

CITING PROCEDURES

General (other than in Premiership/Championship 1st XV games)

1. A citing complaint can only be made by Unions or Clubs participating in the relevant match.
2. A citing may be initiated where there is an allegation that a player committed an act of foul play but has not been awarded a red card for that act. The citing must be in writing, stating:
 - a) The date, venue and teams participating in the match;
 - b) Details of the alleged act of foul play, including as accurately as possible the point of time in the match, score at the time and position on the field when and where the incident is alleged to have occurred;
 - c) The identity of (or means of identifying) the player or players alleged to be guilty of foul play; and
 - d) Sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case.
3. The citing must be:
 - a) Signed by the President, Chairman, Secretary or nominated person acting on behalf of the Union or Club;
 - b) Addressed to the Secretary of the Constituent Body to which the player's Club is allocated, or to the RFU Disciplinary Manager as appropriate. In cases of doubt the citing should be addressed to the RFU Disciplinary Manager;
 - c) Accompanied by any match footage that the complainant intends to adduce in support of the citing; and
 - d) Received by the Constituent Body or RFU Disciplinary Manager (as may be appropriate) not later than the 14th day following the match.
- 4.1 All evidence supporting the citing must be received by the Constituent Body or the RFU Disciplinary Manager at least 2 days before the hearing. However, in the interests of ensuring the fairness of the proceedings as required by these Regulations, the Chairman of the relevant Disciplinary Panel appointed to determine the citing shall, in his sole discretion, have the power to vary this provision.
- 4.2 A citing, once made, may not be withdrawn without the express permission of the RFU Disciplinary Officer.
- 4.3 the citing must be accompanied by a remittance as outlined in Appendix 3 to these Regulations as a contribution towards administrative expenses.

- 4.4 Upon receiving a written citing (whether direct or through the RFU), the Secretary of the Constituent Body or the RFU Disciplinary Manager shall consult the Match Officials (which in this context shall mean the Referee and any Touch Judges officially appointed and not appointed by the participating Club) to ascertain whether they or any of them detected the act which was alleged to constitute foul play and which is the subject of citing.
- 4.5 A citing may be made whether or not the alleged act of foul play was seen by a Match Official. Where a Match Official did not detect the act of foul play cited, then it must be shown that had the Match Official seen the act, a red card would have been awarded. However, where a Match Official, having detected the alleged act, decided that it was either not foul play, or that it was, but he took action other than sending off, the citing Club must prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the Match Official was wrong.
- 4.6 Where a Club makes a citing, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel shall consider the complaint. In the event he considers the complaint to be frivolous or vexatious, the complaint shall be rejected.
- 4.7 If the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel considers the complaint to be frivolous or vexatious he shall so advise person or organisation who made the citing complaint and who, if aggrieved, may refer the matter to the RFU Disciplinary Officer for further consideration. His decision shall be final and given within four days of the reference. Any such reference to the RFU Disciplinary Officer shall be in writing and received by him or by the RFU Disciplinary Manager within seven days of the Union or affiliated organisation being informed that the complaint is considered frivolous or vexatious.
- 4.8 The Constituent Body Disciplinary Panel or the RFU Disciplinary Manager shall convene a hearing.
- 4.9 Where the foul play is not admitted by the player, it is the responsibility of the person or organisation who made the citing complaint to prove on the balance of probabilities that the offence took place as cited and that the offence passed the red card test.

Premiership/Championship 1st XV Games Clubs

5. The procedures set out below apply only to Clubs in the Premiership and Championship.
6. **The RFU Disciplinary Manager shall:**
 - 6.1 Make arrangements for match footage to be taken, to a common standard, and independently from any video which may be commissioned by the participating Clubs, of each match to which these procedures relate ('independent match footage').
 - 6.2 Make arrangements whereby all independent match footage is received by the RFU Discipline Department at Twickenham by not later than forty eight hours after the conclusion of each match.
 7. Upon receipt of match footage, the RFU Disciplinary Manager shall forward it to a Citing Officer who is not affiliated to or connected in any way with either of the Clubs which participated in the match.

8. A Club participating in a match to which these provisions apply may within 48 hours of the conclusion of that match notify the RFU Disciplinary Manager of any incidents which they wish the Citing Officer to consider.
9. A Citing Officer alone shall have the power and responsibility to cite a player whom the independent video and/or other evidence shows to have committed an act of foul play whether or not it has been detected by the Match Officials. Such citing, to be effective, must be made in writing to be received by the RFU Disciplinary Manager from the nominated Citing Officer within 4 working days of the conclusion of the match within:

Premiership – 4 working days

Championship – 5 working days

10. Before bringing a citing complaint the Premiership Citing Officer must be satisfied that in his opinion the act of foul play merited the award of a Red Card (the ‘Red Card Test’). That is, a Citing Officer shall be entitled to cite a player for any act or acts of illegal and/or foul play which in the opinion of the Citing Officer warranted the Player being ordered off. The citing complaint shall contain the following information:
 - a) The date and place of the alleged illegal and/or foul play;
 - b) The name of the player in respect of whom the complaint is made and the team he was playing for at the time of the alleged illegal and/or foul play;
 - c) The name of the opposing team;
 - d) Full details of the alleged illegal and/or foul play including brief details of the evidence relied on; and
 - e) Confirmation that the act was not detected by Match Officials or if it was and a red card was not awarded, an explanation as to why the Citing Officer considered the Referee to be wrong.
11. If the Citing Officer assesses that a player committed an act of foul play which did not satisfy the Red Card Test but that the incident should be brought to his attention he may issue a written warning (known as a ‘Level 1 citing’). In these circumstances the RFU Disciplinary Manager shall communicate to the club and player by way of a letter or email, indicating that the act was detected, stating that no further action is intended on this occasion but warning the player as to his future conduct. Such a written warning will be recorded on the Club register and may be taken into consideration in future disciplinary proceedings. It will remain on a player’s record for 5 years and be treated as though it were a Yellow Card for the purposes of totting up during the relevant season.
12. Upon receipt of a citing report from a Citing Officer the RFU Disciplinary Manager shall forward to the Cited Player, through his Club, a charge sheet, a copy of the citing complaint and a copy of the independent video of the match containing the incident which has been cited. The offending player’s Club should be informed of the citing complaint within 24 hours of the decision by the Citing Officer to make a citing complaint. Thereafter, the RFU Disciplinary Manager shall make arrangements in accordance with the RFU Disciplinary Regulations for the hearing of the citation.

13. Any hearing arising from a citing by a nominated Citing Officer and any appeal from such a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the RFU Disciplinary Regulations.
14. It is not the function of the Disciplinary Panel to decide whether a particular act passed the red card test – that is a matter for the citing officer. If a player is cited and the offence was not detected by a match official the Disciplinary Panel must uphold the citing unless it determines that there was no act of foul play or that the player was mistakenly cited because the offence was committed by another player ('mistaken identity'). However, where the offence was detected by a match official, but the cited player was not awarded a red card, the Disciplinary Panel must dismiss the citing unless it is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the referee was wrong in not sending the player off.