

NEW SANCTION TABLE

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A new sanction table for the adult game will be applied this season and strengthens sanctions where foul play includes contact with a player's head.

World Rugby consulted with Unions last year before issuing new, simplified Laws of the Game and revised sanction tables. The RFU and other Unions subsequently submitted further feedback ahead of a meeting in Dublin last March and now a number of additional changes have been made to the sanction table, the most significant being:

Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head shall result in at least a mid-range sanction

The remainder of the table includes:

Law Reference	Change
9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others.	Mid-range entry point has increased from 4 weeks to 6 weeks Top end entry point has increased from 8+ weeks to 10+ weeks
9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone.	Contact with the Eye(s) has been changed to 1. Intentional contact with the eye(s) and 2. Reckless contact with the eye(s) Punching and Striking with hand or arm have now been combined under the same entry points The entry points for punching/striking have increased Mid-range entry is now 6 weeks (formerly 4) Top end entry is now 10+ weeks (formerly 8+) The low end entry point for striking with the head has increased from 4 to 6 weeks
9.27 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.	This is a new category and the following entry points apply:- Low: 2 weeks Mid: 4 weeks Top: 6+ weeks
A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.	This is a new category and the following entry points apply:- Low: 6 weeks Mid: 12 weeks Top: 18+ weeks
A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.	This is a new category and the following entry points apply:- Low: 6 weeks Mid: 12 weeks Top: 18+ weeks