**Issues arising for Leagues to deal with or refer to WRCFA.**

The following examples are things that Leagues may have reported to them and whether you can / cannot deal with them / refer them to WRCFA. The list isn’t exhaustive and these are just some of the issues that arise regularly.

**Disciplinary – Things to report to WRCFA.**

Abandoned Games / Coach taking a team off the pitch

Disciplinary matters dealt with by the referee– cards, verbal, physical abuse etc.

Touchline issues involving multiple people which the referee has had to deal with. (A charge can be raised for failure to control spectators)

Any breach of FA Rules & Regulations by a participant (player, coach, official)

We cannot charge individual spectators are they are not classed as participants. If you are made aware of an abusive spectator from a club, the League can liaise with the club about this so that the club can deal with this. If this persists with the individual at other junior games then this can be referred to Paul Ratcliffe who can write directly to the parent / club. But we can’t raise a charge against the spectator.

**Referee reports** – If a game has been played (usually younger age groups) and issues arise (sending’s off, touchline or Respect matters – we do need the person who refereed the game to send us a report (email will do) to [discipline@westridingfa.com](mailto:discipline@westridingfa.com) this report from the ‘stand in’ referee has the same weight as a report from an affiliated referee.

**Club disputes.**

Parents complaining about coaches’ methods or their child’s lack of game time etc.… need to be referred to the CWO / Club Secretary.

Any parent complaint regarding an issue at the club – This Is for the club to resolve.

Individually or personal differences between parents / coaches / club officials are not County matters and should be referred back to the club to deal with.

Internal disciplinary matters / breaches of Club codes of Conduct – These are club issues and clubs have the right to suspend / ban any club member who breaches their Codes of Conduct.

Parents who separate and one parent does not want the other parent attending games etc.… This is a matter for the parents / club to deal with. Not League or County matters.

Club issues that may breach FA Rules and Regs – such as financial matters, missing funds etc.. Refer to WRCFA.

**Safeguarding / Welfare / Poor Practice matters.**

We get most things labelled as ‘safeguarding’ by clubs / parents. If you are sent a match report or a concern, please consider if the children ‘were at significant risk or harm’ (where they verbally / physically threatened by someone in a Position of Trust? If so – refer immediately to Paul Ratcliffe.

Reports / information made to the League relating to those in a Position of Trust where allegations of any nature have been made (physical, verbal, online grooming, inappropriate behaviour towards a child – please refer to Paul Ratcliffe.

Touchline issues – Examples - adults shouting abuse, threatening behaviour…coaches swearing, comments between sets of spectators…any touchline (poor respect issues) The league can speak to the clubs regarding this, but should also pass on to WRCFA so that we can take Disciplinary Action.

Leagues can be involved in all match day issues which involve junior clubs. Sometimes it is better to have a dual approach from the League / County FA. We just need to be made aware of issues so that we can chase up / refer for Disciplinary matters.

If there is a particular spectator / coach been abusive, please refer to Paul Ratcliffe.

We can take individual action against:

Coaches / officials – fines, bans, suspensions.

Spectators – write directly to them; work with club to get rid of them.

We keep a record of all poor practice cases reported to us, whether it be a club, a coach or the spectators. This allows us to build up a record of persistent offenders (individuals / clubs) and then take appropriate actions. Examples of this are:

Club – Fines, charges, club affiliation suspended, individual teams suspended or the whole club can be suspended if we have one problem age group.

Charter Standard removed from a club.

Individuals (club coaches / officials) – County – fines, bans, suspension, asked to attend Educational courses, re-certificate, asked to leave club.

National – If the issues are Safeguarding related (coach hit a child, grooming etc..) An FA Suspension will be issued.

**If you receive any correspondence / reports regarding matches or individuals and you are unsure what to do, please contact WRCFA to discuss. Please ring 0113 2821222 (option 1) if it is a match based / disciplinary matter or (option 5) if you believe it is a safeguarding issue.**