

Lancashire RFU – Governance Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the LCRFU Governance Committee held at the Baker Residence, Leigh on Thursday 21 April 2016 at 1900 hours

Present: Tim Stirk (Chairman), Carol Baker (Safeguarding Manager), John Bullough (Hon Solicitor), Brian Stott (Disciplinary Secretary)

Apologies: Mark Downs (Hon Secretary)

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2015

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

2) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3) Safeguarding Manager

The Safeguarding Manager reported that one of the Deputy Safeguarding Officers had resigned, but another was in process of being appointed.

The Club Safeguarding Officers' Conference will take place at the beginning of next season.

4) Age Grade Dispensations

CB reported that all had gone smoothly this season. She will remind clubs that new dispensations will have to be sought for next season and that any dispensations they grant in the U13-U18 age grades should be in writing and records kept. Nine clubs sent CB copies of their dispensation paperwork.

5) Disciplinary Secretary

The Disciplinary Secretary reported on the following cases:

- i) Eagle were reprimanded for an offence reviewed under RFU Rule 5.12.
- ii) Littleborough received a suspended penalty of a 20 point deduction next season for a bad disciplinary record under RFU regulation 19.3.1. Widnes and De La Salle will also have to answer for a bad disciplinary record.
- iii) In the context of abuse of match officials calling the referee a cheat will be treated particularly seriously.

6) Disciplinary Committee

The Committee **agreed to recommend** to the LCRFU Board the following changes to the rules regarding the constitution and operation of the Disciplinary Committee:

13. Disciplinary Committee

13.1 Comprises: The Chairman of Discipline, the Vice-Chairman of Discipline and the Disciplinary Secretary, all appointed by the Board, and three other elected members who shall be nominated at the annual general meeting for election at the first extraordinary general meeting.

Rationale for change: the Disciplinary Secretary, who is empowered by RFU Regulation 19.6.8 to investigate disciplinary matters, is such an important position that he/she should be appointed by the Board. Advice is being taken as to whether there should be two or three elected members of the Disciplinary Committee.

NB Under RFU Regulation 13.2.1 the Chairman of a CB Disciplinary Panel must be chaired by a person who has been accredited to sit in that capacity by the RFU.

13.2 The Disciplinary Committee once constituted shall have the power to co-opt up to three suitably qualified persons to serve on disciplinary panels.

Rationale for change: this enables the Disciplinary Secretary to have seven/eight suitable people from whom disciplinary panels can be appointed.

13.2 becomes 13.3

13.3 becomes 13.4

13.5 Duties:

13.4.1 becomes 13.5.1

13.4.2 becomes 13.5.2 The Disciplinary Secretary is empowered under RFU Regulation 19 to investigate matters where clubs are in breach of their obligations to the County Union or the Rugby Football Union and the Disciplinary Committee may where necessary impose sanctions.

Rationale for Change: to emphasise the fact the Disciplinary Secretary has authority from the RFU to investigate potential breaches of the rules by clubs or members of those clubs and to decide whether there is a case to be heard by a CB Disciplinary Panel.

13.4.3 becomes 13.5.3