixty consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing⁴; or

⁴ The sixty-month residency requirement comes into effect after the cut-off date of December 31, 2021. The residency requirement up to and including December 31, 2021 is "thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing".

- (d) the country in which the Player has completed ten years of cumulative Residence preceding the time of playing; and
- (e) for Olympic Event participation, the nationality of the Union or country the Player wishes to represent is also required.

4. **Birthright Transfers: If a Player has dual eligibility, can ~~hethe~~ Player play for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of more than one Union?**

~~No, save for those Players that, before 1 January 2000, allowed a period of 36 consecutive months to elapse after they had played for another Union and who played for the second Union before 1 January 2000. The one Union only rule, introduced by World Rugby from 1st January 2000 (as set out in Regulation 8.2), will be maintained. A Player is only entitled to play Rugby Union for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of one Union (provided that, in the case of the senior National Representative Sevens Team, for tournaments other than the Olympic Games and Rugby World Cup Sevens, the Player had reached the age of twenty on or before the date of participation representing that one Union). Accordingly, if a Player is deemed to have played in such circumstances, even if he is able to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1, he will not be able to play for any other Union. Consistent with the overall rationale underlying the eligibility Regulations, the one Union only rule is designed to maintain the integrity of the international Game. Once a Player has committed himself to a particular Union, through participation in one of the Matches or Tours in the circumstances identified in Regulations 8.3 or 8.4, he is unable to change his "Rugby Nationality" which becomes fixed.~~ 4.1 Yes, ~~in~~ certain circumstances. A Player who has represented one Union may apply to represent a second Union provided that:

- ~~(i) (i)~~ the Player meets the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1(a) and 8.1(b) in relation to the new Union; and
- ~~(ii) (ii)~~ at least three years have passed since the Player last represented their former Union; and
- ~~(iii) (iii)~~ the approval of World Rugby is obtained.

~~Where the Player wishes to represent a second Union in the context of the Olympic Games (or Olympic Events), the Player must additionally:~~

- ~~(i) (i)~~ met the Olympic Eligibility requirements set out in Regulation 8.9; and
- ~~(ii) (ii)~~ obtain the approval of the International Olympic Committee and the relevant National Olympic Committee(s).

4.2 Players may only transfer once, such that no Player can ever represent more than two Unions for the purposes of Regulation 8.2.

4.3 Applications should be submitted to the World Rugby Regulations Committee accompanied by all relevant supporting documents by the Union to which the Player wishes to transfer. The application shall be pre-notified to the Player's original Union (namely the Union whose National Representative Team the Player has previously represented). The Player's Union may make written submissions to the World Rugby Regulations Committee or may be invited to do so. The application must be complete and the Player must have complied with all criteria as at the date of the consideration of their ~~Player's~~ case by the Regulations Committee. The Committee cannot issue rulings subject to future compliance or on a speculative basis.

4.4 Is there any stand-down period?

Yes. The Player will be required to observe and demonstrate a stand-down period of three (3) years between the time the Player last played for ~~his~~ ~~their~~ Union and the time the Player first represents the second Union. Played, shall mean when ~~s/he~~ ~~the~~ Player played for the senior, next senior or senior sevens National Representative Team of that Union for which ~~s/he~~ ~~is~~ ~~they~~ are captured. The principles of Regulation 8.3 apply in any assessment of this provision.

4.5 What does 'first represents' mean?

It means the first occasion when the Player represents the second Union in a Match, Tournament or Series of Matches. Training with the team of the second Union is permitted but the circumstances should not be such that it presents or implies to third parties that the Player is part of a National Representative Team of the second Union or country before the stand-down period ends.

4.6 How will the stand-down period be assessed?

The onus will be on the Player to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Regulations Committee the last occasion upon which ~~s/he~~ ~~the~~ Player played for their former Union and that they have not represented such Union in the three-year period before they represent their new Union or country.

5. When is a Player deemed to have played for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team?

~~As a result of the one Union only rule, in particular, if~~ It is essential that Players and Unions understand the situations in which Players will be deemed to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team. These situations are set out in Regulations 8.3 and 8.4. Players and Unions shall, at all times, have regard to the full terms of Regulations 8.3 and 8.4, however, by way of a summary only, the situations set out below are covered:

Fifteen-a-side

- (a) Players who participate in International Matches for the senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of a Union against the senior or next senior National Representative Team of another Union.
- (b) Players selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad who participate in any Match played by members of that Union's senior Touring Squad during an International Tour provided such International Tour includes an International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.
- (c) Players who participate in a Match for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team made up of Players from a Union's senior Touring Squad during an International Tour which includes International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.
- (d) Players, representing a Union's next senior Touring Squad who participate in a Match on an International Tour approved by World Rugby against the senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of another Union.
- (e) Players who play for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team selected from a Union's next senior Touring Squad when such Match is played on an International Tour approved by World Rugby.

Seven-a-side

- ~~(a)~~ Players who participate in a Match for a Union's senior National Representative Sevens team against the senior National Representative Sevens team of another Union, provided that, the Player has reached the age of [twenty majority](#) on or before the date of participation.

- ~~(a) (b) Players who participate for the National Representative Sevens Team of a Union in the Olympic Games or Rugby World Cup Sevens having reached the age of majority.~~

6. How do I know which team is a Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team?

- (a) There should be no uncertainty over which team constitutes a Union's next senior National Representative Team. Unions are required to notify World Rugby of the name of their nominated next senior National Representative Team. The team nominated remains the Union's next senior National Representative Team unless the Union notifies World Rugby of a change in this nomination. A Union is entitled to notify World Rugby no more than once per calendar year of

a change to its next senior National Representative Team provided that in doing so it shall take account of any Matches such team may be scheduled to play and shall advise the Union of any senior or next senior National Representative Team it is scheduled to play reasonably in advance of such Match. The identity of a Union's next senior National Representative Team can be verified with the Union concerned and/or World Rugby.

- (b) Unions must ensure that all persons involved in an International Match (Players and team management including coaching staff) are made aware of the status of their team as the next senior National Representative Team and that of their opposing team where it is the senior or next senior National Representative Team of another Union and what that means from a capturing perspective under Regulation 8. Notwithstanding the Union's obligation to inform the Player and team management, it shall be the sole responsibility of each Player to ensure that hethy isare aware of the status of every Match in which hethy plays and the implications of playing in an International Match involving the senior or next senior National Representative Teams of two Unions.
- (c) With effect from January 1, 2018, Unions may not designate their Under 20s National Representative Team as their next senior National Representative Team. Up until December 31, 2017, Unions who designate their Under 20s National Representative Team as their next senior National Representative Team have a particular onus to clearly make the Team Players aware of the consequences of being captured for that Union at age grade level. Effective 1 July 2014, the Players on any such Team which participates in the World Rugby Junior World Championships, World Rugby Junior World Trophy or the Six Nations U20 Championship (where they are present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority) will be captured. In this regard the status of the opposition teams in any Match in these named tournaments is not a factor to be considered.

7. What is the age of majority?

For the purposes of the Regulations (including, but not limited to Regulation 8), the age of majority is deemed to be acquired on a Player's 18th birthday.

8. Do the eligibility criteria apply to all forms of Rugby?

The eligibility criteria apply to the fifteen-a-side Game at senior and next senior National Representative level and in respect of a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team.

9. Do the eligibility criteria apply to all Unions in membership of World Rugby?

Yes, all Unions in membership of World Rugby are obliged to comply with the eligibility Regulation.

10. How will the eligibility criteria be assessed?

Ordinarily, the task of assessing whether a Player satisfies any of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 is straightforward. However, as a result of professionalism, greater mobility and societal family change this is not always the case. Difficult cases have arisen and may continue to emerge. The responses to the questions set out below are intended to provide further clarification as to how each eligibility criterion in Regulation 8.1 will be applied.

The questions and answers should be regarded as guidelines. They have been prepared on the basis of operational experience to date. It is not possible to anticipate all scenarios that may arise and a degree of flexibility in the application of the Regulations will be maintained. Moving forward, in the event that there is any uncertainty or the need for clarification in relation to the application of the eligibility criteria in particular circumstances, then the Regulations Committee may be asked by World Rugby to make a ruling on a Player's eligibility. In relation to any such adjudication, the Regulations Committee will always have in mind the rationale behind Regulation 8. The aim of the Regulations Committee in each case where clarification may be required, is to establish whether, in all the circumstances, a Player has, by reference to the eligibility criteria in Regulation 8.1, been able to demonstrate a genuine, close and credible national link with the country that the Player wishes to represent. It is anticipated that over time a body of rulings by the Regulations Committee may develop which may, in turn, assist in providing further guidance to Unions in relation to eligibility matters.

11. When should any uncertainty over a Player's eligibility be clarified?

It is essential that eligibility issues are clarified before a Player represents the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team. This is particularly important in light of the [one-Union-only rule consequences of a Player being "captured" by a Union](#). Accordingly, if a Union has any doubt over a Player's eligibility status it must take all steps necessary to clarify the position before selecting the Player to play for its senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or its senior National Representative Sevens Team.

12. What does place of birth mean?

This should be the most straightforward criterion to apply. A Player's place of birth shall be the country within whose geographical borders ~~he~~[they](#) ~~was~~[were](#) born. However, difficult scenarios can arise even in relation to this criterion. For example, where a Player was born within the geographical

borders of one country, but in a part of that country deemed by the law of the country concerned, to be the sovereign territory of another, or where a Player was born in a military hospital. In such circumstances the matter should be referred to the Regulations Committee for a ruling. The Regulations Committee would need to establish the legal position together with other relevant facts and circumstances. In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for a Player to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Regulations Committee, that ~~hethey~~ is-are eligible to play for the Union within whose sovereign territory ~~hethey~~ was-were born, even though that sovereign territory may be within the geographical borders of another country.

13. What does Parent mean?

The term “parent” in the Regulations is limited to either a blood parent or a parent that has formally adopted a Player in accordance with the applicable legal requirements of the country concerned. Unless a Player has been adopted in accordance with the formal, legal requirements of the country concerned, the application of this criterion will be based on a Player’s blood parent. When a Player has been formally adopted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements of the country concerned, the birth place of the Player’s blood parent will no longer be relevant for the purposes of establishing the Player’s eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b). The relevant parent will be the parent that has formally and legally adopted the Player. In such circumstances, the relevant grandparents for the purposes of establishing a Player’s eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b) will be the Player’s adoptive rather than blood grandparents. It is not possible under Regulation 8.1(b) to assume eligibility via blood grandparents if a Player has been formally and legally adopted. In the event that one of the Player’s blood parents has been adopted, the relevant grandparents for the purpose of establishing that Player’s eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b) will be the Player’s blood parent’s adoptive parents.

For the avoidance of any doubt, stepparents and fostering parents will not be considered to constitute a Player’s parent for the purposes of Regulation 8.1(b).

14. How is the Residence criteria satisfied?

Regulation 8.1(c) requires a Player to complete 60 consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing⁵. Regulation 8(d) requires a Player to complete 10 years of cumulative Residence preceding the time of playing. Residence is defined as “the place or location in which the Player has his-their primary and permanent home” and Resident shall be construed accordingly. In essence, Regulation 8.1(c) and Regulation 8.1(d) constitute a sporting naturalization procedure, based on a geographical/presence test. As in any naturalisation process, a number of factors will influence the determination of what constitutes a Player’s

⁵ The sixty-month residency requirement comes into effect after the cut-off date of December 31, 2021. The residency requirement up to and including December 31, 2021 is “thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing”.

permanent and primary home. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the actual time spent in a country and the purpose of any absences during the qualification period. By being Resident in a country for a period of 60 consecutive months⁶ immediately preceding the time of playing for a Union, or 10 cumulative years over the course of the Player's lifetime, a Player is deemed to acquire a credible, close and established national link with a country or Union that entitles ~~him~~them to participate in sporting competitions for that Union. Based on the overriding rationale of the eligibility Regulations, in cases where a Player's eligibility is uncertain the Regulations Committee will consider that Player's eligibility by reference to the particular facts and circumstances of ~~his~~their case to establish if the Residency test, in the context of the overall rationale of the eligibility Regulations, has been satisfied. The principles set out in responses to the questions below will act as guidelines to the Regulations Committee when it is asked to consider any cases pursuant to this criterion.

15. Whose burden of proof?

In all cases where a Player is seeking to establish eligibility by reference to the Residency criteria in Regulation 8.1(c) or Regulation 8.1(d) (and, indeed, in relation to Regulation 8.1(a) and Regulation 8.1(b)), the burden of proof is on the Player and the Union that ~~he~~the Player wishes to represent to prove that Player's eligibility. Under Regulation 8.1(c) and Regulation 8.1(d), the Player and ~~his~~their Union must be able to demonstrate that, during the relevant period, the country in which ~~he~~the Player claims ~~he~~they ~~has~~have been Resident was, genuinely, the country that the Player treated as ~~his~~their home and is clearly the country in which the Player has ~~his~~their primary and permanent home. If a Player has moved from one country to another, and is seeking to establish Residence in that new country, then ~~he~~they must also be able to demonstrate that ~~he~~they ~~is~~are clearly no longer Resident in the country in which ~~he~~they ~~lived~~lived previously and that ~~he~~they no longer treats that country as ~~his~~their home. For the avoidance of any doubt, a Player cannot nominate a country as ~~his~~their home without demonstrating that ~~he~~they ~~has~~have satisfied the geographical commitment/presence test enshrined in Regulation 8.1(c) and Regulation 8.1(d). The geographical commitment/presence test will be vigorously upheld and applied to avoid abuse of the Residency criteria. For example, a Player that acquired/leased property in a country and who nominated that property as ~~his~~their permanent and primary home (even though ~~he~~they may only be present at that property and in that Union on a short term/temporary basis) would not satisfy the Residency test.

16. Will short breaks interrupt a period of Residence?

Short breaks in Residence, for example, for holidays, attending family/friends in other countries who may be ill etc., are unlikely to change the place/location of a Player's primary and permanent home and are, therefore, unlikely to interrupt a Player's period of Residence. By way of a guideline, however, as a minimum requirement, it is likely that, save in

⁶ See footnote 4 above.

exceptional circumstances, at least 10 months actual physical presence of the Player in the country concerned throughout any qualifying year of the Residency period, will be required to demonstrate that the country is the place where the Player has ~~his~~-~~their~~ primary and permanent home.

Where a professional rugby player leaves ~~his~~-~~their~~ country of residence to take part in a cross-border club fixture for ~~his~~-~~their~~ club (which club must for the avoidance of doubt be based in ~~his~~-~~their~~ country of residence), it shall not be considered a break in residency subject to the player adhering to the travel schedule of the team and not undertaking any additional personal travel or trips.

17. Does the 60⁷ month period of Residence set out in Regulation 8.1(c) have to immediately precede playing for a Union?

Save in exceptional circumstances, the 60 months⁸ Residence will be expected to have been completed consecutively and be achieved immediately before the Player represents a Union. This is designed to create a contemporary national link with the country of the Union concerned. This factor will be particularly significant if a Player has moved to make a “new” country ~~his~~-~~their~~ Residence having been Resident in another country previously. In essence, in such circumstances, the Player, as well as demonstrating ~~his~~-~~their~~ commitment to a new country, must also be (and seen to be) relinquishing ~~his~~-~~their~~ ties with the country in which ~~he~~~~they~~ lived previously. For the avoidance of any doubt, in the context of Regulation 8.1(c), seeking to rely on short periods of Residence as a child in a particular country, combined with a short period of Residence in that same country prior to playing for a Union, is likely to create a link that would be too tenuous to satisfy the underlying intentions of establishing a contemporary, permanent, national link with a Union. However, each case will be assessed on its overall merits to establish if a Player is able to demonstrate a genuine, close, credible and established national link by reference to the amount of time the Player can demonstrate that ~~he~~~~they~~ ~~has~~ ~~have~~ treated the “new” country as ~~his~~-~~their~~ home and other relevant factors.

18. Does the period of 10 years of cumulative Residence set out in Regulation 8.1(d) begin at birth?

Yes. Players who have established themselves on a permanent basis in a country through living there for lengthy periods during their lifetime may be deemed to acquire a credible, close and established national link with a country or Union that entitles ~~him~~-~~them~~ to participate in sporting competitions for that Union. The Player may add together the periods, from ~~his~~-~~their~~ date of birth, during which the country has been ~~his~~-~~their~~ primary and permanent home in order to calculate the 10 years of cumulative Residence.

⁷ The sixty-month residency requirement comes into effect after the cut-off date of December 31, 2021. The residency requirement up to and including December 31, 2021 is “thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing”.

⁸ See footnote 6 above.

19. What is the position of students?

As far as students are concerned, particularly those that are not financially independent, being resident, as a full-time student, in another country, is likely to be considered as a series of temporary absences from the parental home. It is anticipated that in the majority of cases involving students the parental home is likely to continue to constitute the student's permanent and primary home. Accordingly, attendance at school by a person who has not yet reached the age of majority in such circumstances is unlikely to break a Player's consecutive period of Residence. However, as in all matters of eligibility, the overriding concern of the Regulations Committee in assessing any such case will be to ensure that there remains a close, credible and established link with the country in which the Player claims to have retained ~~his~~ their primary and permanent home. There could be circumstances in which a student living in another country may wish to elect to commence a new period of residency in the country in which they are studying, for example where the Player is attending college/university (having reached the age of majority) in the jurisdiction of another Union and has relocated there on a permanent basis i.e. has only taken short breaks away from that new country as set out in paragraph 16 above. In cases involving students, the relevant Union and Player are advised to request a ruling from the Regulations Committee to ensure compliance in advance of the Player representing the Union. It is not permissible for a Union or educational establishment to offer scholarships or other benefits that restrict a Player's ability to choose which Union they wish to represent.

20. Who is responsible for compliance with the eligibility criteria?

In accordance with Regulation 2.1.2, each Union is responsible for ensuring compliance with all Regulations Relating to the Game This includes, but is obviously not limited to, Regulation 8. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of each Union to ensure that all Players it selects are properly eligible within the provisions of Regulation 8 and, in the event of any uncertainty, to ensure that the position is clarified before the Player is selected. Unions must have in place all necessary procedures and internal controls to ensure compliance with the eligibility Regulations.

21. What must Unions do to ensure (and demonstrate) compliance with the eligibility Regulations?

Unions must ensure that before a Player is selected for the first time for its senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or its senior National Representative Sevens Team the Player completes the standard form declaration attached to these Explanatory Guidelines at Schedule 1. In addition, before selecting a Player, Unions must ensure that they obtain valid/authentic documentation and such other evidence that may be necessary to prove, definitively, a Player's eligibility to play for that Union. Each Union must, on an annual basis, notify World Rugby of the names of all Players selected for its senior and next senior National Representative Team and, Players ~~who have reached the age of twenty~~ selected for its senior National Representative Sevens Team or who have

~~reached the age of majority and~~ participated in the National Representative Sevens Team of a Union in the Olympic Games or Rugby World Cup Sevens. World Rugby shall maintain a database of all such Players. If requested, by the Chairman, or his designee, Unions must supply copies of the completed declaration forms of a Player(s) together with supporting documentation relied on to demonstrate the Player's eligibility. On 1 December each year, each Union must certify to World Rugby that each Player selected to represent the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of the Union or its National Representative Sevens Team during the past year has completed, in full, the declaration form and that each Player was eligible to represent the Union in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 8.

World Rugby may, through the Chairman, or his designee, of his own motion or on receipt of a complaint undertake an investigation into a Union's compliance with Regulation 8. Unions, Players and officials must provide assistance with any such investigation and disclose such information and documents deemed necessary by the Chairman, or his designee, for the purposes of that investigation.

22. What are the consequences of a breach of the eligibility Regulations by a Union?

Compliance with Regulation 8 is of fundamental importance in maintaining the integrity of international Rugby Union at senior National Representative level. Any breach of such a fundamental Regulation, howsoever arising, has a detrimental impact on the image and reputation of the sport. Unions must, therefore take all necessary steps to put in place comprehensive review/compliance procedures to ensure that a breach of the eligibility provision does not occur whether negligently or otherwise. Alleged breaches of Regulation 8 may be investigated and handled in accordance with Regulation 189 (~~Disciplinary and Judicial Matters~~Breach of the Bye-Laws or Regulations). However, a breach of the eligibility Regulations constitutes a strict liability offence. This means that a failure by a Union to fulfill its obligations and to comply with the eligibility Regulations will be regarded as a serious breach of the Regulations, howsoever such breach may have occurred. As a reflection of the seriousness with which any breach of the eligibility Regulations will be treated by World Rugby, it has been agreed by Council to establish a minimum fixed penalty to be imposed on a Union that has breached Regulation 8. These minimum fixed penalties will appear in Regulation 8 and, for ease of reference, are also set out below.

8.5 Responsibility, breach and penalties for a breach of Regulation 8

8.5.1 Unions

Regulation 8 is a strict liability offence and shall be construed in accordance with the principles of strict liability under English law. It is not, therefore, necessary that fault or intent on the part of a Union be shown in order for a breach of Regulation 8 to be established. Nor is lack of fault or intent on the part of a Union a defence to a breach of Regulation 8. For the avoidance of

any doubt (and without limiting a Union's other obligations and responsibilities for the conduct, acts or omissions of its members and Persons under its jurisdiction pursuant to any other Regulation) Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons under its jurisdiction in relation to compliance with the provisions of Regulation 8 and any breach of Regulation 8 by such Player(s) or Person(s) shall be deemed to be a breach of Regulation 8 by the Union concerned. Each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union, howsoever arising, will result in a minimum fixed fine being imposed on the Union concerned. The minimum fixed fines for each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union are as follows:

- (i) For a Union that is represented on the Council £100,000 sterling;*
- (ii) For all other World Rugby Member Unions £25,000 sterling.*

Based on the facts and circumstances of any breach of Regulation 8 the applicable minimum fixed fine as set out above may be increased. In addition, other penalties as set out in Regulation [48.619.4](#) may also be imposed on the Union concerned.

23. What must Players do to ensure (and demonstrate) compliance with the eligibility Regulations?

Players are required to act honestly in matters relating to their eligibility to represent a particular Union. This would include, without limitation, fully disclosing to the Union (and World Rugby upon request) any matters relevant to the Player's eligibility and providing all reasonable assistance to the Union (and World Rugby upon request) in order to establish the Player's eligibility at the first available opportunity.

24. What are the consequences of a breach of the eligibility Regulations by a Player?

A Player who knowingly (and/or with reasonable enquiry ought to have known) represents a Union where not eligible to do so commits a breach of Regulation 8. Alleged breaches of Regulation 8 will be investigated and handled in accordance with Regulation [4819](#) (~~Disciplinary and Judicial Matters~~[Breach of the Bye-Laws or Regulations](#)). Judicial Officers and Judicial Committees may impose sanctions pursuant to their powers taking into consideration, without limitation, the circumstances of the breach including the number of breaches and the level of any deception. This may result in a Player being reprimanded, fined, suspended and/or such other sanction the Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee thinks fit, in accordance with Regulation [48.619.4](#).

25. For the Player to be liable for a breach must the Union also have been found liable?

Yes, there must also be a finding that the Union concerned has played an ineligible Player. However, such finding would not be affected in circumstances where there was any reduction or suspension of the ordinarily applicable sanction.

Explanatory Guidelines on the Implementation of Regulation 8 – Olympic Eligibility

With the re-introduction of Rugby Sevens into the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 there are certain rules which participants must adhere to for eligibility purposes. The Olympic Eligibility Regulations (8.69 to 8.164) have been introduced to accommodate the Olympic Charter Rules. To assist in the implementation of these Regulations, the following Guidelines have been developed to address the specifics around Olympic Sevens eligibility which differs from that of World Rugby eligibility requirements in that it is based solely upon a nationality consideration alone. The two sets of rules have been combined to achieve harmony between the objectives and underlying philosophy of Regulation 8 and the requirements of the Olympic Charter in the context of participation in Olympic Events. These Explanatory Guidelines must be read in conjunction with the terms of Regulation 8 and the Guidelines thereto.

1. Who is eligible to play Olympic Sevens?

Any Player who meets the eligibility criteria in 8.1 [\(or for Players who are transferring from one Union to another, 8.6 or 8.7\)](#) and holds the nationality of the Union or country they wish to represent in the Olympic Games or Olympic Qualification process (known as the “Olympic Events”). The eligibility rules in the Olympic Charter together with the World Rugby eligibility rules must be complied with by Players who participate in Olympic Events.

2. Must a Player have the passport of the Union or country ~~he~~[the Player](#) represents in Olympic Sevens?

The nationality of the Union or country the Player wishes to represent in Olympic Sevens is a requirement under the Olympic Charter and is therefore necessary for participation in Olympic Events. Nationality is ordinarily demonstrated by the Player holding the passport of the Union or country they wish to represent. All matters relating to the determination of the country which a Player may represent in the Olympic Games shall ultimately be resolved by the IOC Executive Board.

3. Who will decide on Olympic Sevens eligibility?

Ordinarily, the assessment of whether a Player satisfies the eligibility criteria in Regulation 8.1 and 8.6 [7](#) will be straightforward. However, in all cases where a Player who has been captured under Regulation 8.2 and who holds the nationality of another Union or country and wishes to participate in an Olympic Event(s) for the Union or country of which ~~he~~[the Player](#) is a national, the Player must [pursuant to Regulations 8.6 and 8.7](#), apply to World Rugby to represent the National Representative Sevens Team of that Union (or the Olympic Sevens Team of an National Olympic Committee), and the case shall be determined in the first place by the World Rugby Regulations Committee. In the event there are other cases of uncertainty or there is the need for clarification a referral may be made to the World Rugby Regulations Committee.

4. What is required to be submitted to the Regulations Committee?

Applications should be submitted to World Rugby accompanied by all relevant supporting documents by the Union (or in applicable cases where there is no Union, the National Olympic Committee ("NOC")) of the country the Player wishes to represent in an Olympic Event. The application shall be pre-notified to the Player's Union (namely the Union whose National Representative Team the Player has previously represented). The Player's Union may make written submissions to the World Rugby Regulations Committee or may be invited to do so. The application must be complete and the Player must have complied with all criteria as at the date of the consideration of the Player's case by the Regulations Committee. The Committee cannot issue rulings subject to future compliance or on a speculative basis.

5. Can a Player with dual nationality, or having World Rugby eligibility for one Union but the nationality of another, represent both Unions or countries in the same Olympic qualification process?

No. A Player may only represent one Union or country in the [same Olympic qualification process](#)~~Olympic Events~~. For example, if a Player played for a Union in the Sevens World Series in the year it was designated as an Olympic Event the Player could not later in the same Sevens World Series play for another Union or country even in circumstances where ~~he~~[the Player](#) was deemed eligible by the Regulations Committee to play for the second Union or country of which ~~he~~[the Player](#) is a national. ~~The principle of Regulation 8.2 applies equally to Olympic Events, such that if a Player, having represented one Union or country in an Olympic Event they may not represent another Union or country thereafter.~~

6. Can a Player switch nationality?

Nationality is a matter which is governed by nation states. If a Player does switch nationality the effect of this upon their Olympic eligibility would need to be considered taking into account Regulation 8.~~67~~ to 8.~~164~~ and the Olympic Charter Rules regarding eligibility which can be found at www.olympic.org. ~~However, a Player who has represented one Union or country in an Olympic Event(s) and who has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality may participate in Olympic Events to represent their new Union or country provided that at least three (3) years have passed since the Player last represented their former Union or country and the approval of the International Olympic Committee, the relevant National Olympic Committee(s) and World Rugby is obtained.~~

7. How will the Olympic eligibility criteria be assessed?

~~In the early days of the Olympic participation the view has been taken by World Rugby that t~~[The Regulations Committee should](#)~~will~~ assess all cases where a Player who has already been captured for a Union under ~~the one Union only rule~~ (Regulation 8.2) but wishes to subsequently play for another Union or country for which ~~s~~[he](#)~~the Player~~ holds nationality in an Olympic Event.

8. Is there any stand-down period?

Yes. The Player will be required to observe and demonstrate a stand down period of three (3) years between the time the Player last played for ~~his~~ their Union and the time the Player first represents the second Union, ~~which must be in an Olympic Event.~~ Played, shall mean when ~~s/he~~ the Player played for the senior, next senior or senior sevens National Representative Team of that Union for which ~~s/he~~ the Player is captured. The principles of Regulation 8.3 apply in any assessment of this provision.

9. What does 'first represents' mean?

It means the first occasion when the Player represents the second Union in a Match, Tournament or Series of Matches ~~—which must be in an Olympic Event. The Player would not however, be permitted for example to participate in pre-season Matches or so called 'friendly' matches or other Matches which are not Olympic Events representing the second Union.~~ Training with the team of the second Union is permitted but the circumstances should not be such that it presents or implies to third parties that the Player is part of the National Representative Sevens Team or Olympic Sevens Team of the second Union or country.

10. How will the stand-down period be assessed?

The onus will be on the Player to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Regulations Committee the last occasion upon which ~~s/he~~ they played for their former Union and that they have not represented such Union in the three-year period before they represent their new Union or country ~~in an Olympic Event.~~

11. Are these Olympic Guidelines to be read with the World Rugby Eligibility Guidelines?

Yes, both sets of Guidelines should be read together.

12. What is the position for Unions who do not have a single NOC to represent them?

Member Unions of World Rugby are not necessarily recognised in their own right with equivalent NOCs, for example the British Olympic Association (Team GB) is the NOC for Great Britain and therefore encapsulates the Unions of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (represented by the all-Ireland body of the IRFU). In such case, Players from the underlying Unions would be eligible (where they comply with Regulation 8.1 and 8.69) to represent the Olympic Sevens Team of the NOC (if selected) in relevant Olympic Events.

13. If a Player plays for a combined team in an Olympic Event does it affect ~~his~~ their eligibility in relation to World Rugby?

If a Player plays for a combined team of a country in an Olympic Event (e.g. Team GB) and ~~he~~they ~~was~~were previously **not** captured for a Union (under Regulation 8.2) then the Player will be deemed to be captured for one of the underlying Unions of the combined team of the country ~~he~~they represented. So, in the case of Team GB it would mean that the Player would then be free to play for one of England, Scotland, Wales and/or Ireland provided ~~s/he~~they also complied with Regulation 8.1 for the relevant Union.

If a Player plays for a combined team of a country in an Olympic Event (e.g. Team GB) where ~~he~~they ~~is~~are eligible for one of the underlying Unions) and ~~he~~they ~~was~~were previously captured for a Union (under Regulation 8.2) then the Player remains captured for such Union and their participation in the combined team in the Olympic Event will not affect their status.

14. What is the position of invitational teams in Olympic Events, teams which have already qualified for the Olympic Games and pre-qualified teams representing the Host Nation?

Where (a) a Union's team is invited to participate in part of a series of Olympic qualification tournaments but not the whole series and is not in practice able to qualify for the Olympic Games through that series or (b) a Union's team has already qualified for the Olympic Games through one Olympic Event and participates in another Olympic Event (save for the Olympic Games themselves); Regulations 8.69 to 8.164 do not apply in respect of that Union nor is that Union entitled to rely upon the Right to Release in Regulation 9 for that Olympic Event.

The foregoing does not apply to a pre-qualified team representing the host nation of the Olympic Games to which Regulations 8.69 to 8.164 and the Right to Release in Regulation 9 do apply in each Olympic Event in which such team participates.

15. Is there a right of appeal from the decision of the World Rugby Regulations?

Yes. An Olympic Eligibility appeals committee has been established under Regulation 2 to deal with any appeals of decisions by the World Rugby Regulations Committee.

SCHEDULE 1. EXPLANATORY NOTE

~~As from 1 January 2000 a player is only entitled to play Rugby Union for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of one Union and in certain circumstances, the senior National Representative Sevens Team of one Union. This means that if a player is deemed to have played for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union, or where a Player is deemed to have played for the National Representative Sevens team at the Olympic Games or the Rugby World Cup Sevens, or where the Player is over the age of twenty, the senior National Representative Sevens Team, that player will be unable to play for any other Union. This is the position even if that player is able to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1. It is important that players and Unions understand the situations in which players will be deemed to have played for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union. These situations are set out in Regulation 8.3 and Regulation 8.4.~~

~~Regulation 8.3 and Regulation 8.4 are based on a "selection and participation" test for players who have reached the age of majority [18 or over] (or the age of twenty in the case of the senior National Representative Sevens Team for Matches other than those in the Olympic Games or Rugby World Sevens). Players and Unions must familiarize themselves with Regulation 8.3 and Regulation 8.4. Players should be made aware by Unions of what constitutes that Union's Senior National Representative Team, its next Senior National Representative Team, its senior National Representative Sevens Team, its Senior Touring Squad and its next Senior Touring Squad and the Matches that will result in a player being committed to that Unions. The following situations are covered by Regulation 8.3 and Regulation 8.4.~~

- ~~1. Players who participate in International Matches for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of another Union.~~
- ~~2. Players selected to represent a Union's Senior Touring Squad who participate in any Match played by members of that Union's Senior Touring Squad during an International Tour provided such International Tour includes an International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.~~
- ~~3. Players who participate in a Match for the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team made up of players from a Union's Senior Touring Squad during an International Tour which includes International Match(es) approved by World Rugby.~~
- ~~4. Players, representing a Union's next Senior Touring Squad who participate in a Match on an International Tour approved by World Rugby against the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of another Union.~~

-
- ~~5. Players who play for the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team selected from a Union's next Senior Touring Squad when such Match is played on an International Tour approved by World Rugby.~~
 - ~~6. Players selected to represent a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union and, who have reached the age of twenty on or before the date of the Match.~~
 - ~~7. Players selected to represent a Union's National Representative Sevens Team in the Olympic Games or Rugby World Cup Sevens.~~

SCHEDULE 1. DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF A PLAYER TO PLAY FOR THE SENIOR FIFTEEN-A-SIDE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM, THE NEXT SENIOR FIFTEEN-A-SIDE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM OR THE SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SEVENS TEAM OF A UNION

DECLARATION OF PLAYER

I, (Name) of
 (Address)

confirm that, I have read and understand the criteria for eligibility set out in Regulation 8 of the World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game (World Rugby Regulations) and I hereby declare that I am eligible to play for Union because:

Tick applicable box(es)

- ☒ I was born in the country for which fifteen-a-side senior National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play; or
- ☒ One of my parents or grandparent was born in the country for which senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play; or
- ☒ I have completed sixty⁹ consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing in the country for which senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play; or
- ☒ I have completed ten cumulative years of Residence preceding the time of playing in the country for which senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play

AND

- ☒ I have not played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or ~~the senior National Representative Sevens Team of any other Union~~ and I have not participated in the Olympic Games or Rugby World Cup Sevens as a member of the National Representative Sevens Team of any other Union.¹⁰

⁹ The sixty-month residency requirement comes into effect after the cut-off date of December 31, 2021. The residency requirement up to and including December 31, 2021 is "thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing".

¹⁰ If a Player has played for another Union's senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or senior National Representative Sevens team, this must be stated on this declaration form. ~~For the avoidance of doubt, Players would only be eligible to play for a second Union if they can demonstrate that they allowed 36 consecutive months to elapse before they played for a second Union and that they played for that second Union before 1 January 2000 or where they have been cleared by the Regulations Committee pursuant to a transfer for the purposes of an Olympic Event (and in respect of representing the new Union at fifteen-a-side or any other version of the Game, have complied with the Regulation 8.12). Any such Players should submit in writing the circumstances of such participation on a separate sheet.~~

I have attached to this declaration relevant documentation¹¹ to prove my eligibility to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior

National Representative Sevens Team of
Union and I understand and accept that if I am found to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union without satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8 of the World Rugby Regulations, and/or to have provided inaccurate information in this declaration then I and the Union concerned will be subject to sanctions.

Player's signature:

Date:

DECLARATION OF UNION

I, (Name) the

of (Position and Union)

hereby declare that the Union has made all such necessary enquiries in relation to the above Player's eligibility to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior Sevens National Representative Team of the Union. I further declare that the Union is satisfied that the information provided by the Player in his-their declaration is correct, that the documentation in support of the Player's declaration is valid and that the Player is eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team

of Union. I understand and accept that if a Player plays for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team Union or the senior National Representative Sevens Team without satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8 of the World Rugby Regulations and/or the Union has provided inaccurate information in this declaration then the Union will be subject to the fixed penalty sanctions set out in Regulation 8.

Signed:

Date:

¹¹ Players ARE expected to provide valid copy birth certificates or other relevant formal documentation in support of their declaration. Players may be requested to provide additional documentation as appropriate in support of their eligibility to play for a senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of a Union.

SCHEDULE 2. OLYMPIC EVENTS

1. The Olympic Games 2020 – Tokyo
2. The Men's Olympic Events:
 - World Rugby Sevens World Series 2018/2019
 - Designated Regional Olympic Qualification Tournaments (ROQTs):
 - Africa 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - Asia 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - Europe 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - North America 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - Oceania 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - South America 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - [to be confirmed]
 - World Olympic Qualification Tournament (WOQT)
3. The Women's Olympic Events:
 - World Rugby Women's Sevens World Series 2018/2019
 - Designated Regional Olympic Qualification Tournaments (ROQTs):
 - Africa 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - Asia 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - Europe 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - North America 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - Oceania 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - South America 2019 Regional Sevens Championships
 - [to be confirmed]
 - World Olympic Qualification Tournament (WOQT)

Note: The dates and locations of the Olympic Events will be published on the World Rugby website at least 6 months in advance of the relevant event.



ANNEX TWO

Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

REGULATION 17. DISCIPLINE - FOUL PLAY

INDEX

Contents

Preamble.....	3
SECTION 1: APPLICATION OF REGULATION 17	3
17.1 Scope of Regulation 17	3
17.2 Definitions	4
17.3 Core Principles	4
17.4 Application of Regulation 17 by Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers	6
17.5 Direct Application of Regulation 17 to Matches	7
17.6 Responsibility and Compliance.....	7
17.7 Appointment of Disciplinary Personnel	8
17.8 Disciplinary Committees and/or Judicial Officers - Powers and Procedures <u>1214</u>	
SECTION 2: Disciplinary Process	<u>1413</u>
17.9 Temporary Suspensions (Yellow Cards) and Citing Commissioner Warnings <u>1413</u>	
17.10 Citing	<u>1716</u>
Union referral to Citing Commissioner.....	17
Matches where Citing Commissioners are not Appointed	<u>1817</u>
17.11 Notification of Citing and Temporary Suspension Arrangements	<u>1918</u>
17.12 Ordering Off (Red Card): Initial Procedures	<u>1918</u>
17.13 Citing: Initial Procedures	<u>2120</u>
Citing by Unions: Procedures	<u>2221</u>
17.14 Hearings	<u>2321</u>
17.15 Standard and Burden of Proof for Ordering Off and Citing	<u>2322</u>
STAGE 1.....	<u>2322</u>
17.16 The “Red Card Test”: Did the act(s) of Foul Play warrant the Player being Ordered Off or Cited?	<u>2322</u>
STAGE 2:	<u>2423</u>
17.17 Sanctions and Core Sanctioning Process	<u>2423</u>
Step 1: What is the correct entry point for the sanction?	<u>2423</u>
17.18 Assessment of seriousness of the Foul Play	<u>2423</u>
Step 2: Are there any reasons to decrease the sanction?	<u>2524</u>
17.19 Mitigating Factors	<u>2524</u>
Step 3: Are there any reasons to increase the sanction?	<u>2625</u>

17.20	Aggravating Factors	<u>2625</u>
Step 4: Applying the sanction to the Player's playing schedule.....		<u>2726</u>
17.21	Imposition of Sanctions	<u>2726</u>
17.22	Costs	<u>2928</u>
17.23	Post-Hearing Procedures	<u>2928</u>
17.24	Appeals.....	<u>3029</u>
Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer		<u>3231</u>
17.25	Remote Hearings and Expedited Procedures.....	<u>3331</u>
17.26	Additional Provisions Relating to Hearings	<u>3432</u>
17.27	Suspension.....	<u>3432</u>
17.28	Exceptional Circumstances in relation to Players' Conduct.....	<u>3433</u>
17.29	Unforeseen Circumstances	<u>3533</u>
17.30	Miscellaneous.....	<u>3533</u>
MODIFIED PROCEDURES FOR FOUL PLAY IN SEVENS		<u>3634</u>
17.31	Introduction.....	<u>3634</u>
17.32	Application of the Regulations	<u>3634</u>
17.33	Initial Procedures - Ordering Off.....	<u>3634</u>
17.34	Initial Procedures – Citing and Citing Commissioner Warning.....	<u>3735</u>
17.35	Judicial Officer – Power to Regulate Own Procedures	<u>3735</u>
17.36	Sanctions in a Sevens context.....	<u>3836</u>
17.37	Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings.....	<u>3836</u>
17.38	Appeals.....	<u>3937</u>

Appendix 1: Foul play sanction table

Appendix 2: Standard foul play forms

Appendix 3: Underage foul play sanction table

Appendix 4: Sanctions guidance for accumulation of temporary suspensions and/or citing commissioner warnings

Appendix 5: Summary of disciplinary process

Preamble

- A** The underlying rationale for Regulation 17 is to maintain and promote fair play, protect the safety and welfare of Players, ensure that acts of Foul Play are dealt with expeditiously and appropriately by independent means within the Game and that the image and reputation of the Game is not adversely affected.
- B** This Regulation sets out a harmonised approach to the administration of discipline and the implementation of sanctions for Foul Play at all levels of the Game. The objective of this Regulation is to achieve consistency in the way in which discipline is administered and uniformity in the manner in which the assessment of the seriousness of Foul Play is conducted and sanctions imposed. Underlying the Regulation is the overall objective that the disciplinary process shall comply with the fundamental principles of natural justice.
- C** This Regulation is drafted from the standpoint of the international governing body of the Game and Regulation 17 will be applied in its entirety to World Rugby and certain other international Matches. In recognition of the pyramid structure of international sport, the application and enforcement of this Regulation by Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers within their respective jurisdictions may necessitate suitable adjustments to cater for the imperatives of their competitions and domestic structures and as applicable to accord with national legislation.
- D** World Rugby has identified certain Core Principles (as set out below) which must be implemented by all Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers at all levels of the Game in the implementation of disciplinary rules for Foul Play. Such Core Principles include the principle of universality which means that Players who are suspended at any level of the Game shall have their suspension recognised and applied at all levels of the Game and in the territories of all Unions and Associations. All participants in the Game shall by means of their participation recognise and agree to be bound by this Regulation including the Core Principles.

SECTION 1: APPLICATION OF REGULATION 17

17.1 Scope of Regulation 17

- 17.1.1 This Regulation 17 sets out the procedures for dealing with the following disciplinary matters:
 - (a) When a Player is Ordered Off the playing enclosure (Red Card);
 - (b) When a Player is cited for an act or acts of Foul Play (Citing); and
 - (c) Where a Player is Temporarily Suspended (Yellow Card) and/or issued with a Citing Commissioner Warning multiple times in accordance with Regulations 17.9.4 and 17.9.5.

17.2 Definitions

- 17.2.1 **Ordering Off/Red Card:** A Player is Ordered Off when the player is sent off the playing enclosure permanently by the referee and is not permitted to take any further part in the Match.
- 17.2.2 **Temporary Suspension/Yellow Card:** A Player is Temporarily Suspended when the player is cautioned in a Match by the referee and temporarily sent off the playing enclosure by the referee for a period of ten minutes playing time (or two minutes in the case of Rugby Sevens) (which is spent in the “sin bin”).
- 17.2.3 **Citing:** A Player is cited when the Citing Commissioner cites a Player for any act(s) of Foul Play that in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner warranted the Player concerned being Ordered Off.
- 17.2.4 **Citing Commissioner Warning:** A Player receives a Citing Commissioner Warning for any act(s) of Foul Play that in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner falls just short of warranting that the Player concerned be Ordered Off in circumstances where the act(s) of Foul Play was not subject to a Temporary Suspension or Ordering Off.
- 17.2.5 **Foul Play:** means breach(es) of Law 9 of the Laws of the Game and/or breach(es) of Law 3.7 or Law 4.7.
- 17.2.6 Capitalised terms that are not defined within Regulation 17 shall have the meanings assigned to them in Regulation 1 and Regulation 20.

17.3 Core Principles

- 17.3.1 The principles set out below shall be the “Core Principles” that shall be mandatorily applied in disciplinary regulations at all levels of the Game:
- (a) The sanctions applicable to Foul Play shall be the same throughout the Game. Therefore, all Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers shall adopt the World Rugby Sanctions for Offences within the Playing Enclosure (Appendix 1) and ensure that they are applied to competitions within their territory (the “Principle of Universality”). Where a Union adopts the World Rugby Disciplinary Guidelines for the Underage Game (Appendix 3), then the sanctions applicable to Foul Play Adjusted for Underage Rugby shall apply.
 - (b) In accordance with the applicable sanction table (that is, Appendix 1 or Appendix 3 as appropriate), suspensions shall ordinarily be imposed for a number of weeks in which the relevant Player would otherwise have been scheduled to play a Match that meets the criteria set out in Regulation 17.21.3. All Matches are equal, that is, regardless of the level of competition provided they meet the criteria in Regulation 17.21.3. A Player suspended from playing the Game shall be suspended from participating in any Match at any level during the period of the Player’s suspension.

- (c) The core sanctioning process set out in Regulations 17.17 to 17.20 shall be applied to all disciplinary cases involving Foul Play at all levels of the Game (save for any approved variations where expedited disciplinary processes as set out in Regulation 17.25 are being utilised).
- (d) The principles of natural justice shall be adhered to in all disciplinary proceedings. Such principles include, Players cited/Ordered Off shall have the right to know the evidence against them, shall have the right to be heard, to be represented, to produce evidence and defend themselves before independent adjudicators.
- (e) All Judicial Officers, Disciplinary Committees, Appeal Officers, Appeal Committees and Citing Commissioners shall meet the relevant criteria for appointments (set out in Regulation 17.7.10 for community and amateur appointments and set out in Regulation 20 for international appointments pursuant to the World Rugby Appointment Scheme). They shall be independently appointed and shall exercise their functions independently of the parties to the Match and/or proceedings and of the Unions, Associations or Tournament Organisers under whose jurisdiction responsibility falls for the relevant Match.
- (f) Citing Commissioners (and where necessary, Citing Commissioner Liaison Officers) shall be appointed for all International Matches and Matches set out in Regulation 17.7.1 and 17.7.2. For all other Matches, or where a dispensation is granted under Regulation 17.7.6, team referrals shall be permitted that accord with Regulation 17.10.8.
- (g) The threshold test for citing ("Red Card" test) shall be as set out in Regulation 17.10.1.
- (h) Timelines for citings and Orderings Off and the holding of hearings for International Matches shall be strictly adhered to unless they fall within Regulation 17.7.6.
- (i) The standard of proof for Ordering Off and citing shall be as provided in Regulations 17.15 and 17.16.
- (j) Temporary Suspension procedures that accord with Regulation 17.9 shall be introduced for all International Tournaments, International Tours and Series of International Matches.
- (k) Players Ordered-Off or cited by a Citing Commissioner shall be provisionally suspended pending the determination of their case.
- (l) Suspended Players who appeal shall remain under suspension in accordance with Regulation 17.27.3.
- (m) Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers and World Rugby shall have the right to appeal as set out in Regulation 17.24.2(a) to (c).

- (n) It is recognised that due to particular circumstances Unions or Associations or their recognised Tournament Organisers may wish for practical reasons to depart from certain provisions of Regulation 17 that are not Core Principles and where appropriate they have the flexibility to do so provided always that no rules or procedures may be introduced (and/or omitted) by any Union, Association and/or their recognised Tournament Organisers in respect of their disciplinary rules that conflict with (and/or do not properly implement) the Core Principles of this Regulation 17, the Principle of Universality as described above and/or are contrary to the Laws of the Game.

17.4 Application of Regulation 17 by Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers

- 17.4.1 All Unions, Associations and their recognised Tournament Organisers have an obligation to put in place and implement disciplinary regulations within their jurisdictions and in respect of their tournaments and Matches that incorporate fully the Core Principles. The Core Principles shall apply to all Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers within their respective jurisdictions (and at all levels).
- 17.4.2 The remaining provisions of Regulation 17 are guiding principles that allow flexibility in the formulation of regulations by such bodies and it is the responsibility of Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers to put in place disciplinary regulations compatible and not in conflict with Regulation 17, embodying the Core Principles and to ensure that such regulations are applied to and by all Rugby Bodies within their jurisdiction.
- 17.4.3 All participants in Matches in the fifteen-a-side and seven-a-side Game and any other abbreviated versions of the Game shall be bound by the provisions of this Regulation 17 and it is the responsibility of Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers to advise their Players, Persons and Rugby Bodies of this Regulation (and any variation in its implementation) and their obligations hereunder.
- 17.4.4 In the event of non-compliance or improper implementation of this Regulation by any Union or Association or Tournament Organiser, World Rugby may (i) assume the role of the Union, Association or Tournament Organiser in respect of their obligations under Regulation 17 and (ii) take such action as it considers reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances in order to address the matter with the relevant Union, Association or Tournament Organiser. Where a Rugby Body does not comply with or fails to properly implement this Regulation, the Disciplinary Officer or World Rugby may require the relevant Union(s) or Association to undertake appropriate investigations and/or proceedings to remedy the matter. In any event World Rugby shall have the authority to ensure the proper implementation of this Regulation 17 within the Game.
- 17.4.5 All Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers shall provide to World Rugby, upon request, their disciplinary rules and procedures.

- 17.4.6 All disciplinary case decisions shall be made available to World Rugby upon request and in relation to all decisions in International Matches and Matches which form part of International Tours, they shall be immediately provided to World Rugby in writing by the responsible Union or Tournament Organiser for inclusion in the World Rugby judicial database (to discipline@worldrugby.org).

17.5 Direct Application of Regulation 17 to Matches

- 17.5.1 The provisions of Regulation 17 shall apply directly to the following categories of Matches set out in this Regulation 17.5 notwithstanding the body responsible for hosting the Match (save for any permitted variations applied by the Tournament Organiser or agreed by the participating Unions): International Matches, International Tours, International Tournaments or Series of International Matches and which, for the purposes of this Regulation, also include:

- (a) all Designated Release Events (as set out in Regulation 9);
- (b) all Matches involving the senior or next senior National Representative Teams or senior National Representative Sevens Teams of a Union including where such Matches are against non-National Representative Teams played as part of an International Tour or International Tournament or Series of International Matches; and
- (c) World Rugby Matches: which means all Matches, International Matches, International Tournaments and Series of Matches under the direct control of World Rugby and shall include but not be limited to Rugby World Cup, Rugby World Cup Sevens, World Rugby U20 Championship and Trophy, World Rugby Sevens World Series, World Rugby Sevens tournaments, designated Olympic Sevens qualification tournaments, the Olympic Games Sevens Matches and other Matches designated by World Rugby from time to time.

17.6 Responsibility and Compliance

- 17.6.1 International Matches, International Tours and Series of International Matches not falling under the direct control of World Rugby.
- (a) All teams participating in such International Matches shall enter into, and be bound by a Tours Agreement or Match Agreement (being the terms upon which the International Match that is not part of an International Tour is organised) as applicable.
 - (b) The Tours Agreement or Match Agreement (as applicable) shall provide for the Host Union (or Tournament Organiser agreed by all the participating Unions) to be responsible for putting in place disciplinary procedures as set out in Regulation 17 and making appointments for such International Matches, save where the appointments are made in accordance with the World Rugby Appointment Scheme as provided in Regulation 20. Where Regulation 17 provides flexibility (such as with regard to timeframes

for citings and/or disciplinary hearings) such detail shall be set out in the Tours Agreement or Match Agreement.

- (c) If Unions cannot agree on the disciplinary arrangements to be adopted for such Matches then they shall refer the matter to the Disciplinary Officer of World Rugby who shall determine the arrangements.

17.6.2 World Rugby Matches

- (a) For World Rugby Matches the provisions of this Regulation 17 shall apply (subject to any permitted variation as set out in the relevant participation agreement).
- (b) The relevant appointments shall be made in accordance with the World Rugby Appointment Scheme as provided in Regulation 20 for all World Rugby Matches.

17.6.3 International Tournaments and Cross-Border Matches

- (a) In respect of International Tournaments, the administration of the disciplinary process may be delegated by the relevant Unions to an international Tournament Organiser subject to such body adopting disciplinary rules in compliance with this Regulation.
- (b) The Host Union or duly recognised Tournament Organiser shall be responsible for putting in place the disciplinary procedures and (save where the International Tournament or Cross-Border Match is one to which the World Rugby Appointment Scheme set out in Regulation 20 applies) appointing the disciplinary personnel for the International Tournament or Cross-Border Match(es) in accordance with this Regulation.
- (c) The Host Union or duly recognised Tournament Organiser shall put in place an agreement with all participating teams to ensure the teams and their Unions or Rugby Bodies (as appropriate) acknowledge and agree to the disciplinary rules for the International Tournament or Cross-Border Match(es).

17.6.4 Non-International Matches

Subject to Regulation 17.6.1 to 17.6.3 above, responsibility for disciplinary procedures related to Matches shall be that of the Union in whose territory such Matches are played and that Union is responsible for ensuring compliance with Regulation 17.

17.7 Appointment of Disciplinary Personnel

Citing Commissioners

- 17.7.1 Citing Commissioners shall be appointed for all International Matches, International Tours and/or International Tournaments or Series of International Matches and World Rugby Matches (save where dispensation has been granted pursuant to Regulation 17.7.6).

- 17.7.2 For all other Matches a Citing Commissioner should be appointed where practicable. When such appointment is not reasonably practicable, then provided the prior agreement of the participating Unions or Rugby Bodies is obtained, no Citing Commissioner may be appointed. In those circumstances “team citing” in accordance with Regulation 17.10.8 shall apply.
- 17.7.3 Unions shall strive to introduce the Citing Commissioner role within their domestic Game.
- 17.7.4 The CEO of World Rugby (or his/her nominee) shall have the right to review any Union policies in place with regard to citing and consider whether it is reasonably practicable for a Citing Commissioner to be appointed to designated Matches under the Union’s control.
- 17.7.5 For International Matches, International Tours and/or International Tournaments, Series of International Matches or World Rugby Matches where it is not reasonably practicable to appoint a citing commissioner due to resource issues and/or the non-availability of suitably qualified personnel, the Host Union may apply to the CEO of World Rugby no less than 21 days in advance of the International Match or scheduled start of the Series of International Matches for dispensation. Where World Rugby approval is granted the Union shall apply the procedures set out in Regulation 17.10.8.

Disciplinary/Appeal Committees and Judicial/Appeal Officers

- 17.7.7 For all International Matches, all Matches forming part of International Tours, International Tournaments, Series of International Matches and World Rugby Matches the following shall be appointed:
- (a) An independent Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer. Where a Disciplinary Committee is appointed, it shall comprise three members: A Judicial Officer who shall chair the Committee together with two others who are Panel Members and/or Judicial Officers.
 - (b) An independent Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer. Where an Appeal Committee is appointed, it shall comprise three members: An Appeal Officer who shall chair the Committee together with two others who are Panel Members and/or Appeal Officers.
- 17.7.8 For all other Matches, the following shall be appointed:
- (a) An independent Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer; and
 - (b) An independent Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer.

Appointment Criteria

- 17.7.9 Where the Match or Matches fall under the World Rugby Appointment Scheme set out in Regulation 20, the appointments shall be made by World Rugby in accordance with the Appointment Criteria set out at Regulation 20, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

17.7.10 Where the Match does not fall under the World Rugby Appointment Scheme set out in Regulation 20, Members of Disciplinary and Appeal Committees and Citing Commissioners shall be appointed by the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures and shall be appointed in accordance with the Core Principles set out at Regulation 17.3.1(e) and shall meet the following criteria:

(a) International and Professional Rugby¹

- (i) Citing Commissioners shall have in-depth recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the game and appropriate recent rugby experience preferably as a player, referee or coach. Citing Commissioners shall have demonstrable and proven experience and shall have completed any training requirements prescribed by the Union or Tournament Organiser responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.
- (ii) Judicial Officers or chairs of Disciplinary Committees shall be legal practitioners of at least seven years standing or serving or retired judges, with recent experience of rugby disciplinary proceedings, in-depth recent knowledge of the Laws and skills of the Game and the relevant World Rugby Regulations and shall have completed any training requirements prescribed by the Union or Tournament Organiser responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.
- (iii) Members of Disciplinary Committees shall have experience in the modern/professional game (playing, coaching or refereeing) ordinarily within the last 10 years, in-depth recent knowledge of the Laws and skills of the Game and shall have completed any training requirements prescribed by the Union or Tournament Organiser responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.
- (iv) Appeal Officers shall be senior legal practitioners of at least ten years standing or serving or retired judges, with recent experience in first instance and/or appeal of rugby disciplinary proceedings (i.e. as a Judicial Officer or chair of Disciplinary Committees and/or Appeal Officer or chair of Appeal Committees) at international or professional level and shall have in-depth recent knowledge of the Laws and skills of the Game and the relevant World Rugby Regulations and shall have completed any training requirements prescribed by the Union or

¹ "International" in this context includes any Match involving a representative Team of any Union and "Professional Rugby" means any of the following: any cross-border Club competition, the Top 14 competition in France, the Premiership Rugby competition in England and the Top League competition in Japan.

Tournament Organiser responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.

- (v) No person who is an employee² of a Union or an employee or member of a Club participating in a Match shall be eligible for appointment as a Citing Commissioner, Judicial Officer, member of a Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer or member of an Appeal Committee, or as an Appeal Officer in respect of such Match.
- (vi) No person who is an employee of any Union or an employee or member of a Club directly or indirectly affected by the outcome of a Match, or by disciplinary proceedings arising from such Match, shall be eligible for appointment as a Citing Commissioner, Judicial Officer, member of a Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer or member of an Appeal Committee, or as an Appeal Office, including:
 - (a) An employee of a Union or employee or member of a Club whose team was drawn in the same Tournament pool as either of the teams participating, or whose team may play either of the participating teams in the next stage of a Tournament;
 - (b) No person who is an employee of a Tournament Organiser shall be eligible for appointment as a Citing Commissioner, Judicial Officer, member of a Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer or member of an Appeal Committee, or as an Appeal Officer in respect of any Match, Tournament, Tour or Series of Matches organised by such Tournament Organiser.

(b) Community and Amateur Rugby

- (i) No person who is a member or an employee of a Union or Club participating in a Match shall be eligible for appointment as a Citing Commissioner, Judicial Officer, member of a Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer or member of an Appeal Committee, or as an Appeal Officer in respect of such Match, save for with the consent of each of the teams playing in the Match.
- (ii) Citing Commissioners, where appointed, shall have recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the game and appropriate rugby experience preferably as a player, referee or coach and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the

² Note: For the avoidance of doubt, receipt of fees for disciplinary services and/or reimbursement of expenses related exclusively to the provision of such services does not constitute "employment" for the purposes of these Regulations

implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match;

- (iii) Disciplinary Committees shall be chaired by Judicial Officers who shall be (i) legal practitioners or serving or retired judges, with appropriate rugby experience; or (ii) persons with appropriate training or experience as defined by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match; and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.
- (iv) Members of Disciplinary Committees (other than Judicial Officers) shall have recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the game and appropriate rugby experience preferably as a player, referee or coach and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match
- (v) Appeal Committees shall be chaired by Appeal Officers who shall be legal practitioners of at least three years standing or serving or retired judges, with appropriate rugby experience and experience as a Judicial Officer and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.
- (vi) Members of Appeal Committees (other than Judicial Officers) shall have experience as members of Disciplinary Committees and shall have recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the game and appropriate rugby experience preferably as a player, referee or coach and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match

17.8 Disciplinary Committees and/or Judicial Officers - Powers and Procedures

- 17.8.1 The general procedures relating to hearings before Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers contained in Regulation 20 shall apply to any matter arising under this Regulation.
- 17.8.2 The referee of the Match in which the Player is Ordered Off (and, if a Player is Ordered Off as a result of an assistant referee's intervention, the assistant referee) shall not ordinarily attend the hearing. If requested to do so however by any party and such request is permitted by the Disciplinary

Committee or Judicial Officer, or if so required by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, they may attend (whether in person or via audio and/or audio-visual means) for the purposes of providing evidence and/or a further explanation of the factual material relied upon in the making the Ordering Off decision. Nothing in this Regulation shall prevent the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings in the absence of the referee and/or assistant referee.

- 17.8.3 The Citing Commissioner of the Match in which the Player is cited shall not ordinarily attend the hearing. If requested to do so however by any party and such request is permitted by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, or if so required by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, they may attend the hearing (whether in person or via audio and/or audio-visual means) for the purposes of providing evidence and/or a further explanation of the factual material relied upon in the making of the citing. Nothing in this Regulation shall prevent the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings in the absence of the Citing Commissioner.
- 17.8.4 In respect of cases involving the Ordering Off or citing of a Player, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall ensure that, prior to the hearing, the Player Ordered Off or cited has been supplied with, and has had sufficient opportunity to consider, the referee's report and the report of the assistant referee (where applicable), and/or the citing report together with any footage of the incident and any other information, reports or evidence.
- 17.8.5 Any electronic recording of an incident permitted in evidence by a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall preferably be viewed without the sound or commentary associated with it being heard, save where the sound or commentary includes the comments made by the referee through his/her microphone in relation to the specific incident in question or if the parties agree that the sound or commentary should be played.
- 17.8.6 At any hearing the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer may direct that the Host Union or Tournament Organiser be represented. If so, the Union or Tournament Organiser shall appear by counsel or by a representative at the hearing, in such capacity as the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer requires, to provide assistance to the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer in the discharge of its duties.
- 17.8.7 The Disciplinary Officer (or his/her nominee), or the disciplinary officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser (as the case may be) shall be permitted representation at any hearing arising out of any alleged acts of Foul Play arising from Matches within their jurisdiction and/or control.
- 17.8.8 Where evidence is given before a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, any witness may be cross examined to the extent permitted by the Judicial Officer or Judicial Chair. Questions shall be put to the witness

through the Judicial Officer or Judicial Chair if the Judicial Officer or Judicial Chair deems it appropriate.

- 17.8.9 For citing complaints initiated by Unions, in circumstances where a Citing Commissioner was not appointed, the Union citing the Player shall ordinarily have a representative in attendance at the hearing to present the basis of the citing complaint and evidence in support. Failure to attend by the Union representative may result in the case being dismissed.
- 17.8.10 The Player subject to the proceedings shall appear before the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, in person or via audio and/or audio-visual means.

SECTION 2: Disciplinary Process

17.9 Temporary Suspensions (Yellow Cards) and Citing Commissioner Warnings

- 17.9.1 All Unions, Associations and Tournament Organisers with responsibility for the administration of disciplinary procedures in competitions within their jurisdictions, International Tournaments or Series of International Matches have an obligation to put in place provisions to regulate the administration and disciplinary consequences arising out of Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings (including with respect to the accumulation of a combination of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings).

Procedures for Temporary Suspensions

- 17.9.2 The following principles shall be applied for Temporary Suspensions subject to such modifications as may be necessary in the context of the relevant Union competitions, International Tournament or Series of International Matches:
- (a) the referee must report each Temporary Suspension at the conclusion of the Match in which the Temporary Suspension was imposed. Forms 4 and 5 (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by the referee and the assistant referee for this purpose;
 - (b) the report which may be in a standard form shall be forwarded to the nominated officer of the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser, where reasonably practicable within **2 hours** following the completion of the Match in which the Temporary Suspension was imposed;
 - (c) the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser shall forward a copy of the report to the relevant parties within **48 hours** of receipt. Such report shall clearly state that the Player has the right to challenge the Temporary Suspension but if the Player wishes to do so the Player must give notice of the challenge, ordinarily specifying reasons, within **48 hours** of its notification to them. Such notice shall be duly recorded by the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser and shall be considered in the event of the Player subsequently being involved in

any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings.

Procedures for Citing Commissioner Warnings

- 17.9.3 The following principles shall be applied for Citing Commissioner Warnings subject to such modifications as may be necessary in the context of the relevant Union competitions, International Tournament or Series of International Matches:
- (a) Citing Commissioners shall be entitled to issue a Citing Commissioner Warning to a Player who has in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner, committed an act(s) of Foul Play which falls just short of warranting that the Player concerned be Ordered Off.
 - (b) A Citing Commissioner Warning may only be issued in circumstances where the act(s) of Foul Play was not subject to a Temporary Suspension or Ordering Off.
 - (c) The Citing Commissioner is not limited in the number of Citing Commissioner Warnings he or she may issue to a Player for Foul Play during a Match.
 - (d) The Citing Commissioner Warning should ordinarily contain the following information:
 - (i) the date and place of the alleged Foul Play;
 - (ii) the name of the Player in respect of whom the complaint is made and the team the Player was playing for at the time of the alleged Foul Play;
 - (iii) the name of the opposing team; and
 - (iv) details of the alleged Foul Play including brief details of the evidence relied upon.
 - (e) A Citing Commissioner Warning shall be notified to the nominated officer of the Host Union or Association or the Tournament Organiser as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than **48 hours** after the conclusion of the relevant Match in which the alleged act(s) of Foul Play occurred (noting that Tournament Organisers may set shorter citing commissioner warning deadlines if practicable). Form 3(B) (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used for the purposes of notification.
 - (f) On receipt of the Citing Commissioner Warning, the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser shall send a copy of the notification to the Player in respect of whom it is made, the Player's team management and the appropriate Match Officials of the Match in which it is alleged the Foul Play occurred.
 - (g) If the Player concerned wishes to challenge the Citing Commissioner Warning, the Player shall give notice of the Player's intention to

challenge it within **48 hours** of its notification to them. Such notice shall be duly recorded by the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser and shall be considered in the event of the Player subsequently being involved in any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings.

Procedures for Accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings

17.9.4 If a Player has received two Temporary Suspensions or two Citing Commissioner Warnings or a combination of a Citing Commissioner Warning and a Temporary Suspension during a Match, the Player shall be treated for disciplinary purposes as if the Player had been Ordered Off.

17.9.5 A Player who has received a combination of three or more Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings in any particular tournament or competition or Series of Matches under the jurisdiction of the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser during a single season shall be required to appear before a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer independently appointed by the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser at an appointed time and place. At that time the Player will be notified:

- (i) that the purpose of the hearing is to consider whether any further penalty should be imposed on the player for persistent offending;
- (ii) that the Player may be represented by the player's Union and/or by a legal representative;
- (iii) that save where the Player has given notice of the player's intention to challenge a Temporary Suspension/Citing Commissioner Warning within the time period specified in Regulations 17.9.2(c) and 17.9.3(g) above and in the absence of exceptional circumstances relating to the failure to give the prescribed notice, no evidence will be heard other than on the question of sanction;
- (iv) of the identity of the Disciplinary Committee members or Judicial Officer, as the case may be; and
- (v) that the Player shall not be permitted to play in any Match and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days anywhere in the world pending the outcome of the Player's case.

Hearings and Sanctions for Accumulated Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings

17.9.6 The general procedures for hearings and appeals under Regulation 17, subject to such modifications as may be necessary, shall also apply to the hearings and appeals in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings.

- 17.9.7 In the case of a Temporary Suspension or Citing Commissioner Warning, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, solely in circumstances attributed to mistaken identity, may expunge the Temporary Suspension or Citing Commissioner Warning from the Player's disciplinary record.
- 17.9.8 Given the numerous permutations of potential sanctions that could arise in cases involving accumulated Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings, the sanctioning of the Player shall be solely within the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer. To assist Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers, sanctions guidance for accumulation of temporary suspensions and/or citing commissioner warnings is set out at Appendix 4 to this Regulation 17.

17.10 Citing

Matches where a Citing Commissioner is appointed

- 17.10.1 Citing Commissioners shall be entitled to cite a Player for any act(s) of Foul Play which in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner warranted the Player concerned being Ordered Off (the "Red Card test").
- 17.10.2 Citing Commissioners may cite Players for an act(s) of Foul Play where such act(s) may have been detected by the referee or assistant referee and which may have been the subject of referee action. A Citing Commissioner may not cite a Player for an act(s) of Foul Play in respect of which the Player has been Ordered Off save where the Ordering Off is as a result of two yellow cards. A Player in that situation may also be cited for the act(s) of Foul Play which resulted in either or both yellow card(s).
- 17.10.3 Citing Commissioners may cite a Player if the Player has been Temporarily Suspended. Such citing may be made in respect of the incident(s) for which the Player was Temporarily Suspended or otherwise.
- 17.10.4 Citing Commissioners shall act independently of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer. The Citing Commissioner may make such enquiries as he or she sees fit in order to fulfil their duties, including making enquiries of and collaborating with the Match Officials of a Match or other Citing Commissioners, provided that the ultimate decision as to whether or not to cite the player is the Citing Commissioner's.
- 17.10.5 Citing Commissioners may be in attendance at the Match for which they are appointed. Where a Citing Commissioner is not present at the Match, the Host Union, Association or Tournament Organiser shall ensure that there is a suitably qualified and experienced Citing Commissioner Liaison Officer in attendance at the Match who is able to assist the Citing Commissioner with his/her duties.

Union referral to Citing Commissioner

- 17.10.6 Where a Citing Commissioner has been appointed, the Union or other affiliated organisation responsible for the management of either

participating team in a Match shall not have the power to cite a Player for Foul Play but may refer any incident of alleged Foul Play to the Citing Commissioner for consideration. Such incident shall ordinarily be referred to the Citing Commissioner within **12 hours** of the Match in which the incident is alleged to have occurred.

- 17.10.7 Where a referral is made, the final decision as to whether a Player should be cited, whether as the result of an incident referred to him or her or otherwise, shall rest with the Citing Commissioner.

Matches where Citing Commissioners are not Appointed

- 17.10.8 For Matches where, in accordance with Regulation 17.7.2 or 17.7.6, it is not reasonably practicable for a Citing Commissioner to be appointed, the following “team citing” procedures shall apply:

- (a) Each team participating in a Match, or any of its authorised officials, or its Union, may cite:
 - (i) a Player(s) for an act(s) of alleged Foul Play committed during that Match provided that such act(s) have not been detected by the Match Officials;
 - (ii) a Player for more than one incident of alleged Foul Play in the same Match; and
 - (iii) more than one Player in any Match.
- (b) Unions and Tournament Organisers shall put in place procedures for team citing which accord with the following:
 - (i) citings by teams or their Unions shall be in writing and sent by an authorised member of the Union or management of the team to the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser responsible for the Match in which the incident that is the subject of the citing complaint occurred;
 - (ii) such citing, to be effective, must be made as soon as practicable and in any event no later than **48 hours** of the conclusion of the Match in which the Foul Play is alleged to have occurred ((noting that Tournament Organisers may set shorter citing deadlines if practicable);
 - (iii) the responsibility for obtaining information and reports in relation to the citing shall rest with the Union or team management making the citing complaint. The Union or team management shall liaise with the Host Union or Tournament Organiser (or its/their nominated officer) to ensure that relevant information and reports are circulated to the appropriate parties in advance of the hearing;
 - (iv) the independent disciplinary body of the Union or Tournament Organiser having jurisdiction over the Match, shall consider the

citing complaint and any other evidence it deems appropriate including via audio and/or audio-visual means, oral (witness), film or photographic evidence. The Player cited shall have the right to be heard, to be represented and to produce evidence; and

- (v) at any hearing of a citing complaint a representative of the citing team or Union shall ordinarily be in attendance, failing which the citing complaint may be dismissed. If an act(s) of Foul Play is found to have been committed the independent disciplinary body of the Union or Tournament Organiser having jurisdiction over the Match shall take the appropriate action and shall apply World Rugby's Sanctions for Foul Play set out in Appendix 1, by following the core sanctioning principles set out in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21.

17.10.9 Players who are the subject of a "team citing" shall not be provisionally suspended pending the hearing of the case.

17.11 Notification of Citing and Temporary Suspension Arrangements

17.11.1 In relation to all International Matches (whether or not they form part of an International Tour, International Tournament or Series of International Matches) it is the responsibility of the Host Union, Association or duly recognised Tournament Organiser to notify World Rugby's Disciplinary Officer, or their nominee, **28 days** prior to the commencement of the International Match of:

- (a) the identity of the Citing Commissioner who has been appointed for the International Matches and in the event of there being more than one, the Matches to which each Citing Commissioner is assigned;
- (b) whether there are any non-International Matches which form part of the International Tour, International Tournament or Series of International Matches to which Citing Commissioner(s) shall be appointed, and their identity;
- (c) the policy to be adopted for Temporary Suspensions in accordance with Regulation 17.9; and
- (d) the timelines applicable to the International Matches for team referrals, citings and the bringing of disciplinary hearings for Foul Play.

17.12 Ordering Off (Red Card): Initial Procedures

17.12.1 Where a Player in a Match is Ordered Off the referee shall, ordinarily within **2 hours** of the completion of the Match or such further time as is necessary in the circumstances, give to the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser a written report of the incident. Form 1 (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by the referee for this purpose.

- 17.12.2 If a Player is Ordered Off the playing enclosure as a result of the intervention of an assistant referee, the assistant referee shall also give to the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser a written report ordinarily within **2 hours** of the completion of the Match, or such further time as is necessary in the circumstances. Form 2 (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by an assistant referee for this purpose.
- 17.12.3 Reports prepared by referees and/or assistant referees when a Player has been Ordered Off should ordinarily contain the following information:
- (a) the date of the Match, the venue and the teams participating;
 - (b) the name of the Player Ordered Off and their team;
 - (c) the circumstances in which the Player was Ordered Off;
 - (d) the reason for the Player being Ordered Off; and
 - (e) any other information the referee (or assistant referee where applicable) considers relevant.
- 17.12.4 The Host Union's or Tournament Organiser's nominated officer shall arrange for the reports and copies of all information provided to the Player in accordance with 17.12.5 below to be provided, as soon as possible, to members of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer who will adjudicate on the case. In default of appointment, the nominated officer shall be deemed to be the Secretary of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser.
- 17.12.5 The Host Union's or Tournament Organiser's nominated officer shall supply the Player Ordered Off with a copy of the referee's report and, where applicable, the assistant referee's report and any other relevant evidence (including footage of the alleged Foul Play and any medical evidence) as soon as reasonably practicable and shall advise the Player:
- (a) of the date, place and time of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer hearing at which the disciplinary proceedings will be heard;
 - (b) of the identity of the Disciplinary Committee members or Judicial Officer;
 - (c) that the Player will be required to attend in person at the hearing (which may include attendance by audio or audio-visual means at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer);
 - (d) that if the Player is unable to appear at the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer hearing as notified, the Player should advise the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser, including details as to the reason(s) why the Player is unable to attend, as soon as practicable;
 - (e) that the Player is entitled to adduce evidence and make submissions and be represented by his/her Union or team and/or a legal advisor; and

- (f) that the Player is not eligible to play in any Match anywhere in the world and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days pending resolution of the case.

17.12.6 Where possible, notice to the Player Ordered Off under this Regulation shall be given in writing. It shall be sufficient compliance with this Regulation however if a copy of the referee's report and, where applicable, the assistant referee's report and any other relevant evidence together with oral notice of the information in Regulation 17.12.5 are provided directly in person to the Player or the Player's team manager or coach.

17.12.7 Cases involving an Ordering Off shall, where reasonably practicable, be heard within **48 hours** and other than in exceptional circumstances, no later than **72 hours** of the conclusion of the Match in which the Player was Ordered Off.

17.13 Citing: Initial Procedures

17.13.1 Subject to Regulation 17.13.3 and 17.13.4, a citing complaint by a Citing Commissioner must be provided in writing (electronically or otherwise) to the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser responsible for the Match in which the incident that is the subject of the citing complaint occurred, as soon as practicable and in any event, no later than **48 hours** after the conclusion of the Match (noting that Tournament Organisers may set shorter citing deadlines if practicable).. In default of appointment, the nominated officer shall be deemed to be the Secretary of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser.

17.13.2 For the purposes of this Regulation 17.13, a citing complaint is deemed to be provided when:

- (a) it is transmitted by email, provided that timed and confirmed notice of transmission can be provided; or
- (b) if transmitted by some other means, it is received by the nominated officer or Secretary of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser (or his/her nominee).

17.13.3 In circumstances where a Player has not been cited within the time periods specified in Regulation 17.13.1 as a result of either:

- (a) mistaken identity; and/or
- (b) circumstances exist where the nature of the Foul Play incident(s) concerned is such that an investigation is needed to identify the Player(s) alleged to have committed an act(s) of Foul Play; and/or
- (c) circumstances exist where the nature of the Foul Play incident(s) concerned is such that an investigation is needed to identify or establish the full nature of the alleged act(s) of Foul Play;

then the citing period may be extended by the duly appointed Disciplinary Committee, Judicial Officer, Host Union or Tournament Organiser,

however, any such extension will not in any event exceed **12 days** from the last date otherwise permitted by Regulation 17.13.1.

17.13.4 The citing complaint should ordinarily contain the following information:

- (a) the date and place of the alleged Foul Play;
- (b) the name of the Player in respect of whom the complaint is made and the team the Player was playing for at the time of the alleged Foul Play;
- (c) the name of the opposing team; and
- (d) details of the alleged Foul Play including brief details of the evidence relied upon.

Form 3(A) (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used for the purposes of making a citing complaint.

17.13.5 All Persons requested to provide reports and/or information must do so within the timescale requested or seek more time if required from the Citing Commissioner. Failure to provide the information and/or reports sought by the Citing Commissioner or their nominee may, in the absence of a reasonable explanation, constitute Misconduct.

17.13.6 The Citing Commissioner or their nominee (who may be the Citing Commissioner Liaison Officer) must obtain such reports and information as they consider necessary in relation to the cited act(s) of Foul Play. The Citing Commissioner shall provide to the Host Union or Tournament Organiser who shall in turn forward the documents and other evidence (including footage of the alleged foul play where available and any medical evidence) to the Player and other parties who were provided with a copy of the citing complaint including the relevant Match Officials.

17.13.7 The Host Union's or Tournament Organiser's nominated officer shall arrange for the reports and related evidence in relation to the matter to be provided, as soon as possible, to the Player and members of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer that will hear the case. The Player subject to a citing complaint shall be advised that the Player is not eligible to play in any Match anywhere in the world and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days pending resolution of the case.

17.13.8 Where a Player is the subject of a citing complaint, the Player's case should, wherever practicable, be heard ordinarily within **48 hours** and, other than in exceptional circumstances, no later than **72 hours** of the conclusion of the Match in which the cited alleged Foul Play occurred.

Citing by Unions or Teams: Procedures

17.13.9 The procedures to be applied for a citing by a Union or Team in circumstances where a Citing Commissioner has not been appointed, shall as far as reasonably practicable, be as set out in Regulation 17.10.8.

17.14 Hearings

- 17.14.1 The procedures set out in Regulation 20 shall apply to disciplinary hearings.

17.15 Standard and Burden of Proof for Ordering Off and Citing

- 17.15.1 The standard of proof for all matters under this Regulation 17 shall be on the balance of probabilities.
- 17.15.2 The integrity of Law 6.5(a) of the Laws of the Game and the referee's position as the ultimate judge of fact and law during the Match is unassailable. The purpose of a subsequent review of an incident that occurred during a Match by a Citing Commissioner is to review incidents of potential foul play with the benefit of additional time and in some cases, additional footage and/or other evidence. The purpose of a subsequent review of an incident that occurred during a Match by a Disciplinary/Appeal Committee or Judicial/Appeal Officer, is to determine whether there should be any disciplinary sanctions applied for an act(s) of Foul Play as provided for in Law 9. With the sole exception of Regulation 17 (and/or in appropriate circumstances under Regulation 6 and/or Regulation 8 and/or Regulation 18 and/or Regulation 21) the referee's decisions on the field of play and their sporting consequences shall not be altered or overturned by a ruling of a Disciplinary/Appeal Committee or Judicial/Appeal Officer.
- 17.15.3 At first instance disciplinary hearings, in the event that the Player does not accept that the act(s) of Foul Play which is the subject of the disciplinary hearing warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited, the burden of proof rests on the Player to show that the referee/citing commissioner was wrong.

STAGE 1

17.16 The "Red Card Test": Did the act(s) of Foul Play warrant the Player being Ordered Off or should it have resulted in the Player being Ordered Off?

- 17.16.1 The Disciplinary Committee shall first determine whether or not the relevant act(s) of Foul Play warranted the Player being Ordered Off or should have resulted in the Player being Ordered Off. The Player may either:
- (a) admit that the act(s) of Foul Play warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited in which case the function of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer is to determine what sanction, if any, should be imposed on the Player under Regulations 17.17 to 17.21; or.
 - (b) deny that the act(s) of Foul Play warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited in which case, the Player may seek to show that the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner was wrong. The Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer may review the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall not make a finding contrary to the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner unless they are satisfied, on the balance of probabilities that the decision of the referee or Citing

Commissioner was wrong. In a case where a Player has been cited, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer may take account of any action taken during the Match in respect of the alleged Foul Play by the Match Officials and may review the referee's decision and the circumstances surrounding it and may make a finding contrary to the referee's decision.

- 17.16.2 Where the Player admits that the act(s) of Foul Play warranted being Ordered Off or cited or where the Ordering Off is not overturned or the citing is upheld, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall move to the next stage of the hearing to determine the sanction (if any) to be imposed on the Player in accordance with Regulations 17.17 to 17.21.
- 17.16.3 Where the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer determines that the act(s) of foul play did not warrant the player being Ordered Off or cited, no further sanction is imposed on the Player, the disciplinary hearing ends and the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall expunge the Ordering Off (Red Card) or citing from the Player's disciplinary record.
- 17.16.4 In citing cases involving Matches in which no Citing Commissioner was appointed and team citing applies, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer must establish (i) that the incident was undetected by the referee and/or assistant referees and (ii) the alleged Foul Play was sufficiently serious to warrant an Ordering Off. If the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer does not consider the alleged Foul Play of sufficient seriousness to have warranted an Ordering Off they shall dismiss the citing complaint. If the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer considers the alleged Foul Play of sufficient seriousness to have warranted an Ordering Off, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall move to the next stage of the hearing to determine the sanction (if any) to be imposed on the Player in accordance with Regulations 17.17 to 17.21.

STAGE 2:

17.17 Sanctions and Core Sanctioning Process

- 17.17.1 When imposing sanctions, all Disciplinary Committees or Judicial Officers dealing with an Ordering Off and/or citing shall apply World Rugby's sanctions for Foul Play set out in Appendix 1 (save where Appendix 3 applies) and do so in accordance with Regulations 17.17 to 17.21.

Step 1: What is the correct entry point for the sanction?

17.18 Assessment of seriousness of the Foul Play

- 17.18.1 Disciplinary Committees or Judicial Officers shall undertake an assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct that constitutes the offending and categorise that conduct as being at the lower end, mid-range or top end of the scale of seriousness in order to identify the appropriate entry point for consideration of particular act(s) of Foul Play where such act(s) are expressly covered in Appendix 1. The assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct shall be determined by reference to the following features:

- (a) whether the offending was intentional;
- (b) whether the offending was reckless, that is the Player knew (or should have known) there was a risk of committing an act(s) of Foul Play;
- (c) the nature of the actions, the manner in which the offence was committed including part of body used (for example, fist, elbow, knee or boot);
- (d) the existence of provocation;
- (e) whether the Player acted in retaliation and the timing of such;
- (f) whether the Player acted in self-defence (that is whether the Player used a reasonable degree of force in defending himself);
- (g) the effect of the Player's actions on the victim (for example, extent of injury, removal of victim Player from the game);
- (h) the effect of the Player's actions on the Match;
- (i) the vulnerability of the victim Player including part of victim's body involved/affected, position of the victim Player, ability to defend himself;
- (j) the level of participation in the offending and level of premeditation;
- (k) whether the conduct of the offending Player was completed or amounted to an attempt; and
- (l) any other feature of the Player's conduct in relation to or connected with the offending.

Based on the assessment of the offence(s) under consideration against the above features of offending, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall categorise the act(s) of Foul Play as being at the lower end, mid-range or top end of the scale of seriousness of offending and identify the applicable entry point as set out in Appendix 1.

- 17.18.2 For offences categorised at the top end of the scale of seriousness of offending, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall identify an entry point between the period shown as the top end for the particular offence and the maximum sanction in Appendix 1.³

Step 2: Are there any reasons to decrease the sanction?

17.19 Mitigating Factors

- 17.19.1 Having identified the applicable entry point for consideration of a particular incident, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall identify any relevant off-field mitigating factors and determine if there are grounds for reducing the period of suspension and subject to Regulations 17.19.2 and

³ The plus sign against each top end period suspension denotes this entitlement and flexibility.

17.19.3 the extent, if at all, by which the period of suspension should be reduced. Mitigating factors include the following:

- (a) the presence and timing of an acknowledgement of ~~culpability/wrong-doing~~the commission of foul play by the offending Player;
- (b) the Player's disciplinary record ~~and/or good character~~;
- (c) the youth and or inexperience of the Player;
- (d) the Player's conduct prior to and at the hearing
- (e) the Player having demonstrated remorse for his/her conduct to the victim Player including the timing of such remorse; and
- (f) any other off-field mitigating factor(s) that the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer considers relevant and appropriate.

17.19.2 Subject to Regulations 17.19.3 and 17.21.1, for acts of Foul Play the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer cannot apply a greater reduction than 50% of the relevant entry point suspension (prior to any increase for aggravating factors). In assessing the percentage reduction applicable for mitigating factors, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall start at 0% reduction and apply the amount, if any, to be allowed as mitigation up to the maximum 50% reduction.

17.19.3 In cases involving offending that has been classified pursuant to Regulation 17.18.1 as lower end offending, where:

- (a) there are off-field mitigating factors; and
- (b) where the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer considers that the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the level and type of offending involved;

the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer may apply sanctions less than 50% of the lower end entry sanctions specified in Appendix 1 including in appropriate cases no sanction.

Step 3: Are there any reasons to increase the sanction?

17.20 Aggravating Factors

17.20.1 Thereafter, the Disciplinary Committees or Judicial Officers shall identify any relevant off-field aggravating factors and determine what additional period of suspension, if any, should apply to the case in question. Aggravating factors include:

- (a) the Player's status generally as an offender of the Laws of the Game;⁴

⁴ The Player's disciplinary record in all competitions and (as appropriate) in other sports during his or her playing career from the age of 18 shall be considered by a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer. In any case in which the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer establishes that the Player has previously been found by a Disciplinary Committee and/or Judicial Officer to have committed any act of Foul Play and/or Misconduct then

- (b) the need for a deterrent to combat a pattern of offending in the Game where the teams participating in the Match or Tournament have been put on notice that such a need exists; and
- (c) any other off-field aggravating factor(s) that the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer considers relevant and appropriate (including poor conduct prior to or at the hearing).

Step 4: Applying the sanction to the Player's playing schedule

17.21 Imposition of Sanctions

- 17.21.1 In cases of multiple offending, Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers may impose sanctions to run either on a concurrent or a consecutive basis provided that the total sanction is in all the circumstances proportionate to the level of the overall offending.
- 17.21.2 Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers shall ordinarily in their written decisions set out the reasoning for their findings, including the finding on culpability, how they have categorised the seriousness of the offence by reference to the features set out in Regulation 17.18.1, how they identified and applied any mitigating (17.19) and aggravating (17.20) factors and conclude with the resultant sanction, if any, imposed including, for the avoidance of doubt, the expiry date of the suspension setting out the number of weeks, or where the Player has a specific playing schedule that is known at the time of the imposition of the sanction, a list of the Matches (or Match weekends, rounds or dates where specific dates of fixtures have not yet been finalised) (subject, ordinarily, to a maximum of 2 matches in any 7-day period), for which the Player is suspended provided that, in any event, the Player would, on the best information available at the time of the decision, be scheduled to play in a Match which would meet the criteria set out in Regulation 17.21.3 below on each of the weeks taken into account and that an expiry date is stipulated for the suspension. Sanctions for Players in non-elite rugby settings should ordinarily be expressed in weeks for simplicity and clarity.
- 17.21.3 For the purposes of imposing a suspension, Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers shall take into account weeks in which there is a Match(es) which comply with each of the following criteria:
 - (a) until such time as the Player was suspended, the Player would otherwise have been scheduled to play in the Match, the burden resting with the Player to prove that he was scheduled to play. Where the Player was scheduled to play in more than one Match in a week (for example, a mid-week fixture) this week still only counts as one week of the suspension save where the rules of the particular tournament or tour from which the suspension arises and in which there is more than one Match per week allow for a suspension within that tournament or tour to be served in Matches;

the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer in imposing any sanction on the Player may take account of such offending as an aggravating factor in determining the appropriate sanction.

- (b) the Match is to be played between two teams in compliance with all of the Laws of the Game;
- (c) where the Match is not part of a tournament, tour or Series of Matches which has been sanctioned in accordance with Regulation 16, the Match:
 - (i) is to be played between teams of equivalent level (for example, similar divisions or standards of play) and who play at the same or an equivalent level of the Game to the Player's ordinary level;
 - (ii) is to feature the best players available to each team;
 - (iii) is to be played at a venue of the capacity and characteristics ordinarily used by teams of this level or standard;
 - (iv) is to be open to the public (and in the case of a Match involving professional teams, tickets will be sold);
 - (v) is scheduled within 4 weeks prior to an International Match, tournament, tour or Series of Matches which has been sanctioned in accordance with Regulation 16;
- (d) where the Match is a playoff, final or similar Match for which the Player's team has not yet qualified, the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer's decision may provide for alternative applications of the Player's sanction whereby the Match(es) in question shall be counted if the Player's team participates or not counted if the Player's team does not participate in which case the Match(es) in which the Player's team next participates is instead included in the sanction.
- (e) where the Player is scheduled to play in a different form of the Game to that from which the sanction arises and those Matches in the other form of the Game fall within the period of the suspension, those Matches shall be taken into account for the purposes of the suspension if they meet all of the criteria set out in this Regulation 17.21.3 save that in the case of a Player whose suspension arises from a fifteen-a-side Match, only tournaments or Series of Matches in an abbreviated form of the Game which have been sanctioned in accordance with Regulation 16 shall be taken into account and, in such case, each tournament or Series of Matches played over a weekend shall be considered to equate to one week for the purposes of calculating the suspension of a Player arising from a fifteen-a-side Match.

Players shall not be free to participate in rugby activities which a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer (or, as applicable, Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer) has considered do not meet the criteria in this Regulation 17.21.3 and thus have not been included as a week for which the Player is suspended.

- 17.21.4 The following principles shall apply to the imposition of decisions on sanctions and suspensions under this Regulation 17:

- (a) sanctions and suspensions shall be applied immediately and may not be suspended;
- (b) sanctions and suspensions shall be recognised and applied universally by Unions, Associations, Tournament Organisers and their constituent bodies; and
- (c) Players subject to a suspension may not play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field Match day activities anywhere from the time they are Ordered Off, cited or where Regulation 17.9.4 applies (accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings) until their suspension expires or their case is dismissed.

17.21.5 In respect of offences not referred to in the World Rugby Sanctions in Appendix 1, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Disciplinary Committee, Judicial Officer, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee.

17.21.6 Notwithstanding the World Rugby Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 in cases where the Player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Disciplinary Committee and/or Judicial Officer may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

17.22 Costs

17.22.1 As a general principle and subject to Regulation 17.22.2 and 17.22.3 below, the Host Union or Tournament Organiser shall ordinarily bear the cost of holding the hearing, including the travel, accommodation and/or costs of the Disciplinary Committee members or Judicial Officer and/or Match Officials, Citing Commissioner and other witnesses called by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer as well as the costs of interpretation, recording and/or transcription and legal advice for the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer.

17.22.2 The Player that is the subject of the proceedings or the Player's Union shall pay their own costs, including travel/accommodation costs of the Player, his/her representatives and his/her witnesses, as well as the Player's legal costs (save where a Tournament Organiser specifies otherwise).

17.22.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Regulation 17.22, Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers shall have complete discretion to impose such cost orders as to the payment of costs relation to any proceedings, including the nature of costs set out in Regulation 20.1.7.

17.23 Post-Hearing Procedures

17.23.1 The decision of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall be advised to applicable parties (ordinarily using the standard Form 6 at Appendix 2 of this Regulation 17), as soon as practicable after the hearing

and shall be binding on notification to the Player or his/her representative or Union. The Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer may deliver a short oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing (with their reasons to be put in writing and communicated to the parties at a later date) or they may reserve the decision. If an oral decision is made it shall be binding from the time of communication to the parties.

- 17.23.2 Relevant parties heard by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer shall be entitled to a copy of the final written decision which shall, where practicable, be sent to them by the Host Union or Tournament Organiser within **48 hours** of its being made available. The timelines for notifying World Rugby in Regulation 17.4.6 shall also be met.
- 17.23.3 Where a relevant party (including a Player, applicable Union(s) or Rugby Body) is adversely affected by a disciplinary decision such party shall be notified by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer of the circumstances in which an appeal to an Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer may be made. Such notification shall, ordinarily, be included in the final written decision of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer and notified at the conclusion of the hearing if an oral decision is given.
- 17.23.4 The hearing by the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer may be audio or audio-visually recorded or recorded by a stenographer. The record of the proceedings, and all papers associated with the proceedings, shall be held for a suitable period by the Host Union or Tournament Organiser. Copies of the record shall be made available to the relevant parties at reasonable cost only on appeal of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer. Notwithstanding the foregoing, copies of the record shall be made available to World Rugby upon its request.
- 17.23.5 Unions, Associations and Judicial Tribunals shall ordinarily publish reports of their proceedings, findings and penalties in full (save where the Judicial Tribunal directs otherwise) and in the case of such bodies appointed by World Rugby, such publication shall be made through World Rugby. No member of a Judicial Tribunal shall comment to the media on a decision of that body.

17.24 Appeals

- 17.24.1 For the purposes of Regulation 17.24, “decision” shall mean the final written decision of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer.
- 17.24.2 (a) A Player and/or the Player’s Home Union/Rugby Body (as appropriate) may appeal to an Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer from a decision of a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer. Any appeal of such decision must be lodged with the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser (as applicable) within **48 hours** of the date on which the decision of the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer has been notified or in default, with the Secretary of the Host Union or the disciplinary officer of the Tournament Organiser (as applicable).

- (b) The following additional parties shall be entitled to appeal to an Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer the decision of a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer:

- (i) Host Union; and/or
- (ii) Tournament Organiser; and/or
- (iii) World Rugby in respect of all World Rugby Matches and Matches falling under the World Rugby Appointment Scheme;

such parties shall lodge an appeal as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event no later than **72 hours** following notification to the appealing party of the decision.

- (c) World Rugby has a supervisory jurisdiction in respect of disciplinary matters under this Regulation. In the event the Disciplinary Officer determines it is appropriate that a particular decision should be appealed in respect of International Matches, where there is no appropriate hosting body for a Match and/or where the disciplinary regulations for a Match are clearly contrary to Regulation 17, the Disciplinary Officer or other nominee of World Rugby may take such steps as are reasonably necessary to review the matter and make such recommendations to World Rugby as the Disciplinary Officer deems appropriate. The Disciplinary Officer (or other nominee of World Rugby) may appeal the matter and such right of appeal shall be exercised within **72 hours** following notification of the decision to them.

17.24.3 An appeal shall be deemed to have been lodged by the relevant party (Appellant) when the notice of appeal is received by the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser (or in default the Secretary or Disciplinary Officer of such body) within the timeframes set out in 17.24.2 together with any required deposit referred to in Regulation 17.24.5.

17.24.4 The notice of appeal shall be in writing and signed by the particular Appellant lodging the appeal and shall specify the:

- (a) name of the Appellant lodging the appeal;
- (b) decision appealed against;
- (c) date of the decision appealed against;
- (d) date of notification of the decision appealed against by the party appealing; and
- (e) grounds of the appeal.

Except as provided, no specific form of a notice of appeal is required.

17.24.5 If the Host Union or Tournament Organiser shall so require, each notice of appeal shall be accompanied by a deposit of an amount not exceeding the equivalent of £1,000 (pounds Sterling), such amount to be determined by

the Host Union or Tournament Organiser having regard to the financial circumstances of the Appellant. In the event of a required deposit not being paid, the appeal shall be deemed to be abandoned, save that the Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer, in any case, shall have power to extend the time for payment of the deposit. In the event of an appeal by World Rugby, the Host Union or Tournament Organiser no appeal deposit shall be payable. The deposit shall be refundable in the event that the Appeal is successful

17.24.6 On the lodgement of the appeal the Host Union or Tournament Organiser shall:

- (a) notify the applicable parties in Regulation 17.24.2 of the appeal; and
- (b) make available to the Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer (and the Appellant(s)) the full record of the proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer.

Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer

17.24.7 The Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer shall determine the basis on which the appeal shall proceed. The General Procedures relating to hearings before Appeal Committees and Appeal Officers contained in Regulation 20.8 shall apply to any matter arising under this Regulation.

17.24.8 The Appellant(s) will be notified of the names of the Appeal Committee members or Appeal Officer and the fact that the Player is not eligible to play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field Match day activities anywhere in the world pending the appeal save always where no sanction has been imposed by the Disciplinary Committee or the Judicial Officer and/or that where a Player's suspension expires while the Player's appeal is pending the Player shall be eligible to play immediately.

17.24.9 An appeal should, where reasonably practicable, be heard within **7 days** after its lodgement.

17.24.10 In any appeal before the Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer:

- (a) an Appellant that is a Player may be represented by a Union representative and/or legal counsel. Any other appellant may be represented by legal counsel and/or another representative of the Appellant;
- (b) where the Host Union or Tournament Organiser appeals they shall be represented by a designated disciplinary officer of that body (and/or his/her nominee);
- (c) where World Rugby appeals they shall be represented by the Disciplinary Officer (and/or his/her nominee).

17.24.11 If an Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer allows further evidence to be adduced at a hearing, there shall be no cross-examination of witnesses except to the extent allowed by the Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer.

17.25 Remote Hearings and Expedited Procedures

- 17.25.1 In particular circumstances, Unions, Associations, Tournament Organisers or World Rugby may wish to utilise remote hearings or expedited disciplinary procedures, to alleviate the practical difficulties caused by physical distance, time differences and to reduce costs. The Core Principles set out in this Regulation 17 shall be complied with regardless of the amended procedures.
- 17.25.2 The procedure for remote hearings shall be the same as that used for in-person hearings as set out in Regulation 17, save that some or all of the parties may attend the hearing by audio or audio-visual means. Where the Union, Association, Tournament Organiser or World Rugby proposes a remote hearing, Players shall have the right to request an in-person hearing. Where such application is made, the Judicial/Appeal Officer or Chair of the Disciplinary/Appeal Committee shall determine the procedure and format for the hearing.
- 17.25.3 Expedited procedures will vary depending on the circumstances. An example of such procedures is the use of a “foul play review committee” that considers the alleged act(s) of foul play and provides the player with an indication of the sanction that would be imposed were the player to admit the act(s) of foul play. The player has the option to accept the sanction or to reject the sanction and request a hearing.
- 17.25.4 Where Unions, Associations, Tournament Organisers wish to adopt expedited procedures, they shall:
- (a) apply to World Rugby for prior written approval;
 - (b) provide World Rugby with a copy of the empowering regulations;
 - (c) keep an account (on an annual basis) of the cases and decisions which arise under the procedures and make them available to World Rugby upon request;
 - (d) provide suitable educational materials and training to the relevant disciplinary personnel on the implementation of the guidelines and the application of the disciplinary process.

Where World Rugby wishes to adopt expedited procedures, it shall comply with 17.25.4(d) above. Where a Union has received approval from World Rugby pursuant to 17.25.4(a) above, it may approve its member unions and Rugby Bodies to adopt similar procedures for their local competitions provided such procedures are consistent with the World Rugby approved model and monitored appropriately by the Union.

- 17.25.5 Notwithstanding the existence of the expedited procedure, a Player, Union, Association, Tournament Organiser or World Rugby shall always have the right to have a hearing that complies with the requirements of Regulation 17.

- 17.25.6 Where expedited procedures are approved by World Rugby and adopted by the relevant Union, Association or Tournament Organiser, they shall be treated as enforceable by World Rugby in the same way as Regulation 17.

17.26 Additional Provisions Relating to Hearings

- 17.26.1 In all proceedings heard by a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer and/or Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer, referees and/or assistant referees may only give evidence of fact, not opinion.
- 17.26.2 Disciplinary Committees, Judicial Officers, Appeal Committees and Appeal Officers, prior to a hearing or at any stage during a hearing may amend the offence for which the Player has been Ordered Off or cited unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, such amendment cannot be made without causing injustice. Where an amendment is made, in appropriate cases an adjournment may be granted.

17.27 Suspension

- 17.27.1 A Player Ordered Off or cited by a Citing Commissioner may not take part or be selected for any further Match until the Player's case has been dealt with by a Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer.
- 17.27.2 Without in any way limiting the effect of Clause 17.21.4, a Player that is subject to an Ordering Off or citing in a domestic or any other Match is not entitled to play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field Match day activities anywhere in the world until the Player's case has been finally resolved.
- 17.27.3 A suspended Player who elects to appeal may not take part or be selected for any further Match until the Player's case has been dealt with by an Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer or the expiry of his/her suspension, whichever occurs earlier.

17.28 Exceptional Circumstances in relation to Players' Conduct

- 17.28.1 In exceptional circumstances where the conduct of a Player(s) or Person(s) is of such a serious/gross nature that their continued involvement in the Game in any capacity pending the final determination of the matter by the relevant authority is deemed by World Rugby to be inappropriate and/or potentially prejudicial to the image and reputation of the sport, then World Rugby is entitled to require as it deems fit that the relevant Union(s) provisionally suspend such Player(s) or Person(s) from any involvement in the sport.
- 17.28.2 It is the responsibility of each Union and Association in membership of World Rugby to ensure that in such circumstances it is able by reference to its regulations or otherwise to effect and/or recognise such provisional suspension on the Player or Person concerned.

17.29 Unforeseen Circumstances

- 17.29.1 In the event that a particular incident takes place for which there is no provision in this Regulation 17 then the Disciplinary Officer, or his/her nominee may take such action as is considered appropriate in the circumstances in accordance with general principles of natural justice and fairness.

17.30 Miscellaneous

- 17.30.1 In circumstances where an act(s) of Foul Play and an act of Misconduct (as defined in Regulation 18) arise in respect of the same Match for the same Player and provided it does not give rise to an injustice to the Player, for convenience both matters may be dealt with by the same Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer, notwithstanding that the acts may be governed by different Regulations.
- 17.30.2 Procedures or proceedings under this Regulation and/or Regulation 20 or any decision of a Disciplinary Committee, Judicial Officer, Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer shall not be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality unless such defect, irregularity, omission or technicality raises a material doubt as to the reliability of the findings or decisions of a Disciplinary Committee, Judicial Officer, Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer or results in a miscarriage of justice.

MODIFIED PROCEDURES FOR FOUL PLAY IN SEVENS

17.31 Introduction

- 17.31.1 In recognition of the unique structure of Sevens Tournaments and Series of Matches and the timelines within which the Sevens Game operates, the following provisions shall apply to the Sevens Game for Foul Play.
- 17.31.2 For the avoidance of doubt, references in Regulations 17.5, 17.6 and Regulation 20 (World Rugby Appointment Scheme) to International Tournaments, International Tours and Series of International Matches includes Sevens International Matches. All other references to Matches shall include Sevens.

17.32 Application of the Regulations

- 17.32.1 In respect of all Sevens Matches the procedures and standards in respect of the fifteen-a-side game as provided in Regulation 17 shall apply equally to Sevens save as provided in Regulations 17.33 to 17.38 below. In particular the following provisions shall apply:
- (a) Initial Procedures - Ordering Off; as per Regulation 17.12 save as amended by Regulation 17.33;
 - (b) Initial Procedures – Citing and Citing Commissioner Warning; as per Regulation 17.13 and 17.9.3 save as amended by Regulation 17.34;
 - (c) Judicial Officer - Powers and Procedures; as per Regulations 17.8 and Regulation 20.7 save as amended by Regulation 17.35;
 - (d) Sanctions; as per Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 save as amended in Regulation 17.36;
 - (e) Appeals; per Regulation 17.24 save as amended in Regulation 17.38; and
 - (f) Suspensions; as per Regulation 17.27 and Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings as per Regulation 17.9 save as amended in Regulation 17.37.

17.33 Initial Procedures - Ordering Off

- 17.33.1 If a Player is Ordered Off the playing enclosure in a Sevens Match, the Player's case shall, whenever practicable, be adjudicated on within **2 hours** of the conclusion of that Match, or prior to him playing another Match in the Tournament (whichever is earlier).
- 17.33.2 Form 1 (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by the referee for the purposes of a report under Regulation 17.12.1.
- 17.33.3 Form 2 (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by the assistant referee for the purposes of a report under Regulation 17.12.2.

- 17.33.4 In light of the specific time pressures in Sevens Tournaments and Series of Matches it is not necessary that notice provided for in Regulation 17.12.6 be given in writing to the Player Ordered Off. It shall be sufficient compliance with this Regulation if the referee's report and where applicable, the assistant referee's report and any other relevant evidential material together with notice of the information required in Regulation 17.12.6, are handed to the Player or the Player's team manager.

17.34 Initial Procedures – Citing and Citing Commissioner Warning

- 17.34.1 The Union or other affiliated organisation responsible for the management of either participating team in a Sevens Match shall not have the power to cite a Player for Foul Play but may refer any incident of Foul Play to the Citing Commissioner for consideration provided such incident is referred to the Citing Commissioner within **30 minutes** of the completion of the Match in which the incident is alleged to have occurred. The final decision as to whether a Player should be cited (or not, as the case may be), whether as the result of an incident referred to him or otherwise shall rest with the Citing Commissioner.
- 17.34.2 Form 3(A) (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by the Citing Commissioner for the purposes of making a citing complaint.
- 17.34.3 A citing complaint by a Citing Commissioner should ordinarily contain the information provided in Regulation 17.13.4 and be received by the appointed disciplinary officer or in default the Secretary of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser within **60 minutes** of the end of the Match in which the act(s) of Foul Play is alleged to have taken place.
- 17.34.4 The exceptional circumstances for citing out of time in Regulation 17.13.3 shall also apply to Sevens and in addition, upon application by the Citing Commissioner to the Judicial Officer, the time period for citing may be extended where there are extenuating circumstances provided always that the extension of time does not extend beyond the duration of the Tournament.
- 17.34.5 Where a Player is the subject of a citing complaint, the Player's case wherever practicable should be adjudicated on within **2 hours** of the citing complaint being received by the Player or prior to his/her next scheduled Match, whichever is earlier.
- 17.34.6 A Citing Commissioner Warning shall be notified to the nominated officer of the Host Union or the Tournament Organiser ordinarily within **60 minutes** of the end of the Match in which the alleged act(s) of Foul Play occurred. The Citing Commissioner Warning notification shall contain the information in Regulation 17.9.3. Form 3(B) (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used for the purposes of notification.

17.35 Judicial Officer – Power to Regulate Own Procedures

- 17.35.1 In Sevens, any case involving an Ordering Off, Citing, Accumulations of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings will be adjudicated on by a Judicial Officer who shall act as sole arbiter.

- 17.35.2 Any matters not provided for in these Modified Procedures for Sevens or Regulation 17 shall in the first instance be referred to a Judicial Officer who shall deal with such matters as the Judicial Officer sees fit.

17.36 Sanctions in a Sevens context

- 17.36.1 The World Rugby's Sanctions for Foul Play set out in Appendix 1 have been established on the basis that a one-week period of suspension would normally result in a Player missing one Match of Fifteens. During a Sevens Tournament, Players may participate or participating Unions may be scheduled to participate in several Matches per day. When determining the appropriate periods of suspension, a Judicial Officer should take cognisance of the fact that during a Sevens Tournament or Series of Matches a Player may miss more than one Match as a result of being made subject to a week's suspension and may impose a suspension based on a number of Tournament Matches. In this respect the Judicial Officer shall have regard to the overall impact of the suspension. This provision does not preclude the imposition of periods of suspension running beyond a Player's participation in the Tournament.
- 17.36.2 The Judicial Officer shall convey his/her decision using the standard form (a copy of which appears as Form 6 at Appendix 2 of this Regulation 17) or otherwise in writing as soon as reasonably practicable to the Player, to the teams involved in the Match, the appointed disciplinary officer and to World Rugby. The decision shall be binding on the Player as soon as the Player, his/her representative, or his/her team is notified of the decision. "Decision" shall have the meaning set out in Regulation 17.24.1.

17.37 Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings

- 17.37.1 The provisions of Regulation 17.9 shall apply to Temporary Suspensions and Citing Commissioner Warnings in Sevens save as set out below:
- (a) The maximum period of suspension shall not exceed **2 minutes** and does not include half-time for time-keeping purposes. If the period of suspension continues beyond the half-time interval, the suspended Player is not permitted contact with the Player's team.
 - (b) The report which may be in the standard form shall be forwarded to the nominated officer of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser as soon as reasonably practicable and ordinarily within **2 hours** of the completion of the Match in which the Temporary Suspension was imposed. Forms 4 and 5 (Appendix 2 of this Regulation) may be used by the referee and the assistant referee for this purpose.
 - (c) The Host Union or Tournament Organiser shall forward a copy of the report to the relevant parties within **4 hours** of receipt. Such report shall clearly state that the Player has the right to challenge the Temporary Suspension but if the Player wishes to do so, the Player must give notice of the challenge within **12 hours** of its notification to them. Such notice shall be duly recorded by the Host Union or Tournament Organiser and shall be considered in the event of the

Player subsequently being involved in any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions.

- (d) If the Player wishes to challenge the Citing Commissioner Warning the Player shall give notice of the intention to challenge within **12 hours** of its notification to them. Such notice shall be duly recorded by the Host Union or Tournament Organiser and shall be considered in the event of the Player subsequently being involved in any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of Citing Commissioner Warnings.
- 17.37.2
- (a) A Player who has been Temporarily Suspended and/or received a Citing Commissioner Warning in three or more Matches and/or received a combination of three or more Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings at a single Sevens tournament or Series of Matches or a Player who has been Temporarily Suspended or received a Citing Commissioner Warning (or a combination of both) five times during a season of World Rugby Sevens World Series, shall be required to appear before a Judicial Officer at an appointed time and place.
 - (b) Pending such hearing the Player shall not take part in any Match anywhere in the world and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days pending the resolution of the case.
 - (c) Ordinarily, such hearings shall take place at the Tournament venue at which the third or fifth Temporary Suspension, Citing Commissioner Warning or combination of both was imposed on the Player. The decision on the appropriate venue for the hearing shall be made by the Judicial Officer.

17.38 Appeals

- 17.38.1 To be valid, any appeal against the decision of a Judicial Officer in Sevens must be lodged with the disciplinary officer (or his/her nominee) of the Host Union or Tournament Organiser in writing, within **24 hours** of the notification of the decision of the Judicial Officer to the Player or the Player's Union.
- 17.38.2 Appeals shall ordinarily be heard by an Appeal Officer.

APPENDIX 1. WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17)

Note: Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction⁵

Note: Where a Player receives a mid-range or top end sanction, a Disciplinary Committee/Judicial Officer/Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer may, at its discretion, agree that one week of the sanction may be replaced by a “Coaching Intervention” that complies with the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme⁶

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Intentional Contact with Eye(s) ⁷	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) ⁸	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area ⁹	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm (including stiff arm tackle), elbow or shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

⁵ The note does not apply to the following:

(i) Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red-card threshold: 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling);

(ii) Where the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer having completed steps 1-3 of Regulation 17.17-17.20 inclusive, and having taken into account the application of the Coaching Intervention Programme where relevant, considers that the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the offending player's fault and the consequences thereof.

⁶ The World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme is only available for foul play offences occurring under the “Head Contact Process”

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

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

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/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

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/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

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/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

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/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

¹⁰ Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

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 matches/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 14+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

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/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

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/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

- 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/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.27 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/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Spitting at anyone	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Other	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

9.28 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/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 24 weeks/matches	Top-end: 48+ weeks/matches	Max: 260 weeks/matches
------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------

9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Low-end: 24 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 48 weeks/matches	Top-end: 96+ weeks/matches	Max: Life
------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 1 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 in cases where the player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

APPENDIX 2. FORM 1. STANDARD FORM REFEREE'S REPORT ON AN ORDERING OFF – INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 1



Referee's Report on an Ordering Off

OFFICIATING

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)												
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24		
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25		
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26		
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27		
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28		
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half		
Proximity of Official(s) to incident									metres			
Score at that time							pts					pts
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes		No		b) General		Yes		No	
Was the Player ordered off further to the report of an Assistant Referee? (If yes, a separate form may need to be completed and submitted by the assistant referee)									Yes		No	

Referee's Name		Union	
----------------	--	-------	--

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH

APPENDIX 2. FORM 2. STANDARD FORM ASSISTANT REFEREE'S REPORT ON AN ORDERING OFF – INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 2



Assistant Referee's Report on an Ordering Off

OFFICIATING

Player's Union						Player Number						
Full Name of Player												
Venue								Date of Incident				
Match Result						pts					pts	
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)												
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24		
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25		
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26		
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27		
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28		
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half		
Proximity of Official(s) to incident									metres			
Score at that time					pts					pts		
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes	No	b) General	Yes	No					
Assistant Referee's Name						Union						
Referee's Name						Union						
Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)												
Signed												
Date												

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH

APPENDIX 2.

FORM 3(A). STANDARD FORM CITING
COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – INTERNATIONAL
MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 3(A)



Citing Commissioner Report

DISCIPLINARY

Player's Union		Player Number	
Full Name of Player			
Venue		Date of Incident	
Match Result		pts	pts
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Biting <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with eye area <input type="checkbox"/> Punching or striking with hand or arm (including stiff arm tackle)		<input type="checkbox"/> Striking with elbow <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with shoulder <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with head <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with knee <input type="checkbox"/> Stamping or trampling <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.		<input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling or grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at anyone <input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials			
Period (of game when incident occurred)		1 st Half <input type="checkbox"/>	2 nd Half <input type="checkbox"/>
		Extra time <input type="checkbox"/>	Elapsed time in half
Proximity of Official(s) to incident		Metres	
Score at that time		pts	pts

BUILDING CHARACTER SINCE 1886

Appendix 2 – Form 3(A)



Citing Commissioner Report

DISCIPLINARY

Player's Union		Player Number	
Full Name of Player			
Venue		Date of Incident	
Match Result		pts	pts
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the forearm <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the elbow		<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. <input type="checkbox"/> Biting <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with eye area <input type="checkbox"/> Punching or striking with hand or arm <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with elbow		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. <input type="checkbox"/> (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul <input type="checkbox"/> (b) A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders <input type="checkbox"/> (c) A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul <input type="checkbox"/> 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship. <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling or grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at anyone <input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.			
Period (of game when incident occurred) 1 st Half <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Half <input type="checkbox"/> Extra time <input type="checkbox"/> Elapsed time in half			
Proximity of Official(s) to incident			Metres
Score at that time		pts	pts

Appendix 2 – Form 3(A)



Citing Commissioner Report

DISCIPLINARY

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Citing Commissioner	Date
---------------------	------

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE CITING PERIOD

APPENDIX 2

FORM 3(B). STANDARD FORM CITING
COMMISSIONER WARNING -INTERNATIONAL
MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 3(B)

**Citing Commissioner Warning****DISCIPLINARY**

Player's Union		Player Number	
Full Name of Player			
Venue		Date of Incident	
Match Result		pts	pts
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. <input type="checkbox"/> Biting <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with elbow <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with shoulder <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with head <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with eye area <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with knee <input type="checkbox"/> Punching or striking with hand or arm (including stiff arm tackle) <input type="checkbox"/> Stamping or trampling <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. <input type="checkbox"/> A player must not charge into a ruck or maul <input type="checkbox"/> A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders <input type="checkbox"/> A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul <input type="checkbox"/> 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling or grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at anyone <input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials	
Period (of game when incident occurred)			
1 st Half <input type="checkbox"/>	2 nd Half <input type="checkbox"/>	Extra time <input type="checkbox"/>	Elapsed time in half
Proximity of Official(s) to incident			Metres
Score at that time	pts		pts

BUILDING CHARACTER SINCE 1886

Appendix 2 – Form 3(B)



Citing Commissioner Warning

DISCIPLINARY

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)							
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the forearm <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the elbow				<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. <input type="checkbox"/> Biting <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with eye area <input type="checkbox"/> Punching or striking with hand or arm <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with elbow				<input type="checkbox"/> Striking with the shoulder <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with head <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with knee <input type="checkbox"/> Stamping or trampling <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. <input type="checkbox"/> (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul <input type="checkbox"/> (b) A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders <input type="checkbox"/> (c) A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship. <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling or grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at anyone <input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials			
Period (of game when incident occurred) 1 st Half <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Half <input type="checkbox"/> Extra time <input type="checkbox"/> Elapsed time in half							
Proximity of Official(s) to incident						Metres	
Score at that time			pts		pts		

Appendix 2 – Form 3(B)



Citing Commissioner Warning

DISCIPLINARY

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Citing Commissioner	Date
---------------------	------

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO THE DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL AND SHALL FORM PART OF THE PLAYER'S DISCIPLINARY RECORD

NOTE TO PLAYER: You may challenge this Citing Commissioner Warning within 48 hours (15s) / 12 hours (7s) of its notification to you by giving notice to the Designated Disciplinary Official and, ordinarily, specifying reasons

BUILDING CHARACTER SINCE 1886

Appendix 2 – Form 4



Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

NOTE TO PLAYER: You may challenge this Temporary Suspension within **48 hours (15s) / 12 hours (7s)** of its notification to you by giving notice to the Designated Disciplinary Official and, ordinarily, specifying reasons

APPENDIX 2 FORM 5. STANDARD FORM ASSISTANT REFEREE'S REPORT ON A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Appendix 2 – Form 5



Assistant Referee's Report on a Temporary Suspension

OFFICIATING

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)												
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24		
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25		
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26		
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27		
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28		
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half		
Proximity of Official(s) to incident								metres				
Score at that time					pts						pts	
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes		No		b) General		Yes		No	

Assistant Referee's Name		Union	
Referee's Name		Union	

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]


Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH

NOTE TO PLAYER: You may challenge this Temporary Suspension within **48 hours (15s) / 12 hours (7s)** of its notification to you by giving notice to the Designated Disciplinary Official and, ordinarily, specifying reasons

APPENDIX 2 FORM 6. WORLD RUGBY DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE/ JUDICIAL OFFICER'S HEARING REPORT

DISCIPLINARY DECISION

 [insert logo e.g.]	Match	[insert] v [insert]		
		[insert]	Competition	[insert]
	Date of match	[insert]	Match venue	[insert]
	Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program; or Other [insert]		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	[insert]	Date of birth	[insert]
Forename(s)	[insert]		
Referee Name	[insert]	Plea	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	[Select] *for drop down list, see attached	SELECT: Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	[insert] weeks/matches OR No Sanction [delete as appropriate]		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	[from calendar]	Hearing venue	[insert]
Chairman/JO	[insert]		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	[insert] (ex-[insert team/referee] etc) [insert] (ex-[insert team/referee] etc)		
Appearance Player	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance Union	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Player's Representative(s)		Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing			

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

FINDINGS OF FACT

DECISION

Breach admitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Proven <input type="checkbox"/>	Not proven <input type="checkbox"/>	Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
--	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Intentional <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless <input type="checkbox"/>
State Reasons
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Conduct completed/attempted – R 17.18.1(k) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Other features of player's conduct – R 17.18.1(l) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
Top end*	Weeks/Matches	Mid-range	Weeks/Matches	Low-end	Weeks/Matches
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making this assessment, the JO/Committee should consider World Rugby Regulations 17.18.1(a), 17.18.1(g), and 17.18.1(h) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing – R 17.19.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Player's disciplinary record/good character – R 17.19.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Youth and inexperience of player – R 17.19.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – R 17.19.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Remorse and timing of remorse – R 17.19.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Other off-field mitigation – R 17.19.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Number of weeks/matches deducted:

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – R 17.20.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Need for deterrence – R 17.20.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 17.20.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Number of additional weeks/matches:

SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED BY A CITING COMMISSIONER ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE. SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – R 17.12.5(f) / 17.13.7 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	[insert]	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences		
Sanction concludes		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction		
Costs		

Signature (JO or Chairman)	_____	Date	_____
-------------------------------	-------	------	-------

NOTE: YOU HAVE 48 HOURS FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – R 17.24.2(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

[Standard Appeal Directions to appear on this page]

APPENDIX 3. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES FOR UNDERAGE GAME

A. Introduction

These Guidelines have been made available by World Rugby for Unions who wish to implement a specific disciplinary regime at the Underage Game level which reflects the age of the Players, the truncated playing season of such Players and the likelihood for non-Match based sanctions to be imposed in particular for school-boys and girls.

The Disciplinary Guidelines for the Underage Game (the “**Guidelines**”) may be adopted by Unions at their sole election. If adopted, in order to ensure that the principle of universality is maintained the Guidelines must be implemented in their entirety including the application of the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Table adjusted for Underage Rugby contained in the Guidelines.

1. Additional Rules in the Underage Game

- 1.1 Where a Union so elects as part of its rules, the following provisions relating to Discipline for Foul Play in the Underage Game shall apply to Underage Players within its jurisdiction.
- 1.2 For the purposes of Regulation 17.3.1(a) these Underage Game provisions shall not constitute a breach of Regulation 17. These rules shall replace the equivalent provisions within Regulation 17 to the extent necessary to enable their enforcement.

2. Definitions¹¹

- 2.1 “**Constituent Body**” shall mean a Union member or duly recognised entity within the territory of the Union responsible for the running of Matches involving Underage Players and/or participation of Underage Players in the Game and imposition of sanctions in the Underage Game (including primary and second level educational institutions).
- 2.2 “**Underage Players**” shall mean those players below the Age of Majority at the level of Game below International Match and/or cross-border match level within the territory of the Union. For the avoidance of doubt such provisions shall not apply to any Underage professional, semi-professional or Rugby academy Players or to those playing adult Rugby.

3. Disciplinary Personnel

- 3.1 The Union shall develop and/or approve a process for the appointment by it or its designated Constituent Bodies of suitable and experienced

¹¹ All other definitions in the Guidelines are as per Regulation 1 of the World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game.

personnel to an Underage disciplinary panel and (where appropriate) an accompanying accreditation system to deal with cases involving Foul Play by Underage Players. Such panel shall comprise persons who can act in a disciplinary and/or appeals capacity.

3.2 The Union and/or its designated Constituent Bodies may appoint a single **“Disciplinary Officer”** (or a Disciplinary Committee) to deal with cases of Foul Play for Underage Players. An appeals process should also be developed.

3.3 All appointees to the Underage disciplinary panel and (where appointed) accredited personnel shall have an in-depth knowledge of the Game and its disciplinary process, be either a lawyer, judge or senior member of an educational institution (such as the principal, vice principal or head teacher), be accustomed to dealing with Underage Players and meet any national imposed criteria for engaging / interacting with Underage Players.

3.4 Neutrality of the appointee(s) to the parties is desirable but can be waived by agreement save where there is a conflict of interest scenario.

3.5 The appointed disciplinary personnel shall carry out their functions in a manner that recognises the following fundamental principles – including the need to ensure:

- (a) the provision of a comfortable and safe hearing environment for the Underage Player;
- (b) the adoption of a structured but less formal approach to the proceedings;
- (c) the adherence to the principles of natural justice which should be made known to the Underage Player (and their representative) at the outset; and
- (d) be administered by people who are accustomed to dealing with children.

4. Sanctioning

4.1 Where the Guidelines are adopted, the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Adjusted for the Underage Rugby shall apply to all Underage Players. These Sanctions have been established on a per Match basis.

4.2 It is recognised that for Underage Players restorative justice and community sanctions, alongside mentoring, educational development and supervision are all effective mechanisms in dealing with the treatment of breaches for Underage Players. Therefore, augmenting playing sanctions with non-playing sanctions for Underage Players is considered appropriate for this age-group.

- 4.3 Disciplinary personnel in the imposition of sanctions for Underage Players may consider the imposition of non-playing sanctions (such as suspension from membership of a team or club or from social activities, loss of privileges, detention etc.) in addition to the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Adjusted for the Underage Rugby.
- 4.4 In terms of the application of Sanctions the following principles apply:
 - 4.4.1 The Core Sanctioning Process in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 shall be followed;
 - 4.4.2 Regulation 17.19.1 allows the youth and inexperience of the Player to be taken into account for (off-field) mitigation purposes. In the Underage Game this is particularly pertinent;
 - 4.4.3 Regulation 17.19.2 permits up to a maximum of 50% discount on the entry point sanction – this allows great flexibility;
 - 4.4.4 Where a matter is determined to be low end offending (following the assessment under Regulation 17.18.1) and there are off field mitigating factors and the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the level and type of offending involved, in these cases a sanction below 50% of the sanction may apply;
 - 4.4.5 Education based sanctions shall be supplemental to the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Adjusted for the Underage Rugby.
- 5. Enforcement**
 - 5.1 It is the responsibility of the Union where it introduces these Guidelines to ensure that they are implemented in a consistent and cohesive manner. The Union shall exercise its supervisory jurisdiction in this regard and introduce relevant rules to support such review.
 - 5.2 Where a Union implements these Guidelines it shall:
 - 5.2.1 so inform World Rugby and provide a copy of the empowering regulations;
 - 5.2.2 keep an account (on an annual basis) of the cases and decisions which arise under these Guidelines and make them available to World Rugby upon request;
 - 5.2.3 provide suitable educational materials and training to the disciplinary panel (and as applicable accredited) personnel on the implementation of the Guidelines and the application of the disciplinary process.
 - 5.3 Any sanctions imposed under the Guidelines for the Underage Game are intended to carry through into adult rugby where applicable.
 - 5.4 Where adopted, these Guidelines shall be treated as enforceable by World Rugby in the same way as Regulation 17.

WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17) ADJUSTED FOR UNDERAGE RUGBY

Note: Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction¹².

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12 + matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
Intentional contact with Eye(s)¹³	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
Reckless contact with Eye(s)¹⁴	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
Contact with Eye Area¹⁵	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm (including stiff-arm tackle), elbow or shoulder	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Leading with the forearm	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
Striking with head¹⁶	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches:	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Striking with knee	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

¹² The note does not apply to the following Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red-card threshold: 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling).

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

Stamping or Trampling	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Tripping	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Kicking	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: warning ¹⁷	Mid-range: 1 match	Top-end: 2+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

- 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

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Spitting at anyone	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 18+ matches
Other	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

¹⁷ A Warning shall form part of the Players disciplinary record while at Underage level but not extend into their senior disciplinary record.

9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

9.2.8 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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches

9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 12 matches	Mid-range: 24 matches	Top-end: 48+ matches

APPENDIX 4. SANCTIONS GUIDANCE FOR ACCUMULATION OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS AND/OR CITING COMMISSIONER WARNINGS

1. There is deliberately no guidance within the World Rugby sanctions table(s) to assist a Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee to determine the appropriate sanction in relation to accumulated Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings. This is an area where judicial discretion is required given the multiple permutations that could emerge. A Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee may be required to consider whether to apply sanctions against Players for accumulation of Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings in two circumstances:
 - (a) where a Player has received three Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings (or a combination thereof) in a particular tournament or series and/or five Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings in a season of the World Rugby Sevens Series and the Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee is required to consider whether any further penalty should be imposed by reason of the Player's persistent Foul Play (Regulations 17.9.5 and 17.37.2(a)); or
 - (b) where a Player has received two Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings in one Match which in the case of a Temporary Suspension led to him being Ordered Off on receipt of the second temporary suspension (Regulation 17.9.4).
2. It is assumed for the purposes of this Appendix that none of the relevant Temporary Suspensions resulted in a subsequent citing which was upheld by a Judicial Officer. In such cases the Temporary Suspension event which has been cited falls away and is replaced by the decision arising from the citing.
 - A. Player receives three Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings in a Tournament/Series or five in a Sevens Series**
 1. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each Temporary Suspension and/or Citing Commissioner Warning. Ordinarily, the appropriate entry point sanction in such circumstances is a suspension of one to three weeks depending upon the seriousness of the offending. Sanctioning in these circumstances should be determined by reference to the methodology in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 and in particular to the application of mitigating and aggravating features.
 2. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee may, however, decide to apply no sanction in the following circumstances:
 - (a) where one or more of the Temporary Suspensions and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings was applied as a result of mistaken identity; or

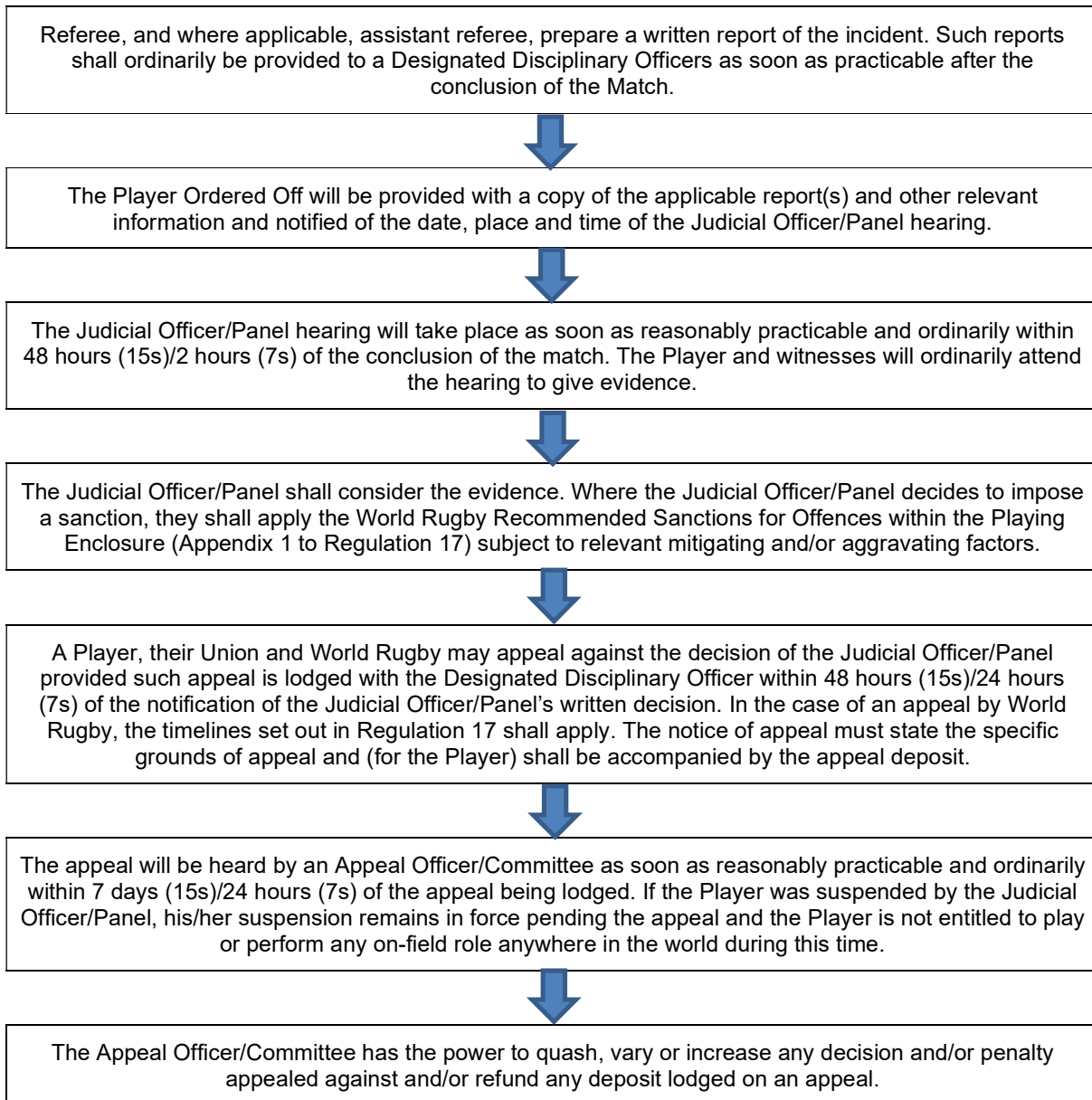
- (b) exceptional circumstances exist which would warrant no sanction being imposed. This situation could arise when:
 - (i) a Player was temporarily suspended for an act of Foul Play but on review it was clear that there was no Foul Play or only a minor act of Foul Play had been committed which would not have warranted a Temporary Suspension or Citing Commissioner Warning;
 - (ii) some of the Temporary Suspensions were awarded for technical offences (that is, not Foul Play) following a team warning by the referee or for what are characterised as so-called technical offences not involving a breach of Laws 9.11 to 9.28 inclusive.

B. Player receives two Temporary Suspensions/Citing Commissioner Warnings in one Match

1. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each Temporary Suspension and/or Citing Commissioner Warning. Ordinarily, the appropriate entry point for persistent offending within a single Match is a suspension of one to two weeks. Sanctioning in these circumstances should be determined by reference to the methodology in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 and in particular to the application of mitigating and aggravating features.
2. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee may decide that sending off was sufficient (or otherwise that no further sanction is appropriate) in the following circumstances:
 - (a) where either of the Temporary Suspensions or Citing Commissioner Warnings was applied as a result of mistaken identity; or
 - (b) that exceptional circumstances exist which would warrant no further sanctions being imposed. This situation could arise when a Player was temporarily suspended for an act of Foul Play but on review it was clear that there was no Foul Play or only a minor act of Foul Play had been committed which would not have warranted a Temporary Suspension and/or Citing Commissioner Warning;
 - (c) any of the Temporary Suspensions were awarded for so-called technical offences (including following a team warning) not involving a breach of Laws 9.11 to 9.28 inclusive.

APPENDIX 5. SUMMARY DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Summary of Process when a Player is Ordered Off



Summary of Process when a Player is Cited

Citing Commissioners may cite a Player for Foul Play, which in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner warranted the Player concerned being Ordered Off, notwithstanding that the act of Foul Play may have been detected by the referee and/or assistant referee.



Citing Complaints must ordinarily be made by the Citing Commissioner to a Designated Disciplinary Officer within 48 hours (15s)/60 minutes (7s) of the completion of the Match in which the Foul Play is alleged to have occurred (or before the deadline set by the Tournament Organiser).



Participating Unions are not entitled to cite Players, but they may refer acts of Foul Play to the Citing Commissioner for consideration, provided such reference is made within 24 hours (15s)/30 minutes (7s) of the conclusion of the Match. The Citing Commissioner decides whether or not to pursue a citing complaint and his/her decision is final.



If a citing complaint is initiated by a Citing Commissioner, a copy of the complaint and other relevant information is sent to the Player and the matter will be referred to a Judicial Officer/Panel.



A Judicial Officer/Panel will hear the citing complaint as soon as reasonably practicable and ordinarily within 48 hours (15s)/2 hours (7s) of the conclusion of the relevant match and will consider evidence from the Player and other relevant witnesses.



The Judicial Officer/Panel shall consider the evidence and determine whether the act(s) of Foul Play have been committed and whether they were worthy of a red card. Where the Judicial Officer/Panel decides to impose a sanction, they shall apply the World Rugby Recommended Sanctions for Offences within the Playing Enclosure (Appendix 1 to Regulation 17) subject to relevant mitigating and/or aggravating factors.



A Player, their Union and World Rugby may appeal against the decision of the Judicial Officer/Panel provided such appeal is lodged with the Designated Disciplinary Officer within 48 hours (15s)/24 hours (7s) of the notification of the Judicial Officer/Panel's written decision. In the case of an appeal by World Rugby, the timelines set out in Regulation 17 shall apply. The notice of appeal must state the specific grounds of appeal and (for the Player) shall be accompanied by the appeal deposit.



The appeal will be heard by an Appeal Officer/Committee as soon as reasonably practicable and ordinarily within 7 days (15s)/24 hours (7s) of the appeal being lodged. If the Player was suspended by the Judicial Officer/Panel, his/her suspension remains in force pending the appeal and the Player is not entitled to play or perform any on-field role anywhere in the world during this time.



The Appeal Officer/Committee has the power to quash, vary or increase any decision and/or penalty appealed against and/or refund any deposit lodged on an appeal.



ANNEX THREE

Regulation 8: Eligibility to Play for National Representative Teams

- **60 Month Residency Requirement implementation**

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

Regulation 8

The World Rugby Council at its Interim Meeting on November 24, 2021 **AGREED** that:

- (1) The implementation date for the Regulation 8, 60 month residency requirement for eligibility is confirmed as **January 1, 2022**.
- (2) That Unions, on a case-by-case basis, may apply to the Regulations Committee for permission to extend the 36-month residency period to a player post December 31, 2021 provided (i) the player had met the 36-month residency criteria by December 31, 2020 **and** (ii) the Union applying for such permission has not played a “capturing” match (in Fifteens or Sevens) during the pandemic period since December 31, 2020.



ANNEX FOUR

World Rugby Laws of the Game – Sevens Variation

- **Addition of Law 6.37**

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

World Rugby Laws of the Game – Sevens Variation

Law 6.37

6.37 In-goal judges are not required when a TMO is present



ANNEX FIVE

***GAME-ON* Law Variations for the Community Game**

Implementation date: January 1, 2022



Variations

GAME-ON



The laws of the game apply to the game-on global variations, in full, subject to the following variations which can be applied on a discretionary basis by unions and regions. These may be selected on an individual basis and there is no requirement to use all at once.

The game-on global variations are aimed at the lower end of the community game where recruitment and retention are often major challenges. It is each union's responsibility to determine what constitutes community within their jurisdiction.

LAW 1: THE GROUND

3. The dimensions of the playing area are shown in the ground diagram.

Replaced by:

3. The dimensions of a pitch are adaptable and should meet the needs of the community and the number of players, for example: 10-a-side on half a pitch, playing touchline to touchline with all conversions at one set of posts.

LAW 2: BALL

Addition:

4. Community adult players may use size 4, 4.5 or 5 balls.

LAW 3: TEAM

2. A match organiser may authorise matches to be played with fewer than 15 players in each team.

Replaced by:

2. A match organiser may authorise matches to be played with fewer than 15 players in each team with a minimum of 10. Teams must be equal in number.

13. Scrums will become uncontested if either team cannot field a suitably trained front row or if the referee so orders.

Replaced by:

13. Even from the start of the match, in the event that either team cannot field a suitably trained front row or if the referee so orders, scrums must be uncontested.

14. A match organiser may stipulate the conditions under which a game may start with uncontested scrums.

Replaced by:

14. A match organiser may stipulate that games can be played with reduced numbers in the scrum, uncontested scrums or the under-19 variation of 1.5m push only. Teams must be equal in number.

34. A match organiser may implement rolling tactical replacements at defined levels of the game within its jurisdiction. The number of interchanges must not exceed 12. The administration and rules relating to rolling replacements are the responsibility of the match organiser.

Replaced by:

34. A match organiser may implement “rolling substitutions” whereby players are able to return to the field of play as long as they are not injured. There are no limits on the number of interchanges.

Addition:

OTHER GAME-ON VARIATIONS

Addition:

35. A match organiser can also apply the half-game rule whereby all players must play at least half a match.

Addition:

36. A match organiser can target specific population groups as a recruitment / retention initiative with weight-based competitions, for example: under 70kg.

LAW 5: TIME

3. In non-international matches, the match organiser may decide to reduce the length of a match. If the match organiser does not decide, the teams agree on the length of a match. If they cannot agree, the referee decides.

Replaced by:

3. Games should last a minimum of 40 minutes, but can be split into equal halves, quarters or thirds.

LAW 8: SCORING

4. The kicker:
- b. Takes the kick in the field of play on a line through the place where the try was awarded, parallel to the touchlines.

Replaced by:

- b. If stipulated by the match organiser, takes the kick in front of the posts.

LAW 9: FOUL PLAY

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.

Replaced by:

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 waist line, even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders. Waist can be replaced with “nipple line” so effectively match organisers have three choices: shoulder (as is current law), nipple line or waist height.

LAW 14: TACKLE

PRINCIPLE

Addition:

If match organisers utilise the game-on global waist height tackle variation, it is recommended that they also ensure that ball-carriers do not drop their body height and that double-tackles are sanctioned.

LAW 17: MARK

4. A mark may not be claimed from a kick-off or a restart kick after a score.

Replaced by:

4. A mark may not be claimed from a kick-off, a restart kick after a score or from an attacking kick from within the 22m.

LAW 18: TOUCH, QUICK THROW AND LINEOUT

PRINCIPLE

Addition:

Match organisers may determine that teams should not lift and/ or contest in the lineout.

LAW 19: SCRUM

Addition:

40. Match organisers can reduce the numbers in a contested scrum (subject to law 19.6), apply the under-19 variation of 1.5m maximum push, or implement uncontested scrums.

LAW 20: PENALTY AND FREE-KICK

8. The kicker may punt, drop-kick or place-kick (other than for touch) the ball.

Replaced by:

8. If the penalty or free-kick is taken within the team's own half, the kicker may punt, drop-kick or place-kick (other than for touch) the ball. If it is taken within the opponents' half, the penalty or free-kick must be tapped and played immediately.



ANNEX SIX

Law 9.11: Dangerous Play – Reclassification

- **Consequential amendment to Head Contact Process: Law Application Guidelines**
- **Consequential amendment to Head Contact Process: Coaching Intervention**
- **Consequential amendment to Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play**

Implementation date: December 1, 2021

Law 9.11

Dangerous play

11. Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.
12. A player must not physically or verbally abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, biting, punching, contact with the eye or eye area, striking with any part of the arm (~~including stiff-arm tackles~~), shoulder, head or knee(s), stamping, trampling, tripping or kicking.
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.
14. A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.
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.
16. A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.
17. A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.
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.
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.
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.
 - 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.

GLOBAL LAW TRIAL

A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs.

21. A player must not retaliate.
22. Teams must not use the 'flying wedge'.
23. A player must not attempt to kick the ball from the hands of the ball-carrier.

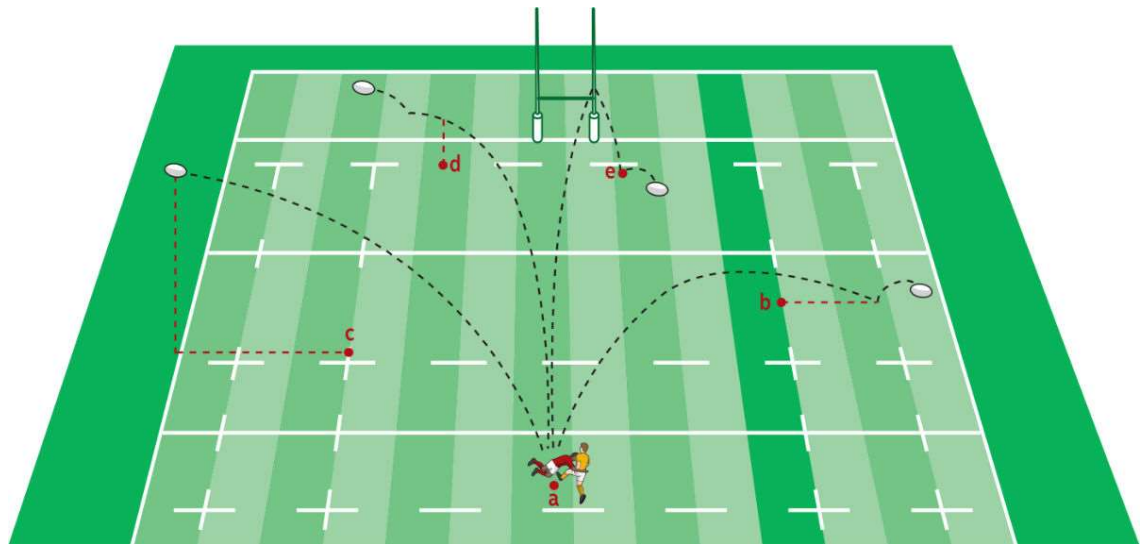
24. A ball-carrier is permitted to hand off an opponent provided excessive force is not used.

Sanction: Penalty.

25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Sanction: Penalty. The non-offending team chooses to take the penalty either:

- a. At the place of the infringement; or
- b. Where the ball lands or is next played but not nearer than 15 metres from the touchline; or
- c. If the ball is kicked directly into touch, on the 15-metre line in line with where the ball crossed the touchline; or
- d. If the ball lands in in-goal, touch-in-goal or on or over the dead-ball line, five metres from the goal line in line with where the ball crossed the goal line and at least 15 metres from the touchline; or
- e. If the ball hits a goal post or crossbar, where the ball lands.

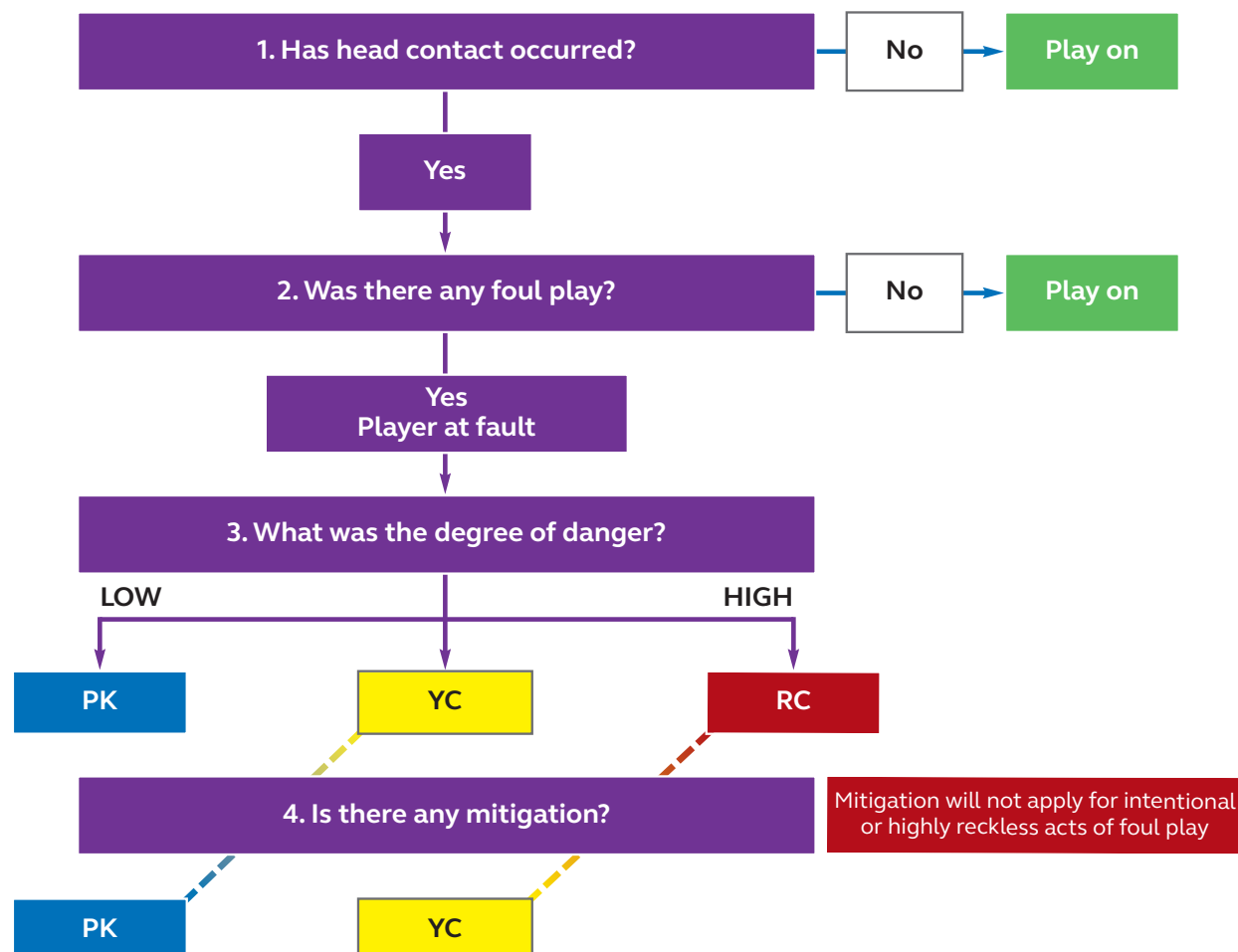


Late charging the kicker

26. In open play, any player may lift or support a team-mate. Players who do so must lower that player to the ground safely as soon as the ball is won by either team. **Sanction: Free-kick.**

Head Contact Process

March 2021



Context

Player welfare drives World Rugby's decision making for zero tolerance of foul play, especially where head contact occurs.

The focus must be on the actions of those involved, not the injury - the need for an HIA does not necessarily mean that there has been illegal head contact.

The 'power of choice' for tacklers is crucial, especially as 72% of head injuries occur in the tackle.

There needs to be an understanding that tacklers stay up to allow them to 'adjust and react' - dropping quickly into the low tackle entry position - using their 'eyes and feet' to get their timing right.

It is important that coaches and players continually develop safe tackling techniques in training.

Aims of the Head Contact Process


The process is designed to protect the head, neck and throat area of players.

The process can be applied to:

- High tackles
- Shoulder charges
- Dangerous cleanouts
- Head-to-head collisions
- Leading elbow / forearm

The Head Contact Process is a Law Application Guideline. Under 9.11, the referee is always entitled to issue a red or yellow card for anything deemed to be reckless or dangerous. However, this process is intended to aid consistency in the application of sanctions by providing guidance on how contact with the head should be approached by match officials and disciplinary personnel.

LAW 9 Foul play



DANGEROUS PLAY

11. Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others **including leading with the elbow or forearm.**

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.

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.

b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.

This includes head-on-head

Process questions and considerations

1. Has head contact occurred?

Head contact includes neck and throat area

2. Was there foul play?

Considerations:

- Intentional
- Reckless
- Avoidable

3. What was the degree of danger?

Considerations include:

- Direct vs indirect contact
- High force vs low force

4. Is there any mitigation?

Considerations include:

- Line of sight
- Sudden and significant drop or movement
- Clear attempt to change height
- Level of control
- Upright - passive vs dynamic

Mitigation will not apply for intentional or highly reckless acts of foul play

Trigger words for match officials

Match officials may wish to use the non-exhaustive list of trigger words below to help them identify whether a player is at fault, the degree of danger involved and whether any mitigation should be applied.

PLAY ON

No fault

- Sudden and significant drop in height by the ball carrier
- Player had no time to readjust
- Passive action
- Involuntary collision
- No leading arm when close to the body

PK

YC

Low danger

- Indirect contact
- Low force
- Low speed
- Passive
- No leading head / shoulder / forearm

RC

High danger

- Direct contact
- Lack of control
- High speed
- Upright and dynamic
- Leading head / shoulder / elbow / forearm
- Swinging arm
- No mitigation for intentional or highly reckless act of foul play

Mitigation

- Sudden / significant drop in height or change in direction from ball carrier
- A late change in dynamics due to another player in the contact
- An effort to wrap / bind and having no time to adjust



Head Contact Process

Coaching Intervention Application

Player's Team:				Player Number:			
Full Name of Player:							
Venue:				Date of Incident:			
Match Result			pts			pts	
Details of Coach who will be responsible for implementing Coaching Intervention: <i>(insert)</i> Name: Email address: Telephone Number:							

Nature of Offence: (select Law(s) under which the Player was sanctioned)		
Law		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.11	Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others. <i>(insert details as appropriate)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.11	Leading with the forearm or elbow.	
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.	
	<i>(insert details as appropriate):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.20(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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.20(b)	A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<i>(Please specify Law):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Details of offence: (select relevant period and provide time elapsed)						
Period of game when incident occurred	1 st half	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 nd half	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra time	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Elapsed time in half:	
Did the Player receive a red card or was he/she cited by the Citing Commissioner? <i>(select relevant box)</i>					Red card:	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Cited:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give details of technical errors contributing to the foul play, and the Coaching Intervention undertaken to address them <i>(insert below, using additional pages if necessary)</i>	
1. What are the perceived fault(s) that contributed to the illegal head contact? <i>{identify max 3 issues}</i>	
1.	
2.	
3.	
2. For the illegal action, what key aspects are you looking to improve?	
1.	
2.	
3.	



Head Contact Process

Coaching Intervention Application

3. What drills or scenarios did you complete, in order to modify the illegal action?
1.
2.
3.
4. Please provide video evidence of the drills/ scenarios undertaken (<i>attach to email or provide link to access files</i>)
5. What is your ongoing plan for technique modification? (<i>e.g. type of intervention and timeframe</i>)

INFORMATION FOR TEAMS:

1. This report must be completed and sent, together with video footage of the Coaching Intervention, to HCPCoachingIntervention@world.rugby within **7 days** of the full written disciplinary decision.
2. On receipt, a member of the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Expert Reviewer Panel will review the Coaching Intervention within **3 days**.
3. The World Rugby Coaching Intervention Expert Reviewer will contact the Coach using the details provided at the top of the form to discuss the intervention and any issues identified by the Reviewer.
4. Once approved by the Reviewer, World Rugby will send a confirmation of completion to the Coach and the Competition in which the foul play incident took place, confirming that the final week/match of the player's suspension has been substituted by a successful Coaching Intervention.
5. In exceptional cases where agreement cannot be reached on the Coaching Intervention between the Reviewer and the Coach, World Rugby will inform the Coach and the Competition in which the foul play incident took place that the Coaching Intervention has not been successful and the player remains suspended for the final week/match of the player's suspension.
6. Data will be processed in accordance with World Rugby's Privacy Policy which can be read here: [World Rugby](#)
7. Footage of Coaching Intervention may be used by World Rugby for educational purposes and by submitting this application form, the Coach confirms that the necessary consents have been obtained from all parties whose images are contained in the footage.

INFORMATION FOR DISCIPLINARY PANELS

1. World Rugby has introduced a centralised Coaching Intervention Programme as a positive measure to further encourage changes in player behaviour to reduce head contact and head injuries.
2. The Coaching Intervention Programme is only available in cases of foul play involving the World Rugby Head Contact Process.
3. Players may apply under the Coaching Intervention Programme to substitute the final week/match of a suspension with a Coaching Intervention that targets the specific technical issue that contributed to the act of foul play.
4. Access to the Coaching Intervention Programme is discretionary and depends on approval from the Disciplinary Panel. In the event of a malicious act of foul play for example, a Panel may determine that it would not be appropriate to grant access but generally, Panels are encouraged to grant the player access to facilitate this positive measure.
5. Following the imposition of a sanction, Panels are requested to do the following:
 - a. Where possible, indicate the specific matches to which the sanction applies
 - b. Note that the player has indicated that he/she intends to apply for the Coaching Intervention
 - c. Note that the Panel has agreed/not agreed to permit the player to apply for the Coaching Intervention
 - d. Note that in the event of the player receiving a confirmation of completion from World Rugby, the final specified match of the player's suspension will be substituted by the successful Coaching Intervention
6. Please note that sanctions should still be expressed as the full number of matches e.g. 3 matches rather than the number of matches following the Coaching Intervention.
7. The Panel is not required to monitor or record details of the application for or completion of the Coaching Intervention, this is done centrally by World Rugby.
8. In the event that any Panel has any queries, it may contact HCPCoachingIntervention@world.rugby

APPENDIX 1. WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17)

Note: Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction⁵

Note: Where a Player receives a mid-range or top end sanction, a Disciplinary Committee/Judicial Officer/Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer may, at its discretion, agree that one week of the sanction may be replaced by a “Coaching Intervention” that complies with the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme⁶

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Intentional Contact with Eye(s) ⁷	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) ⁸	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area ⁹	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm-(including stiff-arm tackle), elbow or shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
<u>Leading with the forearm</u>	<u>Low-end: 2 weeks/matches</u>	<u>Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches</u>	<u>Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches</u>	<u>Max: 52 weeks/matches</u>

⁵ The note does not apply to the following:

(i) -Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red-card threshold: 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling);

⁶ The World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme is only available for foul play offences occurring under the “Head Contact Process”

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

APPENDIX 2. FORM 1. STANDARD FORM REFEREE'S REPORT ON AN ORDERING OFF – INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 1



Referee's Report on an Ordering Off

OFFICIATING

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)												
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24		
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25		
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26		
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27		
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28		
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half		
Proximity of Official(s) to incident									metres			
Score at that time							pts					pts
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes		No		b) General		Yes		No	
Was the Player ordered off further to the report of an Assistant Referee? (If yes, a separate form may need to be completed and submitted by the assistant referee)									Yes		No	

Referee's Name		Union	
----------------	--	-------	--

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH

APPENDIX 2. FORM 2. STANDARD FORM ASSISTANT REFEREE'S REPORT ON AN ORDERING OFF – INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 2



Assistant Referee's Report on an Ordering Off

OFFICIATING

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)												
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24		
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25		
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26		
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27		
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28		
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half		
Proximity of Official(s) to incident									metres			
Score at that time							pts					pts
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes		No		b) General		Yes		No	

Assistant Referee's Name		Union	
Referee's Name		Union	

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH

APPENDIX 2.

FORM 3(A). STANDARD FORM CITING
COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – INTERNATIONAL
MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 3(A)



Citing Commissioner Report

DISCIPLINARY

Player's Union		Player Number	
Full Name of Player			
Venue		Date of Incident	
Match Result		pts	pts
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the forearm <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the elbow		<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. <input type="checkbox"/> Biting <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with eye area <input type="checkbox"/> Punching or striking with hand or arm <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with elbow		<input type="checkbox"/> Striking with the shoulder <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with head <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with knee <input type="checkbox"/> Stamping or trampling <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. <input type="checkbox"/> (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul <input type="checkbox"/> (b) A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders <input type="checkbox"/> (c) A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship. <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling or grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at anyone <input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.		<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials	
Period (of game when incident occurred)			
1 st Half	2 nd Half	Extra time	Elapsed time in half
Proximity of Official(s) to incident		Metres	
Score at that time		pts	pts

Appendix 2 – Form 3(A)



Citing Commissioner Report

DISCIPLINARY

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Citing Commissioner	Date
---------------------	------

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE CITING PERIOD

BUILDING CHARACTER SINCE 1886

APPENDIX 2

FORM 3(B). STANDARD FORM CITING
COMMISSIONER WARNING -INTERNATIONAL
MATCH

Appendix 2 – Form 3(B)



Citing Commissioner Warning

DISCIPLINARY

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result				pts			pts
Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)							
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the forearm <input type="checkbox"/> 9.11 Leading with the elbow				<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. <input type="checkbox"/> Biting <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless contact with eye(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Contact with eye area <input type="checkbox"/> Punching or striking with hand or arm <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with elbow				<input type="checkbox"/> Striking with the shoulder <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with head <input type="checkbox"/> Striking with knee <input type="checkbox"/> Stamping or trampling <input type="checkbox"/> Tripping <input type="checkbox"/> Kicking			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. <input type="checkbox"/> (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul <input type="checkbox"/> (b) A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders <input type="checkbox"/> (c) A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship. <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling or grabbing <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at anyone <input type="checkbox"/> Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials. <input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.				<input type="checkbox"/> 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials			
Period (of game when incident occurred) 1 st Half <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Half <input type="checkbox"/> Extra time <input type="checkbox"/> Elapsed time in half							
Proximity of Official(s) to incident				Metres			
Score at that time				pts			pts

Appendix 2 – Form 3(B)



Citing Commissioner Warning

DISCIPLINARY

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]

Citing Commissioner	Date
---------------------	------

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO THE DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL AND SHALL FORM PART OF THE PLAYER'S DISCIPLINARY RECORD

NOTE TO PLAYER: You may challenge this Citing Commissioner Warning within 48 hours (15s) / 12 hours (7s) of its notification to you by giving notice to the Designated Disciplinary Official and, ordinarily, specifying reasons

FORM 4. STANDARD FORM REFEREE'S REPORT ON A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION



OFFICIATING

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)													
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24			
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25			
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26			
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27			
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28			
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half			
Proximity of Official(s) to incident										metres			
Score at that time							pts						pts
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes		No		b) General		Yes		No		
Was the Player ordered off further to the report of an Assistant Referee? (If yes, a separate form may need to be completed and submitted by the assistant referee)									Yes		No		

[illegible]

Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

NOTE TO PLAYER: You may challenge this Temporary Suspension within **48 hours (15s) / 12 hours (7s)** of its notification to you by giving notice to the Designated Disciplinary Official and, ordinarily, specifying reasons

APPENDIX 2 FORM 5. STANDARD FORM ASSISTANT REFEREE'S REPORT ON A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Appendix 2 – Form 5



Assistant Referee's Report on a Temporary Suspension

OFFICIATING

Player's Union				Player Number			
Full Name of Player							
Venue				Date of Incident			
Match Result			pts				pts

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)												
Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	Law	✓	
3.7		9.7 (c)		9.10		9.14		9.19		9.24		
4.7		9.7 (d)		9.11		9.15		9.20		9.25		
9.7 (a)		9.8		9.12		9.16		9.21		9.26		
9.7 (b)		9.9		9.13		9.17		9.22		9.27		
Please give a short description of the Law						9.18		9.23		9.28		
Period (of game when incident occurred):				1 st Half		2 nd Half		Extra time		Elapsed time in half		
Proximity of Official(s) to incident								metres				
Score at that time					pts						pts	
Had any cautions been issued to		a) Individual	Yes		No		b) General		Yes		No	

Assistant Referee's Name		Union	
Referee's Name		Union	

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

[illegible]


Signed		Date	
--------	--	------	--

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH

NOTE TO PLAYER: You may challenge this Temporary Suspension within **48 hours (15s) / 12 hours (7s)** of its notification to you by giving notice to the Designated Disciplinary Official and, ordinarily, specifying reasons

APPENDIX 2 FORM 6. WORLD RUGBY DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE/
JUDICIAL OFFICER'S HEARING REPORT

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	[insert] v [insert]		
	[insert]	Competition	[insert]
Date of match	[insert]	Match venue	[insert]
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program; or Other [insert]		

[insert logo e.g.]

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	[insert]	Date of birth	[insert]
Forename(s)	[insert]		
Referee Name	[insert]	Plea	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	[Select] *for drop down list, see attached	SELECT: Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	[insert] weeks/matches OR No Sanction [delete as appropriate]		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	[from calendar]	Hearing venue	[insert]
Chairman/JO	[insert]		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	[insert] (ex-[insert team/referee] etc) [insert] (ex-[insert team/referee] etc)		
Appearance Player	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance Union	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Player's Representative(s)		Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing			

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

FINDINGS OF FACT

DECISION

Breach admitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Proven <input type="checkbox"/>	Not proven <input type="checkbox"/>	Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
--	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Intentional <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless <input type="checkbox"/>
State Reasons
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Conduct completed/attempted – R 17.18.1(k) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Other features of player's conduct – R 17.18.1(l) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
Top end*	Weeks/Matches	Mid-range	Weeks/Matches	Low-end	Weeks/Matches
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making this assessment, the JO/Committee should consider World Rugby Regulations 17.18.1(a), 17.18.1(g), and 17.18.1(h) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing – R 17.19.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Player's disciplinary record/good character – R 17.19.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Youth and inexperience of player – R 17.19.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – R 17.19.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Remorse and timing of remorse – R 17.19.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Other off-field mitigation – R 17.19.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Number of weeks/matches deducted:

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – R 17.20.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Need for deterrence – R 17.20.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 17.20.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Number of additional weeks/matches:

SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED BY A CITING COMMISSIONER ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE. SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – R 17.12.5(f) / 17.13.7 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	[insert]	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences		
Sanction concludes		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction		
Costs		

Signature (JO or Chairman)	_____	Date	_____
-------------------------------	-------	------	-------

NOTE: YOU HAVE 48 HOURS FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – R 17.24.2(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

[Standard Appeal Directions to appear on this page]

APPENDIX 3. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES FOR UNDERAGE GAME

A. Introduction

These Guidelines have been made available by World Rugby for Unions who wish to implement a specific disciplinary regime at the Underage Game level which reflects the age of the Players, the truncated playing season of such Players and the likelihood for non-Match based sanctions to be imposed in particular for school-boys and girls.

The Disciplinary Guidelines for the Underage Game (the “**Guidelines**”) may be adopted by Unions at their sole election. If adopted, in order to ensure that the principle of universality is maintained the Guidelines must be implemented in their entirety including the application of the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Table adjusted for Underage Rugby contained in the Guidelines.

1. Additional Rules in the Underage Game

- 1.1 Where a Union so elects as part of its rules, the following provisions relating to Discipline for Foul Play in the Underage Game shall apply to Underage Players within its jurisdiction.
- 1.2 For the purposes of Regulation 17.3.1(a) these Underage Game provisions shall not constitute a breach of Regulation 17. These rules shall replace the equivalent provisions within Regulation 17 to the extent necessary to enable their enforcement.

2. Definitions¹¹

- 2.1 “**Constituent Body**” shall mean a Union member or duly recognised entity within the territory of the Union responsible for the running of Matches involving Underage Players and/or participation of Underage Players in the Game and imposition of sanctions in the Underage Game (including primary and second level educational institutions).
- 2.2 “**Underage Players**” shall mean those players below the Age of Majority at the level of Game below International Match and/or cross-border match level within the territory of the Union. For the avoidance of doubt such provisions shall not apply to any Underage professional, semi-professional or Rugby academy Players or to those playing adult Rugby.

3. Disciplinary Personnel

- 3.1 The Union shall develop and/or approve a process for the appointment by it or its designated Constituent Bodies of suitable and experienced

¹¹ All other definitions in the Guidelines are as per Regulation 1 of the World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game.

personnel to an Underage disciplinary panel and (where appropriate) an accompanying accreditation system to deal with cases involving Foul Play by Underage Players. Such panel shall comprise persons who can act in a disciplinary and/or appeals capacity.

3.2 The Union and/or its designated Constituent Bodies may appoint a single **“Disciplinary Officer”** (or a Disciplinary Committee) to deal with cases of Foul Play for Underage Players. An appeals process should also be developed.

3.3 All appointees to the Underage disciplinary panel and (where appointed) accredited personnel shall have an in-depth knowledge of the Game and its disciplinary process, be either a lawyer, judge or senior member of an educational institution (such as the principal, vice principal or head teacher), be accustomed to dealing with Underage Players and meet any national imposed criteria for engaging / interacting with Underage Players.

3.4 Neutrality of the appointee(s) to the parties is desirable but can be waived by agreement save where there is a conflict of interest scenario.

3.5 The appointed disciplinary personnel shall carry out their functions in a manner that recognises the following fundamental principles – including the need to ensure:

- (a) the provision of a comfortable and safe hearing environment for the Underage Player;
- (b) the adoption of a structured but less formal approach to the proceedings;
- (c) the adherence to the principles of natural justice which should be made known to the Underage Player (and their representative) at the outset; and
- (d) be administered by people who are accustomed to dealing with children.

4. Sanctioning

4.1 Where the Guidelines are adopted, the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Adjusted for the Underage Rugby shall apply to all Underage Players. These Sanctions have been established on a per Match basis.

4.2 It is recognised that for Underage Players restorative justice and community sanctions, alongside mentoring, educational development and supervision are all effective mechanisms in dealing with the treatment of breaches for Underage Players. Therefore, augmenting playing sanctions with non-playing sanctions for Underage Players is considered appropriate for this age-group.

- 4.3 Disciplinary personnel in the imposition of sanctions for Underage Players may consider the imposition of non-playing sanctions (such as suspension from membership of a team or club or from social activities, loss of privileges, detention etc.) in addition to the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Adjusted for the Underage Rugby.
- 4.4 In terms of the application of Sanctions the following principles apply:
- 4.4.1 The Core Sanctioning Process in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 shall be followed;
- 4.4.2 Regulation 17.19.1 allows the youth and inexperience of the Player to be taken into account for (off-field) mitigation purposes. In the Underage Game this is particularly pertinent;
- 4.4.3 Regulation 17.19.2 permits up to a maximum of 50% discount on the entry point sanction – this allows great flexibility;
- 4.4.4 Where a matter is determined to be low end offending (following the assessment under Regulation 17.18.1) and there are off field mitigating factors and the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the level and type of offending involved, in these cases a sanction below 50% of the sanction may apply;
- 4.4.5 Education based sanctions shall be supplemental to the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play Adjusted for the Underage Rugby.
- 5. Enforcement**
- 5.1 It is the responsibility of the Union where it introduces these Guidelines to ensure that they are implemented in a consistent and cohesive manner. The Union shall exercise its supervisory jurisdiction in this regard and introduce relevant rules to support such review.
- 5.2 Where a Union implements these Guidelines it shall:
- 5.2.1 so inform World Rugby and provide a copy of the empowering regulations;
- 5.2.2 keep an account (on an annual basis) of the cases and decisions which arise under these Guidelines and make them available to World Rugby upon request;
- 5.2.3 provide suitable educational materials and training to the disciplinary panel (and as applicable accredited) personnel on the implementation of the Guidelines and the application of the disciplinary process.
- 5.3 Any sanctions imposed under the Guidelines for the Underage Game are intended to carry through into adult rugby where applicable.
- 5.4 Where adopted, these Guidelines shall be treated as enforceable by World Rugby in the same way as Regulation 17.

WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17) ADJUSTED FOR UNDERAGE RUGBY

Note: Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction¹².

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12 + matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
Intentional contact with Eye(s)¹³	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
Reckless contact with Eye(s)¹⁴	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
Contact with Eye Area¹⁵	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm (including stiff-arm tackle), elbow or shoulder	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Leading with the forearm	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
Striking with head¹⁶	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches:	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Striking with knee	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

¹² The note does not apply to the following Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red-card threshold: 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling).

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

Stamping or Trampling	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Tripping	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Kicking	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: warning ¹⁷	Mid-range: 1 match	Top-end: 2+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

- 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

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Spitting at anyone	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 18+ matches
Other	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

¹⁷ A Warning shall form part of the Players disciplinary record while at Underage level but not extend into their senior disciplinary record.

9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

9.2.8 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.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches

9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 12 matches	Mid-range: 24 matches	Top-end: 48+ matches



ANNEX SEVEN

World Rugby Bye-Laws

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

AMENDMENTS TO BYE-LAWS

If accepted, these changes to law will lead to some consequential changes to the bye-laws as tracked below:

Bye-Law 1: Definitions

1.1 In these Bye-Laws:

Laws of the Game means the Laws of the Game – Fifteen-a-Side, the Laws of the Game – Seven-a-Side Variations, the Laws of the Game - Game On Variations, and any other variations of the 'Laws of the Game' which, in each case, are passed by Council from time to time in accordance with these Bye-Laws.

Laws of the Game – Fifteen-a-Side means the 'Laws of the Game' applicable to the fifteen-a-side form of the Game.

Laws of the Game – Game On Variations means the suite of optional variations, approved by Council from time to time, that are available for implementation in the community game at the discretion of each Union.

Laws of the Game – Seven-a-Side Variations means the 'Seven-a-Side Variations' of the 'Laws of the Game'.

Bye-Law 5

(a) The Laws of the Game, or any alterations thereto or interpretations thereof, shall be promulgated by World Rugby in the English language and, save for Laws of the Game - Game On Variations, shall be binding and uniformly observed in all Matches.

(b) The Council shall be entitled as it deems fit to direct or authorise any Member Union or all Member Unions to practice for experimental purposes only a specific variation or series of variations from the Laws of the Game. Any such Member Union or all Member Unions shall implement such direction or exercise such authority in accordance with any conditions that may be laid down by the Council and shall furnish to the Council such information as it may require regarding the results ascertained from the experiment.

(c) Proposals to alter the Laws of the Game, save for Game On Variations, shall be considered at least once per year and, ordinarily, twice per year. Ordinarily all proposed alterations to Laws of the Game will be subject to trial in both closed (tournament specific) and open (global) trials prior to the relevant Law being amended save for where Law alterations are required for Player welfare purposes in which case an expedited Law alteration process may be employed as appropriate.

(d) The Laws of the Game – Game On Variations may be considered from time to time and approved by Council for optional implementation by Unions in the community game.



ANNEX EIGHT

World Rugby Associate Membership Criteria

Implementation date: January 1, 2022

World Rugby MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY

Stage	Detail
Stage 1	<p>Regional Member Associate Membership</p> <p>1.1 Apply to become an Associate Member (AM) of Regional Association</p> <p>1.2 Unions meeting RRDU Criteria become AM of Regional Associations</p> <p>1.3 Affiliated to World Rugby for purposes of NOC recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>World Rugby must be notified of such applications at least six months in advance of consideration by the Regional Association and afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the application.</i>
Stage 2	<p>Full Member of the Regional Association / Associate Member of World Rugby</p> <p>2.1 After 2 Years (ie: completion of Stage 1) of Associate Membership of a Regional Association a Union may apply to become a Full Regional Member / Associate Member of World Rugby.</p> <p>2.2 Application for Associate Membership of the World Rugby received.</p> <p>2.3 Report from RSM and Regional Association</p> <p>2.4 Subject to meeting all criteria admitted as a Non-Funded Associate Member (permitted to participate in World Rugby Funded Tournaments but not RWC)</p>
Stage 3	<p>Full Member Of The World Rugby</p> <p>3.1 After 2 Years (24 months) of Associate Membership of the World Rugby a Union may apply to become a Full Member of the World Rugby.</p> <p>3.2 Application for Full Membership of the World Rugby received.</p> <p>3.3 Report from RSM and Regional Association</p> <p>3.4 Subject to meeting all criteria admitted as a full World Rugby Member as approved by the Council.</p>

SECTION A1: CRITERIA FOR World Rugby ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

To be considered for World Rugby Associate Membership a Union must meet all the following criteria:

1.0 Governance

- 1.1 Be the controlling body with its own constitution that has authority to exercise independent control of the Game within its jurisdiction. Provide details of Union Officers and control of all associated entities.
- 1.2 Provide a declaration of opposition to any discrimination on the grounds of race, national or social origin, sex, politics, religion or creed.
- 1.3 Provide a declaration that the Union has child/vulnerable persons welfare and protection policies in accordance with applicable legislation, codes of practice and best practice guidelines relevant to the jurisdictions in which it operates.

2.0 Jurisdiction

- 2.1 Be a member of a Regional Association for two year
- 2.2 Be from a Country which is either a Member State of the United Nations or a Country with a National Olympic Committee which is recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
- 2.3 Be recognised as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council or Ministry of Sport of the country of the Union.

3.0 Regulation / Laws of the Game

- 3.1 Conform in all regards to World Rugby Bye-Laws, Regulations relating to the Game, General Regulations and the Laws of the Game.
- 3.2 Unions must adopt World Rugby Anti-Doping Regulations which are WADA compliant.

4.0 Union Development Questionnaire (UDQ)

4.0 Game

4.1 Applicant unions must complete the Union Development Questionnaire. In completing the questionnaire, a Union must achieve an overall minimum score of 35.

4.1.1 Within the total score of 35 a Union must achieve a minimum score of 12 on questions relating to player welfare and International/Domestic game provision.

4.1.2 A Union must provide evidence of a Domestic participation programme which have a male and female organised competition, demonstrating activity in the 60 months preceding its application.

4.1.3 A Unions must have participated in five international matches or events in the 36 months preceding its application.

Applicant Unions are required to provide evidence of:

4.1 Domestic participation programme which have a male and female organised Competition

5.0 Associate Members are entitled to:

- 5.1 Participate in competitions on a qualified basis, to be decided by the Regional Association in consultation with the World Rugby (this does not include RWC tournaments).
- 5.2 Attendance at the biennial General Assembly in a non-voting capacity
- 5.3 Receipt of World Rugby Publications
- 5.4 Access to World Rugby Administrative advice / support

6.0 World Rugby Funding

- 6.1 No direct World Rugby Funding will be provided to Associate Members
- 6.2 World Rugby funding to support agreed projects to be considered on case by case basis

7.0 Information Required To Support The Case For Association Membership of The World Rugby

The information to be provided by the Union as evidence to support their application is:

- 7.1 Provide Minutes of last two Annual General Meetings.
- 7.2 Provide documentation confirming recognition of the Union as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council or Ministry of Sport of the country of the Union.
- 7.3 Provide last two Financial Statements.
- 7.4 Provide details of the number of players (various age group categories) clubs etc. Information
- 7.5 Provide details of the Union strategic plan – copy to be provided.
- 7.6 Provide details of the Union development programme as agreed with the World Rugby RSM – copy to be provided.
- 7.7 Provide details on next senior national representative team, national team jersey, flags, emblem, national anthem
- 7.8 Provide evidence of compliance with World Rugby Bye Laws and World Rugby Regulations
- 7.9 Provide evidence of domestic participation programme for men/women/youth and which must be sustainable on an annual basis.
- 7.10 Provide information to the World Rugby on an annual basis on the union and the game (refer to Development Grants application)
- 7.11 Provide last two annual accounts
- 7.12 Agree to provide any such data on the game as requested e.g. player numbers

- 7.13 Complete annual development grant information on the game and provide details on the game, plans and programmes
- 7.14 Adhere to values of rugby, Anti-doping and other relevant codes