



30 September 2014

Dear Chairman and Secretary,

DISCIPLINE: MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE & ACTION REQUIRED BY CLUBS

We have started the season and already within the first month have received far too many reports of Match Official abuse. Therefore we propose to deal with proven cases as follows:

Match Official Abuse – this ranges from casual swearing to serious and persistent abuse from players and also spectators, and this is unacceptable. The potential consequences to the game are huge: not just do we risk losing referees but our claims to be “not like football” are becoming empty boasts. Both the London Society of Rugby Referees and Essex County RFU Disciplinary Panel are determined to address this issue and with immediate effect anyone found guilty of an offence of Abuse of Match Officials will be given an additional minimum 4 week ban as an aggravating factor over and above the entry point sanction. This could mean a ban of 10 weeks for even a low end offence.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm that the contents have been advised to all your members. This could be done at the same time as reminding all your members of the RFU’s Core Values to reinforce the message. If however, clubs fail to control their players and spectators with regard to this issue, sanctions may be imposed against clubs themselves which for the most serious offences might include the deduction of league points from their 1st XV’s

If you have any queries about this letter or need any help getting the discipline across within your club please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Simon

Simon Wakefield
Chairman of Discipline
Essex County RFU