



RUGBY NOVA SCOTIA
ON FIELD DISCIPLINE POLICY

Board Approved - May 20, 2024

(Excerpt from Senior League Game Regulations)

1. Within 24 hours of the end of the game, the referee's report detailing any offenses will be submitted to Rugby Nova Scotia.
2. Once the referee report has been received, Rugby Nova Scotia will inform the Discipline Committee to start the discipline process.
 - 2.1. Rugby Nova Scotia (RNS) will appoint a Chair of the Disciplinary Committee. The Chair will be a non-board member with no close club affiliation.
 - 2.2. The committee will consist of 3 members, including the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee, and the representatives on the Rugby Nova Scotia Board for Internal Competitions. If necessary, additional members can be added to a 'long list' for substitution if a member is not available, or is deemed to have a conflict of interest.
 - 2.3. Any member of the Disciplinary Committee found to have a conflict of interest must recuse themselves from the proceedings. They must identify this prior to starting the process.
3. Each Wednesday during the season, a Discipline Hearing will be scheduled if required; unless the referee's availability postpones the hearing. If any other party is unavailable, the hearing will proceed as planned.
 - 3.1. In the event that the Red Card was a result of two (2) yellow cards given in a game, the player **is not** suspended until this hearing takes place.
 - 3.2. In the event that the Red Card was a straight Red Card given, the player **is** suspended until this hearing takes place. If games are missed in different game periods, these games will count towards the player's sanction.
4. The Executive Director from Rugby NS will inform both clubs involved in the infraction of the hearing date, and the referee's report.



5. The club has 24 hours from notification from Rugby Nova Scotia to decide; and the committee will convene accordingly:
 - 5.1. To accept the hearing without representation (accept the referee's report as is).
 - 5.2. To have a full hearing to counter the referee's report
6. If the club chooses to accept the referee report, the committee will meet to assess the appropriate sanction based on the referee report alone.
7. If the club chooses to have a full hearing, a hearing will take place via video conference call.
 - 7.1. Evidence can be presented by either club, including but not limited to eyewitness accounts, video footage, or any other appropriate evidence. This must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing.
 - 7.2. The referee, player, and representatives from both clubs are invited to attend.
 - 7.3. After the hearing, the Committee will report the sanction imposed in line with RNS disciplinary procedures. Sanctions range from 0 further games to lifetime bans. The decision will be communicated to the clubs within 24 hours.
8. Sanctions will follow the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play with adjustments for the Nova Scotia league:
 - 8.1. Penalties of 12 months or fewer are adjusted based on the length of the season for the specific league, rounded down.
 - 8.2. Each game period counts as one game towards suspension. A game period is as follows:
 - i. Friday through Sunday
 - ii. Mon through Thursday

** Please note, these game periods are intended to split the week into two (2) game periods, to ensure that clubs with multiple teams are not at an advantage to expedite the suspension.
 - 8.3. Cards obtained at University fixtures are not relevant to club games, and vice versa.



- 8.4. A player's senior season ends when their club plays the last game that year for which the player is eligible.
9. Clubs may Appeal the decision of the Discipline Committee based on:
 - i. New Evidence
 - ii. Length of Sanction.
 - 9.1. Clubs have seven (7) days from receiving notice of the decision to submit an appeal.
 - 9.2. If the committee deems an appeal should be heard, the player's suspension is held until the appeal is heard. The bond is returned only if the decision changes after the appeal.
 - 9.3. Appeals based on the length of the sanction do not require a bond. The player's suspension continues until the appeal is heard.
 - 9.4. A bond of \$200 is required for all appeals. This will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.