

CONSTITUENT BODY SHORT JUDGMENT FORM

Constituent Body	Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire	
Case number	Click here to enter text.	Select: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red Card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other

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PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	Nicholls	Date of birth	Click here to enter text.
Forename(s)	Edward	RFU ID #	Click here to enter text.
Club name	Market Rasen & Louth RUFC	Date of match	Saturday 26 th January, 2019
Offence & Law charged (e.g. 9.12 - strike with head)	9.28 - A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted
Home team	Southwell RUFC	Away team	Market Rasen & Louth RUFC
Home team level*	Click here to enter text.	Away team level*	Click here to enter text.

***TEAM LEVEL REFERS TO 1ST XV, 2ND XV, COLTS, VETS, etc NOT WHOLE CLUB LEVEL**

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	Thursday 14 th February, 2019	Hearing venue	Newark RUFC
Chairman	Matthew O'Grady	Secretary	Andrew Statham
Panel member 1	Timothy Bembridge	Panel member 2	Michael Hilton
Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proven <input type="checkbox"/> Not Proven		

CASE SUMMARY & SANCTION

NOTE: UNDER RFU REGULATION 19.5.2, PLAYERS ORDERED OFF ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING

Total sanction	8 weeks	Entry Point	Mid-Range
Banned from	Saturday 26 th January, 2019	Banned to	Saturday 23 rd March, 2019
Ban split from	N/A	Ban split to	N/A
Free to play	Sunday 24 th March, 2019	Costs	£30

NOTE: SANCTION IN MATCHES FOR AGE GRADE ONLY

NOTE: FOR SENDING OFF SUFFICIENT STATE UNDER TOTAL SANCTION

Signature (Chairman)	Matthew O'Grady	Date	Saturday 16 th February, 2019
Signature (Secretary)	Andrew Statham	Date entered to GMS	Click here to enter text.

PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX: Intentional/deliberate 19.11.8(a) Reckless 19.11.8(b)

Gravity of player's actions 19.11.8(c)		Nature of actions 19.11.8(d)	
A repeated verbally abusive barrage before and after being sent off because the Player disagreed with the Referee's decision. The Player questioned the Referee's honesty and integrity in suggesting he was biased.		Verbal abuse and questioning the Referee's integrity because the Player disagreed with a decision.	
Existence of provocation 19.11.8(e)		Whether player retaliated 19.11.8(f)	
N/A		N/A	
Self-defence 19.11.8(g)		Effect on victim 19.11.8(h)	
N/A		This was an abusive incident. The Referee is a volunteer. The game continued.	
Effect on match 19.11.8(i)		Vulnerability of victim 19.11.8(j)	
N/A		The Referee was alone with no team mate or colleagues to assist him or provide moral support. Referees are inherently more vulnerable than other game participants.	
Level of participation/premeditation 19.11.8(k)		Conduct completed/attempted 19.11.8(L)	
N/A		Completed	
Other features of player's conduct 19.11.8(m)			
Click here to enter text.			
Entry point number	Top end* Enter here	Mid-Range 12 weeks	Low End

NOTE: STATE NUMBER OF WEEKS OR MATCHES ENTRY POINT FOR OFFENCE – ENTRY POINT IN MATCHES FOR AGE GRADE ONLY

*If top end, the Panel should identify an entry point between the top end and the maximum sanction (19.11.9) as set out in Appendix 2

In making the above assessment, the Panel should consider the RFU guidance (Note 2) set out in Appendix 5 (page 366) to Regulation 19. Significant weight should be given to RFU regulation 19.11.8(a), 19.11.8(h) and 19.11.8(i).

Click here to enter text.

This was a barrage of abusive. The abusive continued after the Player was sent off and the Player questioned the Referee's integrity.

AGGRAVATING FACTORS (REGULATION 19.11.10)

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the game 19.11.10(a)

Need for deterrent 19.11.10(b)

N/A

Any other off-field aggravating factors 19.11.10(c)

N/A

Number added on:

0 weeks

NOTE: AGGRAVATING IN MATCHES FOR AGE GRADE ONLY

Acknowledgement of guilt 19.11.11(a)	Player's disciplinary record/good character 19.11.11(b)
The Player admitted the verbal barrage, but denied questioning the Referee's integrity. The Referee's account was accepted by the Panel and therefore the Player's acknowledgment of his guilt was only partial – denying an important element of the offending.	Good record
Youth & inexperience of player 19.11.11(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing 19.11.11(d)
24 year old player. He was the team Vice-Captain.	Did not attend, but was represented by 1 st XV captain and the coach.
Remorse & timing of remorse 19.11.11(e)	Other off-field mitigation 19.11.11(f)
The Players apologised to the Referee in the bar after the game and they shook hands.	N/A

Number deducted:

4 weeks

NOTE: SUBJECT TO REGULATION 19.11.13, A DISCIPLINARY PANEL CANNOT APPLY A GREATER REDUCTION THAN 50% OF THE RELEVANT ENTRY POINT SUSPENSION

NOTE: MITIGATING IN MATCHES FOR AGE GRADE ONLY

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

This Player's case was listed to be heard on Thursday 7th February, 2019. On the evening of the hearing nobody from the club attended. When then contacted, it was apparent the club had not informed the Player of his hearing and nobody at the club thought it necessary to attend (despite a clear hearing notice being provided). This judgment should be provided to the Disciplinary Secretary of the CB in which the Player attends college, which is understood to be Staffordshire.