



**MANAWATU
RUGBY**

Citing Complaints Guidelines



MRU Citing Complaints Guidelines

The MRU Judicial Committee has jurisdiction to hear and determine a complaint of illegal and/or foul play against a player in respect of any act of illegal and/or foul play, which has not been detected by match officials (any person other than the accredited match referee and accredited Assistant Referees).

These guidelines should be read in association with the New Zealand Rugby 'Rules For Disciplinary Hearings'(also referred to as the 'Black Book'), Part 2, Paragraphs 23-30. This can be found on the Manawatu Rugby Website.

The Complaint process:

1. A complaint must be received by the MRU Complaints Review Officer within 48hrs of the completion of the match and on the official MRU Citing Form.
2. The complaint must contain the following information:
 - a. The date and place of the alleged incident
 - b. The name of the player, his/her team and club/school
 - c. The opposing team and club/school
 - d. Full details of the alleged illegal and/or foul play
3. The MRU Complaints Review Officer will then give a determination as to whether the complaint should appear before the MRU Judicial Committee or otherwise

The Judicial Committee asks that when submitting a complaint or submissions for a hearing that it is simply interested in the facts about the alleged incident. With that in mind, please detail the facts only and do not include any opinion or use motive language in citing complaints.

Guidelines: The following are not mandatory requirements but compliance by participants with what follows will be of assistance to the Judicial Committee in any case in which a complaint precedes to a hearing:

1. Video evidence (if available) of the incident should be submitted.
2. The 'victim' player should submit a written statement, and in the case of a judicial hearing, the 'victim' player should attend.
3. The submissions of written statements by independent witnesses are strongly recommended. In the case of a judicial hearing, attendances by these witnesses are strongly recommended.
4. If the 'victim' player is injured, a written statement by a doctor should be submitted. (See notes 1 and 2)

Similarly in defence of the allegation, the above guidelines are of value to the cited player, should he/she not agree with the citing.

Note 1:

In some cases, interested parties may wish to place before the Committee evidence with respect to an injury suffered by a victim of misconduct /foul play. The Committee may receive written statements from medical practitioners but these should preferably be in the form of a letter from a doctor clearly stating the nature of the injury, the cause (if the doctor is genuinely able to form an opinion about that) and the likely duration of the injury. In this regard, an ACC certificate will be unlikely to be of assistance to the Committee.

Note2

The Committee is both entitled and obliged to take into account the effects on a victim of an act of foul play. Evidence may, therefore, be placed before the Committee to the effect that a victim will not be able to play rugby for a specified period. The Committee will, in good faith accept the veracity of any such evidence bearing in mind that the offending player and his/her club will generally have no basis to challenge that.

We may, however, in any such case reserve to the offending player and his /her club the right to seek a rehearing where it should become known that a victim has resumed playing rugby earlier than was indicated in the evidence at the original hearing. To maintain an original penalty where a victim has had a more rapid recovery than expected might, in our view, occasion a miscarriage of justice.

Any request for a rehearing in these circumstances will be to the Committee Chairman through the MRU Complaints Review Officer. The Committee Chairman will determine the request for a rehearing. If granted, the Committee will then convene in its usual form for the sole purpose of re-considering the penalty imposed in the light of the new evidence regarding the injury sustained by the victim.