TO ALL CLUB SECRETARIES & CHAIRS OF DISCIPLINE

The RFU is extremely concerned at the increasing number of instances of unauthorised encroachment onto the field of coaches, parents and spectators and they have given CB Disciplinary Secretaries powers to take swift disciplinary action where deemed appropriate. Whilst this is a nationwide issue I have had to deal with a recent case involving unauthorised pitch encroachment in Northumberland.

RFU Regulation **19.4.9** states as follows:

A club shall be responsible for ensuring that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that its players, coaches, members and spectators conduct themselves appropriately and do not behave in a way that is improper, offensive, abusive, threatening, indecent or insulting or ***enter the pitch without the authority of the referee.***

Regulation **19.3.18** meanwhile states:

In addition to the power to issue an ISO, the RFU Head of Discipline, or a person with delegated authority, has the power to provisionally suspend any individual for a period of up to four weeks if such individual has entered the playing area without the permission of the Referee and is subject to a disciplinary or safeguarding investigation as a result. There is no right of appeal arising from this decision.

I would be grateful if you make your Chair of Youth aware of this communication and ask that they take steps to ensure that all coaches and parents are made aware of these concerns and the potential consequences.

Regards,
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