

Policy for Liverpool and District Rugby Union Referee Society Online Communications

Scope

To provide an acceptable use protocol for all members of L&DRRS WhatsApp communication group, emails, WTR and other online communication channels.

Purpose of Whats App group/Acceptable use guidelines

To share videos, information and law questions relevant to Continuous Match Official Development modules (CMODs).

To share relevant information from World Rugby, RFU and ERRRA(English Rugby Referee Association).

To stimulate discussion points with regards to relevant officiating rugby – laws, management, consistency etc

To stimulate discussion on relevant rugby topics – which link to point 3.

Noticeboard of available age-group/other games not appointed by L&DRRS appointment team (please provide contact details of individual club officials for confirmation process, the appointments must be made by the club direct with the referee to ensure insurance is in place for the match official and club).

Unacceptable use

Promotion of commercial ventures for personal gain.

Discussion of details of yellow & red cards awarded in matches officiated by society members that may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Confirmation of, swapping games or 'crying off' match official appointments made by L&DRRS appointments team. See Handbook for details on correct procedure.

Derogatory comments – including those about both society members as well as individual local clubs and associated members - that could offend on the grounds of race, region, nationality, religion, gender or sexual identity.

Acts contrary to RFU Core Values.

Actions following unacceptable use

Those members not following the acceptable use protocol could be subject to action by the administrators of the group, which will range from gentle reminders about protocols, up to being removed from the group on either a temporary or permanent basis.

In serious/extreme cases the Executive Committee of L&DRRS could activate disciplinary procedures.

Summary

The WhatsApp group is primarily a communication tool for society members but we do understand that members will participate in friendly banter with each

other – we just ask that members are aware of acceptable use when posting comments.

All other online communication channels are NOT restricted and are not intended for “social media” use and as such members of the society should refrain from any form of banter that may offend, bring the society into disrepute or be against RFU Core Values.