RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION DISCIPLINARY HEARING

At:

Holiday Inn, Brighouse, West Yorkshire

On:

Monday, 11th October 2010

Judgment

Player:

NICHOLAS KING

Club: Fylde RFC

Match:

Fylde v Kendal

Venue:

Fylde

Date of Match:

25th September 2010

Panel:

Antony Davies (Chairman), Peter Rhodes and Clif Barker ("the

Panel")

Secretariat:

Bruce Reece-Russel (RFU Disciplinary Manager)

Brenda Parkinson (RFU Disciplinary Department)

Attending as

Tony Simpson (RFU Communications Manager, North)

Observers:

Ian Unsworth Q.C.

Decision

1. The Panel found the Player guilty on his own admission of an act contrary to good sportsmanship, contrary to Law 10(4)(m), namely that on 25th September 2010 he received two yellow cards (one technical, one foul play) during the match Fylde v Kendal. The Panel determined that the Player should be suspended for a period of two weeks from 27th September 2010 to 10th October 2010 inclusive.

Preliminaries

2. There was no objection to the composition of the Panel. The Player had indicated that he did not contest the charge and that he wished the Panel to deal with the matter in his absence and on the basis that the Referee's report, which was not contested.

The Facts

- 3. The caution reports from the Match Referee, Matt Daubney, indicated that it was a game played with many forward pick and drives. Except for the Player's first yellow card, there were no other foul play incidents until the 74th minute. In the 17th minute of the first half, the Referee described the Player as driving into the back of a Kendal player who was on the left hand side of a ruck, knocking him to the ground. The Kendal player involved required immediate attention and had the wind knocked out of him. He did however play on and complete the game.
- 4. The second yellow card was awarded 12 minutes into the second half and was for a technical offence of interfering with the ball from an offside position. This second yellow card resulted in the Player being dismissed from the field of play (red card).

Entry Point

5. The Panel concerned itself with the more serious of the two yellow card offences, namely the foul play. This was an intentional and deliberate act, which did not result in serious injury. It was clearly seen by the Referee with an unobstructed view from 3 metres, who felt it warranted a yellow card. In the absence of any other meaningful information, this Panel does not seek to interfere with that. In the circumstances, the Panel found the offending at the lower end of the scale of seriousness. RFU Disciplinary Regulation 19 Appendix 2 stipulates a lower end entry point as sending off sufficient and the Panel initially so determines.

Aggravating Features

- 6. The Panel went on to consider whether there were any aggravating features under Disciplinary Regulation 19.8.2.7 and found that there were.
- 7. The Player has an extensive history of offending, which has been fully considered by the Panel. His record is littered with numerous foul play yellow cards, mostly for offences of striking. He had recently received a one week suspension for three foul play yellow cards and last season another week's suspension for receiving two

yellow cards in a match. He clearly has a status as an offender of the Laws of the Game and the Panel perceives a need for a deterrent to combat a pattern of repeat offending.

Sanction

- 8. The Player is suspended from playing for a period of two weeks from 27th September 2010 to 10th October 2010. He may play again on 11th October 2010.
- 9. The Panel finds no mitigating features none having been put forward on behalf of the Player, though his Club dealt with the matter under its internal disciplinary process promptly and proportionately by suspending him for a two week period.

Costs

10. Costs of £80.00 are ordered to be paid by the Player/his Club.

Right of Appeal

11. The Player is advised of his right of appeal as set out in Disciplinary Regulation 19.10.

Antony Davies

Antony Davies,

Chairman

13th October 2010