CONSTITUENT BODY SHORT JUDGMENT FORM

Constituent Body	Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire		
Case Number	NLD26/27003	Select:	Red Card ✔ Citing ☐ Other ☐

Particulars of Offence			
Player's Surname	(Coach) Buxton	Date of Birth	19/06/2001
Forename(s)	Conor	RFU ID No.	2020437
Club Name	Amber Valley	Date of Match	20/09/2026
Offence & Law charged	9.28 - A player must not disresp	Plea	Admitted ✔ Not Admitted ☐
Home Team	Amber Valley (ladies)	Away Team	East Retford (Ladies)
Home Team Level*	Inner Warrior	Away Team Level	Inner Warrior

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

Hearing Details			
Hearing Date	4/10/26	Hearing Venue	Papers
Chairman	Tim Bembridge	Secretary	Andrew Statham
Panel Member 1	Ian Roe	Panel Member 2	Claire Hanson Chruch
Decision	Proven ✔ 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	3 Weeks	Entry Point	Low end
Banned From	21/09/26	Banned To	12/10/26
Ban Split From		Ban Split To	
Free To Play	13/10/23	Costs	£50-00

NOTE: FOR SENDING OFF SUFFICIENT STATE UNDER TOTAL SANCTION

Signature (Chair)	Tim Bembridge	Date	6/10/26
Signature (Secretary)		Date entered to GMS (mandatory)	

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Assessment of Offence (Regulation 19.11.8)				
PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX:	Intentional 19.11.8(a)	✔	Reckless 19.11.8(b)	

Nature of actions 19.11.8(c)	Existence of provocation 19.11.8(d)
Critisised the match officials decisions on numerous occasions, having been warned the match official then issued a red card	No, it is imposible for referee ' s to " provoke " a player or coach
Whether player retaliated 19.11.8(e)	**Self-defence 19.11.8(f)**
No	No
Effect on victim 19.11.8(g)	**Effect on match 19.11.8(h)**
Although concerned about the situation, the referee completed the game and has since officiated other matches.	A game of 3X 20 minute sessions little effect on the sessions
Vulnerability of victim 19.11.8(i)	**Level of participation/premeditation 19.11.8(j)**
A match official is always vulnerable and this is an issue the game is attempting to prevent.	The numerous comments suggest a deliberate act.
Conduct completed/attempted 19.11.8(k)	**Other features of player's conduct 19.11.8(l)**
Completed	Red card report noted " Red card shown to AV coach who moved away from the coaching area but did not leave the field. "

Entry point number		
Top End*	Mid-Range	Low End 2 weeks

NOTE: STATE NUMBER OF WEEKS OR MATCHES ENTRY POINT FOR OFFENCE

*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 Practice Note as set out in Appendix 5 to Regulation 19. Significant weight should be given to RFU regulation 19.11.8(a), 19.11.8(h) and 19.11.8(i).

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Reasons for Entry Point
Due consideration given it was considered this was only a low end breech. Mr. Buxton should consider himself lucky on this point especially considering he did not remove himself from the playing field. just the immediate area.

Mitigating Factors (Regulation 19.11.10)	
Acknowledgement of guilt 19.11.11(a)	Player's disciplinary record/good character 19.11.11(b)
Engaged with his club and was remorseful.	Previous good record
Youth & inexperience of player 19.11.11(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing 19.11.11(d)
While as a young coach (25 YO) is given the benefit of doubt in this instance, he must consider the image he is projecting to his players.	Naive, should have realised the situation he was putting himself into.
Remorse & timing of remorse 19.11.11(e)	Other off-field mitigation 19.11.11(f)
At club hearing whilst the gravity of the situation was becoming clear	None

Number of weeks deducted:	1

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

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Aggravating Factors (Regulation 19.11.13)

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

In accordance with the RFU Head of Judiciary Sanction Guidance for Match Official Abuse cases which came into effect on 1 January 2024 and, therefore, applied to this incident, an automatic addition of 2 weeks must be added to the sanction.

Need for deterrent 19.11.10(b)

As 19.11.10(a)

Any other off-field aggravating factors (including poor conduct prior to or at the hearing) 19.11.10 (c)

Number of weeks added on:	2 weeks

Any Other Information

All club fixtures should now be published on the RFU website. These fixtures are sourced from there. Should the club have other fixtures that are not on the RFU website, they must provide evidence and a reasoned explanation to Andrew Statham NLD Discipline Secretary. An amended return to play date may be considered.

This sanction is given is for the duration of Mr Buxton ' s suspension from playing and coaching. For clarity, Mr Buxton is prohibited from playing or coaching at any level. He is permitted to participate in Adult Male Training (not coaching).

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Detailed report of the incident

AV coach had already been warned about his verbal comments about a previous referee knock-on decision. The coach was warned to remain quiet, not back chat the referee or otherwise he would be told to leave the coaching area and pitch.

AV were attacking in the 2nd period and knocked the ball on. Upon blowing for the scrum the AV coach shouted a comment along the lines of " oh you saw it that time, not like all the others you missed ". The coach was around 15 metres away.
Referee called the AV captain over who admitted they had also heard the comment. Red card shown to AV coach who moved away from the coaching area but did not leave the field.

The match was being played in 3 x 20 mins. The first warning happened in the first 20 minute period and the red card happened in the second 20 minute period in the same area of play.

Referee was being observed by NLD mentor, Nick MUDD, and was wearing match comms throughout the game.

The game was recorded with VEO. Link has been requested from AV.

Name:	Kate Long		
Signature:	K. Long.	Date:	20/09/2026

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