

DURHAM COUNTY R.F.U. DISCIPLINARY PANEL



Hon. Chairman
John Robinson

Hon. Secretary
John G. Dove

16th July 2023

For the attention of all DCRFU Club Committees & Coaches

APPROACHES TO PLAYERS BY CLUBS & COACHES

Further to my letter of 6th July 2023 on this subject; On 11th July the matter was discussed at the DCRFU County Committee meeting. During the discussion it was apparent that many of those Club representatives present were either not aware of the previously agreed protocol or, in the case of those who were aware, what it actually said.

In order that Club Committees are fully aware and so that they can inform their coaches and those responsible for player recruitment of its content I would like to give some background to why and when it was introduced.

Approaches to players by Clubs and those involved in them have gone on for many years. At the beginning of the 1995/96 season as a result of concerns expressed by various clubs the DCRFU County Secretary wrote to all County clubs on the subject of: *Common Courtesies – Club Approaches to Players at another Club*. As a result of that letter a ruling was agreed by the County Committee. It stated:

WHEN A CLUB WISHES TO APPROACH A PLAYER OF ANOTHER CLUB WITH A VIEW TO RECRUITMENT, THAT CLUB SHOULD FIRST MAKE CONTACT WITH THE CLUB SECRETARY BEFORE ANY APPROACH IS MADE TO THE PLAYER AND THAT THE PLAYER SHOULD BE ADVISED OF AN APPROACH BY HIS OWN CLUB SECRETARY BEFORE ANY CONTACT IS MADE BY ANOTHER CLUB.

Following that ruling it was found to be necessary to remind Clubs verbally of its existence on a number of other occasions. Clubs were also reminded in writing including in a letter to all clubs in November 2005.

It is appreciated that Club Committees, Coaches & Team Management may well have changed many times over the passing years but the ruling has not been rescinded and is still very relevant. I would therefore ask that ALL Clubs acknowledge receipt and understanding of the ruling. I would also ask that they make their Adult and Age Grade Coaches, Team Management etc. of its existence and of their requirement that they abide by it.

I would ask that this letter is shared with **all** of your Club Committee and coaches at **all** levels to ensure everyone is aware of its content together with instructions that the protocol be followed.

Best wishes for the season ahead.

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