



Modified Yellow Card Policy

Board Approved: September 2018

Purpose

The purpose of this modified policy is to introduce changes to the handling and review of the issuance of yellow cards and the assessment yellow card sanctions in BC Rugby. This policy is introduced for the 2018- 2019 season on a trial basis.

Rationale

While the accumulation of yellow cards should be sanctioned, the DC has recommended to BC Rugby that variations to past practice be examined to minimize the potentially harsh result that can occur when a player is deemed to be sent off for an accumulation of yellow cards, in particular when the accumulation includes a yellow card for a team infringement or when the player, by virtue of the success of the player's team in progressing through the playoffs, plays more matches than players on other teams.

Modifications

1. Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below, a player who receives three yellow cards during one season (defined in the Discipline Policy as the period from June 1 to May 31) will automatically receive a sanction of a one-game suspension and 12 months' probation without the need to hold a DC hearing.
2. The threshold at which a player receives an automatic sanction under paragraph 1 above will increase from three yellow cards to four yellow cards for players who actually play in two or more playoff games in the same league or division.
3. The first yellow card issued to a player for a team infringement will not count towards a player's annual yellow card accumulation total. However, notwithstanding the foregoing in this paragraph 3, if the player receives a second yellow card for a team infringement then both yellow cards (and all subsequent yellow cards for team infringements) will count towards the player's annual accumulation total.
4. A player who receives a yellow card and who wants to appeal the issuance of the yellow card must initiate an appeal of the yellow card within 72 hours of the end of the game in which the





yellow card was issued. A player may only appeal a yellow card on the basis that either (a) an act of foul play occurred but the player was incorrectly identified as having committed the act of foul play (in which case the player must identify the teammate who did commit the act of foul play), or (b) an act of foul play did not occur. The burden of proof rests solely with the player. There is no right of appeal against the award of a yellow card for a technical offence. A player who wishes to appeal a yellow card must send a written notice to the BC Rugby Office setting out the basis on which the yellow card is being appealed. All evidence supporting the player's position must be submitted concurrently with the notice. The DC will review the player's submissions and make its determination on the balance of probabilities, with or without a full hearing involving the player's attendance at the discretion of the DC. Yellow cards that have not been contested, or that have been upheld after having been contested, will not be subject to further scrutiny by the DC in examining any sanction against the player, whether automatic under paragraph 1 above or otherwise.

Update – Board Approved: April 2022

At its meeting on Wednesday April 27, 2022 the BC Rugby Discipline Committee approved the following as a proposed amendment to the BC Rugby Disciplinary Policy - Addendum 2 - Modified Yellow Card Policy.

D. Two Yellow Cards in a Match

- 1) A player who receives two yellow cards in a match and is ordered off after the second yellow card, will have a hearing before the DC.
- 2) A player may appeal one of both yellow cards for foul play under the provisions of section C.4 above.
- 3) If a player's appeal of yellow card(s) for foul play under D.2 is successful, then the red card will be rescinded and expunged from the player's records
- 4) In its hearing under section D.1, the DC shall consider supplemental discipline for the offence of repeated infringement and not for the substantive offences relating to each yellow card
- 5) The entry points of supplemental discipline for the offence of repeated infringement are:



i) for two technical yellow cards in one match or one technical yellow card and one foul play yellow card in one match: sending off is sufficient

ii) for two foul play yellow cards in one match: 1 game suspension.

6) To arrive at the final supplemental discipline, the DC shall apply the aggregation and mitigation considerations as found in sections 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6 of the BCRU Discipline Policy.