**REFEREE ABUSE AND SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR**

Any incident of referee abuse, disorderly behaviour or alcohol consumption by spectators or team members within the playing enclosure, is to be addressed in the first instance by the appointed MDM. If required, the MDM is to seek the assistance gain support of other club officials and/or the match referee to ensure the enforcement of sanction provide to offending parties are complied with. If any of the above incidents occur during a match, including Referee Abuse or general disorderly behaviour of spectators, the MDM should adopt the following process:

* Approach the offending parties to identify them. Request the offending parties to cease from behaviour concerned. Indicate to them that if they do not comply they **WILL** be asked to leave the playing enclosure.
* If they fail to comply, call for assistance of other club officials and the match referee. Referee to support sanction. Offender is asked to leave the complex
* If non-compliance continues, the referee is to call the match off.

**ABUSE DEFINITIONS**

Abuse is defined as to attach with coarse or insulting, rude, threatening or maligning language or behaviour.

**Verbal Abuse is as follows**

* Any form of foul language
* Any form of racial or discriminatory behaviour
* Any form of threatening language
* Continual complaining/sledging
* Personal insults
* Dissent by players
* Any insults or personal attacks published in all forms of media including social media in or on a club affiliated domain

Physical abuse is as follows:

* Pushing
* Bumping
* Spitting
* Kicking
* Punching
* Any form of attempt of the above
* Any form of threatening behaviour

**Note:**

***At no times shall the MDM, assistants or the match referee confront any offending parties physically.***

**REPORTING OF REFEREE ABUSE OR SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR**

On all occasion that for any of the reasons outlined:

* A spectator is ejected from the ground
* The match has to be stopped
* The match has to be called off

Both the MDM and the match referee (if called upon to assist) shall forward a Referee Abuse Form to North Otago Rugby Football Union within 48hrs of the match ending, detailing a summary of the incidents(s) plus information leading to the identification of the offending party concerned.

**Referee Protocol**

Referees are to adhere to the match day protocol and report any breaches to the NORFU. The referee is not permitted to waive the procedures contained in this policy. If they do so the accept responsibility as the match official for the consequences that occur and realise they could have taken measures to rectify the situation.