



Unruly Individuals Procedure

Rugby Ontario is committed to preventing referee abuse and helping clubs to deal with problematic situations.

When dealing with unruly individuals, Rugby Ontario stresses the need to avoid the use of physical force by any member of Rugby Ontario or clubs.

When an individual is recognized as being an issue, if the individual is recognized as being a member of either of the playing clubs, then a member of that club should speak with the individual to explain that the conduct is inappropriate and needs to cease.

Often, it is best that a member of the same club can deal with an issue before intervention from a referee or other outside person is required.

If an issue proceeds to the point where a referee needs to intervene, then the referee is encouraged to speak with the captains to allow them the chance to speak with the individual causing issue. Consideration should be given in age grade rugby to speaking directly to a coach or other responsible adult.

Where the unruly individual cannot be readily identified as belonging to one club or another, then the home team will be responsible for dealing with the unruly individual.

Each club is encouraged to have a representative identified in attendance who is empowered to deal with issues that may arise.

If an issue cannot be dealt with by captains or other representatives, then the referee may halt the game either temporarily or completely.

Club officials are encouraged to consider the following steps:

- 1) The club official or captain who is dealing with an unruly individual should first speak with the individual to try to defuse the situation.
- 2) If this does not work then the club official should warn the individual that continued behaviour will reflect poorly on the club, it could lead to a forfeiture of the game, it could lead to other sanctions being leveraged against the club including fines, bonds or other actions.
- 3) If the person will not cease their behaviour then they should be asked to leave the field and area. As occupier of the field, even a public field, the home club has the right to exclude entry and have an individual removed. The referee has the right to request



any individual to be removed by the home team and should make the request for removal from the home club if the earlier steps do not work.

4) If the individual will not leave the area then they should be informed by the home club official that:

- i) they are being asked to leave by a representative of the occupier/owner,
- ii) that they are being informed under the Trespass to Property Act that they are now considered as trespassing,
- iii) that if they do not leave the police will be called to remove the person.

5) If the person still does not leave then the police should be called. When calling police it is important that all clubs know the address of the field, that they notify the police of the issue, that any contributing factors such as alcohol are at play and be ready to provide supporting information such as witnesses. Club officials are encouraged to take notes of what happened and who could be potential witnesses.

When an individual must be removed then the club official should be notifying the executive of the club to determine whether further action against the individual should be taken such as requiring rehabilitative action prior to the individual being allowed to return or banning the individual completely.

Actions taken by a club, especially in accordance with this guide, to try to deal with an unruly individual will be considered should any discipline action be considered by Rugby Ontario.

Club officials should take special care when removing a parent to ensure that the child is permitted to leave with the parent.

Approved by the Rugby Ontario Board of Directors 15 February, 2017