

# Florida Youth Rugby Union

Annual General Meeting  
2023





# Disciplinary Process (2 Phases – Assessment & Appeals)

## Overview

- The FYRU Disciplinary policies and procedures are intended to be inline with USA Rugby Disciplinary Procedures and following World Rugby's Regulation 17, 18 & 20
- Process time commitment end-to-end is expected to **be 14 days from the time of red card**
- All **Yellow** and **Red** Cards will be posted on the new Website in the "Results" section
- **U14s** to be included in the process, not just High School

## FYRU Disciplinary Committee

- **Discipline Officer (DO)** – Cristian Krossler (FYRU Board Member & President Key Biscayne)
- Additional support and oversight by the Chairman of the FYRU – Alan Lawson
- All disciplinary matters are to be handled by **(6) member Disciplinary Committee (DC) (Board + DC Reviewer)**

## Appeals Committee

- Up to 3 other **DC** members not involved in the original adjudication
- **FRDC** and **FYRU Board** also appoints further members to Appeals Committee from the FYRU Coach/Management membership. Ensuring that conflicts of interest and/or availability



# Yellow/Red Key Information – Reminders

## **Multiple Yellow Cards will Lead to a Red Card Game Suspension**

- Any two Yellow cards in a game leads leaves to a Red Card and player is not eligible to play in the next match; **not eligible for Appeal**
- Any three Yellow cards during a season; third Yellow card leads to a Red Card and player is not eligible to play in the next match ; **not eligible for Appeal**
- ***There are no appeal process for Yellow nor will there be in the future***

## **Red Card Issued in a Match is an Automatic Game Suspension**

- Any player who receives a Red Card will sit out the next game “No Exceptions”
- Red Card review process determines if the more games should be added due to the infraction & then the Club Appeal Process can start

***(Please note...these are the rules to be followed by the Union, Coaches and Players. This has not been changed but enforcement of the rule will be implemented this Season)***



# Disciplinary Process (2 Phases)

## Red Card Case Assessment & Resolution

1. A player (1) receiving a straight Red Card or (2) deemed to have received a Red Card is suspended from all play until there is a resolution of the matter.
2. The Player/Club is notified of the sanction/suspension within **1 day** of completing the decision (submission from the Referee)
3. The **Referee** completes the Florida Rugby Referee report which includes a red card report. Report is due **3 days** after the disciplinary event.
4. The FRDC assigns the case to a DO. The FRDC might request further information from the club/player about the incident
5. The **DO** reviews all of the documentation completes decision within **3 days** of receiving the original report from the match
6. Appeal, if any, must be logged within 3 days of the original written notification of the suspension, stating reasons for appeal & further consideration

7 days  
max.

## Appeal

1. All decisions of a DO and/or DC are subject to a single appeal. During the appeal, player remains under whatever sanction, if any, originally imposed. (Meaning; player is not eligible to play in the next game)
2. Appeal Officer (one of Appeal Committee Members) considers appeal reasoning and determines if the appeal has grounds to be presented before the appeal committee
3. Written notification or an appeal hearing time, location, conference call line and/or denial of hearing the appeal is sent within **3 days**
4. The appellate procedures/hearing shall comply with World Rugby Regulation 17, especially 17.22.I.
5. The Appeal Committee may affirm, cancel, alter, diminish, or increase any sanction imposed by the DO/DC, following the provisions of World Rugby Regulation 17. The Appeal Committee shall render a written decision within **7 days** of the receipt of the appeal to all involved

7 days  
max.



# Rule & Rule Reminders

## Approved (Agreement needed by the Union Presidents)

- **Team leading by 42 Points**, the game is officially called. No exceptions. In the interest of safety for both teams, the game is to be stopped and Referee has full control of next steps. There is to be NO expectation that games move into a “development game” specially at the U16s and U19s level. In the very rare cases of “development” status, none of the starting “Star” players should be on the field of the winning team. This rule needs to be fully enforced at the U14 level.



# Rule, Rule Reminders and Updates

- **Players playing down:** There is to be NO players playing down a level i.e. U16s playing in U14s, U14s playing U12 etc. If rule is broken and verified; the head coach of that club's division will be suspended for 1 game. There are exceptions made at the u16 level only and discussed by the coaches before the game and the Referee is to be notified. Note age cut-off is 9/1/2022 for age groups...meaning, a player who turns 14 before 9/1/2022 is **ineligible** to play u14s, must play u16s in their age appropriate division. The "u" means "under" i.e. u14s = under 14, u16s = under 16
  - Only exception to this rule: a player with special needs where it is deemed a risk to play in their age bracket, can play down but only "in-year age" cap. Meaning, the player is 12 and can play U12, missed the cutoff, not a 13 year old
  - Female player situations post 13 years of age. There are specific rules and guidelines and will need to be address with the FYRU directly
- **Players playing up (Covered more in Dept in Section 6):** Club and parent decision but a waiver must be signed and sent to the FYRU @ [FloridaYouthRugby@yahoo.com](mailto:FloridaYouthRugby@yahoo.com) This should not be considered until the player is in High School
  - It is the prerogative of the club make this decision, a word of caution...please note that if a player has played all year for u14s and come State Championship time, that player can play in their age-appropriate division. The club will need to be prepared to deal with upset parents when this occurs.
- **Forfeits:** It is the obligation of the team who missed the original game to take the lead to make the game happen. If this team is not proactive; FYRU Chairman will have a conference call with both teams and make a determination. Forfeits are worth 25-0 Win for Standings purposes
- **Medical Professionals @ All Games:** It is a requirement in order to host a rugby match at any youth level, there must be a registered medical professional. Failure to do so, will require home games to be moved to a new site



# Code of Conduct & Abuse of Referees

**Reminders (World Rugby Code of Conduct to be Followed by All)** Click on link <https://laws.worldrugby.org/?law=9>

- **Spirit of Rugby Needs to Stay Alive in All of US:** In an age in which many traditional sporting qualities are being diluted or even challenged, rugby is rightly proud of its ability to retain high standards of sportsmanship, ethical behavior and fair play. We all need to start doing our part and maintaining the charter. 1<sup>st</sup> Step in this charter is our interactions with the Referees.

## Florida Rugby Referees Interaction with Clubs

- **Abuse of Referees:** Coaches and Administrators are to take the high road in dealing with Referees, and if there is documented abuse of a referee by a team's players, parents or club staff, it will result in a Head Coach's suspension for a least one game and will follow the Disciplinary Process from the preceding pages. Multiple offenses in a season could lead to full expulsion. **Clubs are responsible for the safety of all referees. We own it!**
- **Coaches Interacting with Referees:** Interaction with referees should be minimal, not wrong with pointing out issues with the appropriate..."Sir, please help with the offside", "Sir, that is another high tackle". This should be extent of the contact during a game.
  - Players and Parents feed off Administrators and Coaches
  - No one is perfect
  - If we ever want more referees, the future refs are on the field and sidelines. Who wants to be a referee when they see the abuse they receive every week for \$1 per Hour
- **New Relationship between FRRA (Florida Rugby Referee Association):** This new board is in the process of developing a new relationship with the referees of this state to help grow numbers. Main focus is how we treat referees.



# Age & Grade Discussion

## **U6 Division**

- Touch Rugby or Flag – should have a discussion about non-contact (Flag?)

## **U8s & U10s**

- Age requirements need to be strictly enforced

## **U12s**

- Probably our strongest division in the state

## **U14s**

- Probably our strongest division in the state

## **High School Eligibility**

- No Player who has played for a College team and is home for the weekend is eligible to play for a FYRU Club. This has college eligibility issues attached to it as well
- No Player who goes to college where they have a Rugby Team or Club etc is eligible to play for a FYRU Club i.e. Player goes to FAU and plays for the Wellington Wizards is not allowed
- Player must be 18 years of age as of 8/31/2022 or still enrolled in High School to be eligible to play U19s. Player is eligible to play if he/she fit the age requirements and goes to a college where there is no Rugby Team or Club i.e. Palm Beach State



# Eligibility (cont'd)

## **Additional Clarification for High School Boys and Girls:**

- **Age-appropriate play still needs to be enforced**
- **Adult or Professional Play** – Any high school boy or girl who plays in a Collegiate, Adult or Professional League immediately becomes ineligible for the rest of the season. Any team caught with a collegiate, adult or professional player on their roster and/or played in a game for a club, this club will immediately forfeit all games that specific player participated in during the season. This is a guideline per USA Rugby
- **PLEASE NOTE** – this does excludes non-contact or THUD practices...Meaning if an Adult or Professional players goes to a practice, it does not make them ineligible or if reverse happens. ALL HS players are not allowed to participate in contact games, scrimmages or contact drills vs Adults or Professional players. Evidence of such an infraction could led to game suspensions and ineligibility