



Judicial information – release policy

Policy

It is a general policy of the Manawatu Rugby Union that judicial information will be released to the media and clubs post hearings. In general terms the union will not release the names of minors (those at school or under 17) or schools unless the case is in the public interest as determined by the Chair of the Judicial panel.

Introduction

The Manawatu Rugby Union is concerned at the “ad hoc” publication of MRU Judicial hearing details by the media in recent times and the lack of correct reporting in such coverage.

The MRU wishes to ensure that the membership and involved clubs in particular are made aware of what will be released in the lead up to and post judicial hearings.

The following is a break down of what will be applied by the MRU in the case of judicial hearings under the immediate control of this Union.

Policy breakdown:

1. Prior to the hearing, no personal information, or details of the alleged offending or the Club involved will be made available beyond the parties directly affected. The only information that will be released, on application to the Community Rugby Manager, in relation to forthcoming judicial hearings is the number and nature of offences that will be heard.

2. In the case of a high school player (any age) or junior player (under 17) being found guilty or pleading guilty at a Manawatu Rugby Union Judicial hearing the decision i.e. the details of the incident and finding will be reported to the involved parties only. The nature of the offending and penalty will be made public but the name of the school and any details that would identify the individual(s) will not.
3. In the case of a rugby player, coach or other person found guilty or pleading guilty to a serious incident involving a hearing or appeal (taking into account item 2, the details of the incident, penalty, club and player be posted on the MRU Website. Where circumstances dictate (public interest or severity of the incident) a media release may be made at the discretion of the Chairman of the Disciplinary panel in consultation with the CEO.
4. Where a player at any level is found not guilty or the case is not proven then the details of the alleged offending and the individual concerned will not be released by the Judicial Committee or the MRU.
5. Where there is an allegation of foul play or a hearing is pending regarding foul play and/or misconduct that receives publicity through the media the MRU will liaise with the parties affected and their club before making any official statement. Any statement made prior to a hearing will simply confirm that a hearing is to take place or, subsequent to a hearing or where appropriate, will correct any misinformation or misleading inferences as may be required to protect the reputation of the Judicial Committee and/or Rugby within the region.
6. Those that are a direct party to the proceeding will be advised of the outcome of any hearing or appeal.

Hadyn Smith
CEO
Manawatu Rugby Union

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