Governance Report

Date – 28.11.2025

Report compiled by Rob Gibson

Key events, issues, and achievements since the last report.

Adult Discipline Report

There were no discipline hearings in October but there has been one hearing in November. A number of issues have arisen however;

- A late citing by Percy Park against a Northern player was dealt with by way of a 5.12 hearing on 20.11.25. The charge was not made out as the Panel was not satisfied that it was a deliberate action. The player had suffered a number of serious facial fractures
- An age grade matter was taken over due to spectator, player and coach abuse of the referee and the match being abandoned. It has yet to be determined.
- A further club citing is pending.

Age Grade Discipline Report

Very different cases resolved in October/November-

U19 Adult Playing down for Tyne Met U18

This issue with the Gosforth ASE situation in September is very important to our Clubs in ensuring there is appropriate association/communication/progression for Academy players to Clubs. RFU Regulation 15 is being reviewed and my personal thoughts have been forwarded to the Review Committee and RFU.

****Breach of Regulation 19.4.9**

Increasing number of cases of adult alleged breach of 19.4.9; this topic would have been discussed at the Northumberland Age Grade meeting 19 November BUT unfortunately cancelled due to the weather. A Club is responsible for the behaviour of its players, members and spectators. A Club should be able to demonstrate events occurred because of circumstances outside of its control and all reasonable steps had been taken to prevent such occurrences e.g. respect barriers, technical area, active bystander appointed, notices around the ground/clubhouse, referred to in newsletter[s]…

Coordination with Scottish Rugby Union

U18, Colt, SRU Borders semi-junior league, a colt from Borders red carded by a NRURS referee, took several days to identify the person at SRU and process; now in place!

Coordination with Durham

Racial abuse case, RFU informed and process completed within 2 days of match!!!

Safeguarding Report

None

RugbySafe Report
None

Current and impending issues, events, and work streams

Adult Discipline Report
No issues have arisen.

Age Grade Discipline Report
Age Grade Discipline webinar Monday 24 November, hopefully age grade adults from Northumberland are taking part!

Safeguarding Report
Over the last 24 hours I've received information about a person who potentially could be a risk to children. I am currently investigating and in the process of referring to the RFU.

RugbySafe Report
None

Issues requiring Decision, Discussion or Dissemination

Adult Discipline Report
None.

Age Grade Discipline Report
26 August proposed a 'Way Forward' re Age Grade tours (overnight) in England following a problem at the end of last season, this was referred to in my August Report, action?
****Action required**
Coordination with Safeguarding, I am receiving Report via Mark from Club Safeguarding Officers. These are treated as being received from Club officials and appropriately investigated.
Sometimes from individuals - Clubs need to remind their members Reports re Discipline must come from a Club official to be investigated.

Safeguarding Report
None

RugbySafe Report
None

NB – This report must not include personal or identifiable data as it may be appended to the Board Minutes. If there is a need to report on a Confidential matter, please forward that communication separately, marked 'Confidential'.