

DISCIPLINARY AND JUDICIAL PROCESS FOR SCHOOL PLAYERS IN THE U 19 AGE GROUP AND BELOW

1. IRB Regulation 17 will apply mutatis mutandis.
2. These regulations are applicable to those players below the Age of Majority and at the level of the game below International match and/or cross border match level within the territory of SARU.
3. The Judicial Officer/Disciplinary Committee will be constituted by the Provincial Union. The Provincial Union may delegate its powers in writing to the High Schools Association to appoint a Judicial Officer/Disciplinary Committee.
4. The Provincial Union will annually appoint Judicial Officers to the disciplinary panel, or approve of the members so appointed by the High Schools Association to the disciplinary panel.
5. All appointees to the disciplinary panel shall have an in-depth knowledge of the game and its disciplinary process, be either a lawyer, judge or senior member of an educational institution (such as the principal, vice-principal or head teacher) and be accustomed to dealing with underage players.
6. Neutrality of the appointee(s) to the parties is desirable but can be waived by agreement save where there is a conflict of interest scenario, for example where the offender is a relative of the adjudicating disciplinary officer.
7. The appointed judicial personnel shall carry out their functions in a manner that recognizes the following fundamental principles – including the need to ensure:
 - 7.1 the provision of a comfortable and safe hearing environment for the underage player;
 - 7.2 the adoption of a structured but less formal approach to the proceedings;
 - 7.3 the adherence to the principle of natural justice which should be made known to the underage player (and their representative) at the outset; and
 - 7.4 be administered by people who are accustomed to dealing with children.
8. Citing of players for foul play will not form part of matches involving high school players in the under 19 age group and below (excluding the SARU U18 Coca-Cola Craven Week).
9. in the event of a player being ordered off (red card) by the referee, the player will automatically be suspended for the following match in accordance with the match fixtures approved by the Provincial Union/High Schools Association for that particular season.
10. The referee shall send a copy of the report to the chairman of the High School Association; a copy to the CEO of the Provincial Union or his representative; and a copy to the representative of the provincial referee's society within 24 (twenty-four) hours after the match.

11. On receipt of the red card the CEO of the Provincial Union shall as soon as possible send a copy of the referee's report to the head master of the school of the suspended player and advise the player that:
 - 11.1 he is suspended for the following league match;
 - 11.2 advise the player that he and/or the head master of his school (on his behalf) has a right to request a hearing;
 - 11.3 the opposing school; the High School Association or the Provincial Union has a right to request a hearing as directed in 14 below if in their opinion the sanction is not appropriate;
 - 11.4 the player may request a hearing following the 1 (one) league match suspension as directed in 12 below.
- 10 The opposing school; the High School Association or the Provincial Union shall take cognizance of the World Rugby Sanctions for Foul Play (Regulation 17) adjusted for Under Aged Rugby in its decision to request a hearing in accordance with 9.3 above.
- 11 A referee shall not permit any match to take place should a player who is under suspension (due to a red card or decision of a Judicial Officer/Disciplinary Committee) be part of the 22 man squad of such a team.
- 12 Should the player not be satisfied with the 1 (one) league match suspension, whether on the finding of guilty or the period of the sanction, the player and or the headmaster of the school may request a hearing in writing to the CEO of the Provincial Union within 48 (forty-eight) hours after the match in which the player has received the red card.
- 13 During his suspension the player will not be allowed to play in any rugby match until the outcome of the hearing. For the avoidance of doubt, the player may participate in other rugby activities during the period of his suspension, including training.
- 14 Should the headmaster of the opposition school, the chairman of the High Schools Association, the CEO of the Provincial Union (or his designee) or the CEO of SARU (or his designee) be of the opinion that the 1 (one) league match suspension is not appropriate in the circumstances, a hearing may be requested in writing by either party within 48 (forty-eight) hours after the match in which the player has received the red card.
- 15 The request for a hearing does not have to be in a specific format, but shall include the following:
 - 15.1 Name of the player
 - 15.2 Teams participated in the match
 - 15.3 Date, time and venue of the match
 - 15.4 Details of the party requesting the hearing
 - 15.5 Grounds of the request for the hearing
- 16 On receipt of the Notice of the Hearing, the CEO of the Provincial Union or his nominee/chairman of the High Schools Association or his nominee shall arrange a date, time and venue for the hearing.

- 17 The principles of natural justice shall be adhered to in all disciplinary proceedings. Such principles include, players ordered off shall have the right to know the evidence against them, shall have the right to be heard, to be represented, to produce evidence and defend themselves.
- 18 The hearing will ordinarily take place not later than 3 (three) working days following the match in which the player was ordered off.
- 19 The player may be represented by for instance a legal representative, school teacher and/or his parent/legal guardian.
- 20 Should the hearing for whatever reason not be able to take place on or before the 3rd (third) working day following the match in which the player was ordered off, the Judicial Officer/Disciplinary Committee may on written application postpone the hearing to a date, time and venue taking into consideration the interest of all parties involved and with conditions attached thereto at the sole discretion of the Judicial Officer/Disciplinary Committee.
- 21 The player and witnesses should ordinarily attend the hearing, but the Judicial Officer/chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may order a hearing to be conducted via telephone conference.
- 22 It is recognized that for underage players' restorative justice and community sanctions, alongside mentoring, educational development and supervision are all effective mechanisms in dealing with the treatment of breaches for underage players. Therefore augmenting playing sanctions with non-playing sanctions for underage players is considered appropriate for this age-group (such as suspension from social activities, loss of privileges, detention, etc.). For this purposes the Judicial Officer/Disciplinary Committee shall liaise with the head master of the school to which the player is registered in order to discuss further remedial sanctions.
- 23 The hearing report will be sent to the CEO of the Provincial Union.
- 24 The CEO of the Provincial Union shall send the hearing report to SARU on request.