



EDMONTON RUGBY UNION

Match Official Abuse Policy

Updated February 16, 2023

In order to prevent Match Official (Referee, Assistant Referee and Technical Zone Officials) Abuse, the ERU, in conjunction with the Edmonton Rugby Union Referees Society, implemented the following policy in 2018. While there have been updates in recent years, these policies apply at all games. This policy will continue to be reviewed, but is active until the next revision by the ERU board.

Match Official Abuse is defined as: “Emotional, psychological, or verbal abuse directed at a Match Official. This includes, but is not limited to: excessive questioning or challenging of authority, disrespectful comments, threatening or demeaning a Match Official.” If a Match Official feels that they have been abused, then Abuse has occurred and it will not be up to the discretion of others to decide that it has not happened.

In cases of Match Official Abuse by anyone that is not a player:

First Incident – the referee directs the team captain or coach to tell the offender (coach or spectator) to refrain from making any comments whatsoever about the actions of the match official(s).

Second Incident – the offender is directed by the referee to leave the playing area and to maintain a minimum distance of 400m from the field. If the coach or spectator refuses to leave the playing area, the game will be stopped until such time that they do leave the area. If the coach or spectator still refuses to leave the area, the game will be abandoned with the offending team forfeiting the game.

If a coach or spectator is ejected, a Disciplinary Committee will be convened and the incident investigated. The Club will be required to post a \$1,000 Behavior Bond with the ERU for the balance of the season and the offender will be required to provide a written apology to the referee. If there are no further ejections, the full amount of the Bond will be returned to the Club at the end of the season. Any further ejections will result in the following sanctions:

First Ejection – fine of \$200

Second Ejection – fine of \$300

Third Ejection – fine of \$500

Fourth Ejection – rescheduling of all remaining games away from the home field of the offending Club.

Referee abuse by players will continue to be dealt with according to World Rugby and ERU Rules and Regulations. It should be noted that the ERU reserves the right to apply this policy to abuse of volunteers, ERU staff and board members as well as levy any additional sanction it deems warranted in the specific circumstance.

Sincerely,

[signatures]