

GUIDANCE ON THE DETERMINATION OF MEANINGFUL SANCTIONS : SEASON 2025/26

The following guidance is provided to assist Disciplinary and Appeal Committees in the determination of the meaningfulness of sanctions as set out in Disciplinary Rule 12.17.3.

Designated Rugby Tiers

- 1) Players participating within the certain designated levels of the game (as determined from time to time by the Board) shall be required to provide the Disciplinary and/or Appeal Committee with details of their planned or anticipated playing schedule.
- 2) In respect of Season 2025/26 this shall include Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors (male or female, including any 'A' or second XV thereof).
- 3) Where required, the Disciplinary and/or Appeal Committee shall determine an appropriate, meaningful sanction based on the Player's individual playing schedule and these Disciplinary Rules.

Other Tiers of the Game

- 4) At all other levels of the game the following rebuttable presumptions shall ordinarily be applied in respect of periods to be disregarded as not being "meaningful" in terms of sanctioning:
 - (a) The period commencing 1 May each year up to and including the second Sunday in August; and
 - (b) The weekend nearest Christmas and the weekend nearest the New Year.
- 5) Nothing shall prevent a Player from making representations that any Match or event within the periods noted in 4 above should be regarded as being "meaningful" in terms of sanction. Any such representation shall normally require to be made via the Discipline Manager within 7 days of the Player receiving notification of their period of suspension.
- 6) Nothing shall prevent a Disciplinary or Appeal Committee from determining that any alternative or additional period or periods should be disregarded as not being "meaningful".

Modified Forms of the Game (Sevens, Tens, etc.)

- 7) In respect of players participating in the designated tiers of the game in 2 above, or other Players in relation to the disregard periods noted in 4 above, nothing shall prevent the Player from making representations that any Match or tournament utilising a modified form of the game should be regarded as being "meaningful" in terms of sanctioning. Any such representation shall normally require to be made via the Discipline Manager within 7 days of the Player receiving notification of their period of suspension.
- 8) However, in addition to any other consideration as to the meaningfulness of the Match or event, the following rebuttable presumptions shall ordinarily be applied in respect of participation in modified forms of the game:
 - (a) Any Player seeking to expend a period of suspension arising from a XV-a-side Match in a modified form of the game shall ordinarily be required to demonstrate a previous record in participating in that modified form of the game;
 - (b) Each week/Match of suspension arising from a XV-a-side Match shall ordinarily be equated with a tournament (or one day of a tournament where the tournament is scheduled to run for more than one day) in the modified form of the game; and
 - (c) The presumption shall be against any sanction being expended in Beach Rugby (any format).