

Lancashire RFU Governance Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the LCRFU Governance Committee held in the Leigh Gallery at Preston Grasshoppers RFC on Wednesday 26 August 2015 at 1900 hours

Present: Tim Stirk (Chairman), Carol Baker (Safeguarding Manager), Mark Downs (Hon Secretary), John Bullough (Hon Solicitor)

Apologies: Brian Stott (Disciplinary Secretary)

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015.

The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

2) Matters Arising

- i) National Safeguarding Conference – this was attended by Christine Spivey and Ian Spivey. Topics included the implications of Operation Yew Tree for corporate responsibility.
- ii) The Safeguarding Manager had attended all the Age Grade County Finals and all had gone well.
- iii) Rule Changes – all the proposed rule changes had gone through at the AGM and the chairman thanked the committee members, especially the Hon Solicitor and the Hon Secretary, for their help in this matter. The committee hopes that the vacant directorships will be filled as soon as possible.

3) Safeguarding Manager

An 'In Touch' course for club safeguarding officers had been successfully held. It was good to see three new safeguarding officers taking the course.

The Safeguarding Manager had been approached by officials of the Colts League about granting block dispensations to clubs to allow players to play down either to make up U17 teams or when there was no U19 team. The committee asked her to remind the Colts League that Lancashire RFU cannot grant such a dispensation as teams from other CBs are involved and it is up to individual clubs to decide whether a player should play down in accordance with RFU guidelines.

4) Age Grade Dispensations

Only one request had been received, from Littleborough RFC, and this was granted. The Safeguarding Manager will again remind all clubs that dispensations for players in the U6 to U11 age grades have to be granted by the Lancashire RFU Governance Committee for the coming season.

5) Disciplinary Secretary

The Disciplinary Secretary had to attend a Disciplinary Committee meeting and asked the chairman to mention that RFU Discipline had gained a considerable success in persuading World Rugby to adopt appropriate sanctions for offending age grade players. The table of sanctions is now appended to the Age Grade Disciplinary Regulations which were revised and approved last year.

6) Any Other Business

It was noted from the minutes of the Finance and Funding Committee that several clubs have incurred historic arrears in their county subscriptions, and the question was raised as to what action might be taken against them if they continue to default. The Hon Solicitor urged caution in this matter as the fault may not lie solely with the clubs and any subsequent litigation could be very expensive.

The being no other business the meeting closed at 2015 hours.

Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 16 March 2016 in the Leigh Gallery at Preston Grasshoppers RFC at 1900 hours.