

**RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
DISCIPLINARY PANEL**

Venue: By video
Date: 17 May 2022

JUDGMENT

Panel: Ian Unsworth QC, Miles Benjamin, Gareth Graham

Secretary: Rebecca Morgan

SUMMARY

1. This is an anonymised summary of the decision reached by the Panel in a case involving a player using abusive and homophobic language.
2. Player A was charged with conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Union and/or Game, contrary to Rule 5.12. Following a hearing, the Player was found to have used the phrase “*fuck off you faggot*” towards an opposition player.
3. The Panel concluded that it should follow the guidance for sanction entry points as set out in Regulation 19, Appendix 2. The Player had used highly inappropriate language to insult an opposition player that caused the other player to be offended. This was a single comment in a short-lived incident. In the particular circumstances of the case, the Panel concluded that a low-end entry point of six-weeks was appropriate.
4. Player A had accepted the charge at the earliest opportunity, had a good disciplinary record, had conducted himself in an exemplary fashion at the hearing, and had demonstrated obvious remorse. The Panel concluded that the Player was entitled to a maximum reduction of 50% by way of mitigation.
5. The Panel took the unusual step of directing that its written decision ought not to be published because of the exceptional nature of the Player’s personal mitigating circumstances.