

8. Disciplinary Procedures

1. The League Disciplinary Secretary will convene a Disciplinary Committee comprised of no less than three officers of the League to deal with breaches of and matters arising under the League Constitution and Rules. Other members may, at the discretion of the Chairman be authorised to sit on any such committee, should a conflict of interest arise.
2. Matters relating to the conduct of players, supporters and/or team officials can only be dealt with by the GMWFL Disciplinary Committee. Such matters will normally be reported direct to the GMWFL by the match referee in accordance with GMWFL procedures. Any team Manager or Club Secretary requiring clarification or assistance should contact the League Disciplinary Secretary.
3. All complaints and protests relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the League must be reported in writing to the League Disciplinary Secretary (in the cases of matters arising at matches within four days of the match being played e.g. for a match played on a Thursday the protest must be received by the following Monday) along with the protest fee (if applicable) applied by the League from time to time.
4. For the purpose of Rule 8.3 it is preferred to make reports by email to the league Chairman (Paul.Gardner@yourtrustrochdale.co.uk). Reports may also be submitted by post to the League Chairman at Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1ZL.
5. Disciplinary hearings will be convened by the League Disciplinary Secretary, normally on a monthly basis to take place before League General Meetings. Urgent matters may be dealt with at shorter notice.
6. No person may sit on a Disciplinary Committee in which they or their Club have a direct or indirect interest. Any doubt on this will be determined by the League Disciplinary Secretary (or if the interest concerned is that of the Disciplinary Secretary or his/her Club then by the League Chairman).
7. Parties will be given written notice of the date and time of the meeting and any letters of defence or mitigation should be sent to the Disciplinary Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the hearing. Clubs and individuals will have seven days to respond to any charges made against them.

8. Where considered appropriate the League Disciplinary Secretary may request the personal appearance of any complainant, defendant or witnesses. If any relevant party fails to attend then the matter may be decided in their absence.

9. The outcome of Disciplinary Hearings will be notified to relevant parties in writing by the Disciplinary Secretary within 14 days of the relevant Disciplinary Hearing.

10. Any and all financial penalties must be complied with within 14 days of notification to the paying party and any failure to comply may result in further action.

11. Within 3 days of communication of any decision of the Disciplinary Committee, a Club, official or player against whom action has been taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars with the Disciplinary Committee of the GMWFL, including payment to the GMWFL of an appeal fee (if any), if they require adjudication by the Appeal Committee.

The grounds for appeal shall be in accordance with GMWFL rules. The Appeal Committee may order any appeal fee to be forfeited and decide if costs are to be born and the amount of those costs. The decision of the Committee of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned. The Committee of Appeal shall consist of three individuals who were not party to the original decision(s).

12. A Member Club found to have made an illegal approach to a player will be liable to a points deduction and (if appropriate) expulsion from any competition organised by the League.

13. Managers and Club Officials found to have committed serious breaches of the League Rules & Constitution, may be given a formal warning as to their future conduct. Further instances of misconduct may result in them being barred from any or all League Meetings, and removed from any official capacity that they hold within the League.

14. In exceptional circumstances a Member Club may be asked to remove individuals from their position within that Member Club.

15. A Member Club will have its season's fee forfeited if any of its teams withdraws from the League prior to completing its fixtures.