

June 2026

AGM Discipline Report Season 2025/26

Buckinghamshire Discipline have had one of our busiest seasons. We dealt with over 35 cases including 6 Match Official Abuse cases. Most disappointingly we had a case involving physical abuse of the match official, which resulted in substantial playing bans being issued.

Please ensure that all club members are reminded that abuse of Match Officials, unacceptable behaviour by players, coaches or spectators etc, as well as entering the field of play without the referee's permission and becoming involved in incidents, will not be tolerated by either the RFU or Buckinghamshire Discipline. I suspect that RFU Discipline Judicial Officer will consider increasing the sanctions for Match Official Abuse/Disrespect cases. It is not wanted in our game, clubs must demonstrate they have taken reasonable steps to prevent it happening. *Clubs are reminded that Regulation 19.4.9 states that a club is responsible for ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that its players, coaches, members and spectators conduct themselves appropriately and do not behave in a manner that is improper, offensive, abusive, threatening, indecent or insulting, nor enter the field of play without the authority of the referee. Discipline hearings may result in significant sanctions being imposed upon players, coaches or clubs and, where deemed appropriate by discipline panels, could include points deductions for a club's 1st XV.*

If clubs are required to attend a formal discipline hearing, they will be required to submit evidence of measures that were put in place before and after any cases involving MOA. I would strongly advise club officers to remind all players, coaches, club members that their behaviour could result in serious sanctions being issued to their club.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Buckinghamshire Discipline Chair, Michael Spencer KC, together with all Discipline Panel members, for their help and support during what has been a busy and challenging season involving several difficult and challenging disciplinary cases.

I would also like to thank Aylesbury RFC for the continued use of their facilities to host our disciplinary hearings.

I will be attending the RFU Discipline Conference with other discipline panel members. A number of changes to sanctions and disciplinary procedures will be discussed, and I will provide further feedback to Buckinghamshire RFU and clubs regarding the amendments for the 2026/27 season in due course.

If any club would like a visit from me or one of our discipline team for a discussion regarding discipline matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Hardman
Buckinghamshire Discipline Secretary

ADULT or AGR	OFFENCE	DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE	SANCTION
Adult	9.11	Choke hold and throwing player to the ground	2 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to: STAMPING or TRAMPLING	2 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Punch / Strike	6 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Punch / Strike	6 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Kick to head	8 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Punch / Strike	6 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Punch / Strike --- Retaliation following a punch to head	2 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Stamping / Trampling	2 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Kick	4 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Punch / Strike	6 Match Ban
Adult	9.12	Strike with Head (Headbutt)	10 match Ban
Adult	9.13	A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.	6 Match Ban
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Adult	9.18	A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.	6 Match Ban

Adult	9.27	2 Yellow Cards	Sending off Sufficient
Adult	9.27	2 Yellow Cards	1 Match Ban
Adult	9.27	2 Yellow Cards	1 Match Ban
Adult	9.27	2 Yellow Cards	Sending off Sufficient
Adult	9.28	Match Official Abuse / Disrespect (Coach & Spectators)	CLUB WARNING
Adult	9.28	Match Official Abuse / Disrespect (Spectators)	CLUB WARNING
Adult	9.28	A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official	4 Match Ban
Adult	9.28	Match Official Abuse	Player Refused to attend a hearing therefore received a 14 Match Ban (End of 2025/26 season)
Adult	5.12	Conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Union and the game, contrary to a breach of RFU rule 5.12 - Persons entering the pitch without referees' permission	CLUB WARNING
AGR	9.12	Punch / Strike	2 Match Ban
AGR	9.12	Punch / Strike	2 Match Ban
AGR	9.12	Bite	NOT GUILTY
AGR	9.12	Punch / Strike	2 Match Ban
AGR	9.27	2 Yellow Cards	Sending off Sufficient
AGR	9.27	2 Yellow Cards	Sending off Sufficient
AGR	9.28	Match Official Abuse - Disrespect	2 Match Ban
AGR	9.28 (c)	A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials	28 Match Ban
AGR	5.12	Adults entering pitch without referees' permission (AGR Game)	CLUB WARNING
AGR	5.12	Verbal Abuse based on a Protected Characteristic	RFU Education Program
AGR	5.12	ABANDONED GAME - fighting and unacceptable behaviour that put player welfare at risk	Age Group 3 Match Ban plus a CLUB WARNING

Bob Hardman
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