

NORTH MIDLANDS RFU NEWSLETTER



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<https://northmidsrfu.co.uk>

MESSAGE FROM NORTH MIDLANDS RFU COUNCIL MEMBERS CHARLIE HEMMINGS AND PAUL KAMINSKI

Thank you to all clubs that attended the recent Zoom meeting regarding updates at the RFU.

A letter has been sent to all club Chairmen and Hon Secretaries and North Midlands RFU are encouraging you to send this to Bill Sweeney at your earliest convenience on your clubs letter headed paper.

Any problems please do not hesitate to contact either Charlie or Paul.



Introduction to Club Discipline Process

December 2024

Attached to this publication (email) there is a **PDF document** (68 pages). This is a comprehensive update on Discipline Processes for your clubs:

It contains useful links for Regulations / Sanction Tables / Age Grade Discipline / Match official abuse guidance and much more. Please circulate accordingly within you clubs and to all your Squads.



CODE OF RUGBY

EVERYONE INVOLVED IN RUGBY IN ENGLAND, WHETHER AS A PLAYER, COACH REFEREE, ADMINISTRATOR, PARENT OR SPECTATOR IS EXPECTED TO UPHOLD THE CORE VALUES OF OUR SPORT

**TEAMWORK . RESPECT . ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE . SPORTSMANSHIP**



Discipline Hearings for North Midlands RFU matches have also been updated on the website:



[NMRFU Discipline Hearings
2024](#)

REGULATION 15

We have recently become aware of a number of instances of players playing in a different age group without consent. Consent to play out of an age group must be obtained before a player can move and there are very specific circumstances where this can happen – full details in Regulation 15



Regulation 15

DRINKING GAMES

Please be aware that clubs should avoid activities which include competitive consumption of any drinks – including non-alcoholic ones.

They are considered by RFU Safeguarding to promote a drinking culture and fail to take into consideration the feelings of individuals who may participate, in spite of feeling very uncomfortable doing so. Often looked on as a bit of fun we should be mindful that some of those youngsters may only join in to save face with their peers but actually really don't want to.

CLUSTER GAMES

Clubs combining teams from the same age group – this has been one solution to low numbers for quite some time. So far we have received forms in relation to 4 clusters but I'm reasonably certain there are other cluster teams out there. If your club has an age group which is part of a cluster team – please make sure the form is completed.

This season the RFU have asked clubs to register these teams using this form.

The image shows the 'Age Grade Cluster Registration Form' from England Rugby. It explains that a cluster is a short-term arrangement between clubs to aid player growth and development. It details how players from different clubs can cluster together for training and play, with a focus on increasing participation and player development. The form also mentions that the RFU has set up this registration form to allow clubs to cluster more than once or as a one-off, and that registration should occur when teams combine more than once or when there is an intention to combine teams throughout the season. It notes that any team combining with multiple club teams as 'one-offs' should consider a more formal arrangement through a cluster and by completing this registration form. A link to 'Cluster Guidance' is provided, along with references to Regulation 15 and Regulation 21. A disclaimer states that this is not an approval process but a way to inform the RFU of clusters and to safeguard appropriate regulations and procedures.



Cluster-Guidance.pdf
rfu.widen.net

IN SUMMARY

Playing up should be for one or a couple of the most capable players who will benefit from the experience.

- Playing down can only happen in the following circumstances – players in a lower school cohort, players of small stature, or with developmental or behavioural issues.
- For teams with low numbers – they can be combined. Conditions apply.
- 17-year-olds can apply for consent to play in the adult game

For all the above, clubs must go through the process of applying for consent using the relevant forms within Regulation 15 pages. Applications should include adequate assessment of the players by qualified coaches. We try to turn applications round in a week but for preference please give us more notice. Forms may be declined if they include inadequate or incorrect detail.

Finally, the consequence of repeated non-compliance, could be a club disciplinary case being brought with a **potential sanction of points deduction from the club's senior team**