

INDIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Indian Rugby Football Union (“**IRFU/Rugby India**”) is a non-profit company limited by guarantee which has been incorporated to establish, promote, arrange, regulate, organize, encourage, support, assist, aid and/or control the Game in the Territory. Rugby India is formally recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India as the National Sports Federation for the Game in India and by World Rugby as the sole national body with jurisdiction for the Game in India.
- 1.2. As the governing body for Rugby in India, IRFU is conscious of the trust bestowed on it by stakeholders to protect, promote and advance the sport of Rugby in India.
- 1.3. Adherence to the Laws of the Game, the spirit of fair play and the integrity of the Game remains fundamental to the proper administration and preservation of the Game in the modern era. Accordingly, a general obligation arises on all stakeholders to uphold the integrity of the Game and address Misconduct matters within their jurisdictions to ensure that discipline, control, honesty and mutual respect which are fundamental to the integrity of the Game are preserved.
- 1.4. This Code of Conduct for Participants (the “**Code**”) sets out a harmonised approach to the administration of discipline and the implementation of sanctions for Misconduct at all levels of the Game in the Territory.
- 1.5. All participants in the Game by means of their participation recognise and agree to be bound by the principle of universality which means that Players who are suspended at any level of the Game shall have their suspension recognised and applied at all levels of the Game in the Territory.
- 1.6. The provisions of this Code apply to all Members within their respective jurisdictions at all levels and it is their responsibility to advise their Players, Persons and Rugby Bodies of this Code. Members shall ensure that this Code is complied with by all Players, Persons and Rugby Bodies within their jurisdiction.
- 1.7. The following specific Regulations included in the World Rugby Regulations are hereby incorporated by reference within this Code:
 - a. Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play: “Annexure 1”, as may be applicable and amended from time to time.
 - b. Regulation 18: Misconduct and Code of Conduct: “Annexure 2”, as may be applicable and amended from time to time.
 - c. Regulation 19: Breach of the Bye-Laws or Regulations: “Annexure 3”, as may be applicable and amended from time to time.
 - d. Regulation 20: Disciplinary and Judicial Matters: “Annexure 4”, as may be applicable and amended from time to time.

In the event that the World Rugby Regulations provide that any matter arising under this Code, including, but not limited to, a matter arising at the national or international level, is to be dealt in accordance with Regulation 17, Regulation 18, Regulation 19 or Regulation 20 (as the case may be) such matter will be mandatorily dealt with in accordance with the relevant Regulation.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. For the purposes of this Code the terms below shall have the following meanings assigned to them unless the context otherwise requires.
- 2.1.1. “**Appeal Officer**” means an individual appointed by Rugby India pursuant to this Code to hear and decide appeals from decisions of the Judicial Officer.
- 2.1.2. “**Articles**” means the Articles of Association of Rugby India, as applicable and in effect from time to time.
- 2.1.3. “**Current Member**” means the Member with which a Player is registered in accordance with Rugby India’s registration policy as applicable from time to time and/or the Member with which a Person is then currently engaged/employed or affiliated with from time to time.
- 2.1.4. “**Game**” or “**Rugby**” means the sport of rugby-football played in accordance with World Rugby’s Laws of the Game.
- 2.1.5. “**Host Member**” means the Member under whose jurisdiction a Match is played.
- 2.1.6. “**Judicial Officer**” means an individual appointed pursuant to this Code to hear, resolve and adjudicate on all matters of Misconduct as set out under this Code.
- 2.1.7. “**Laws of the Game**” shall mean the rules and regulations governing the conduct of the Game as applicable and brought out by World Rugby from time to time.
- 2.1.8. “**Match**” means a game of Rugby between two teams organised under the aegis or with the support of Rugby India in the Territory.
- 2.1.9. “**Match Official**” means a referee and/or a touch judge and shall include, when appointed, a citing Commissioner and/or the fourth official in relation to a Match.
- 2.1.10. “**Members**” means any State/Union Territory level Rugby association that is granted affiliation as a ‘Member’ of Rugby India in accordance with the Articles.
- 2.1.11. “**Misconduct**” means the meaning ascribed to that term in Clause 4 below.
- 2.1.12. “**Person**” means a Player, trainer, referee, touch judge, coach, selector, medical officer, physiotherapist or any other individual who is or has been at any time involved in the Game, or in the organisation, administration or promotion of the Game in the Territory.
- 2.1.13. “**Player**” means a person who plays any form of Rugby, either professionally or recreationally, at any level;
- 2.1.14. “**Regulations**” means Regulations relating to the Game binding on all Members and Rugby Bodies and which have been passed by World Rugby and Rugby India and/or or which may hereafter be passed by World Rugby and/or Rugby India from time to time.
- 2.1.15. “**Rugby Body**” means a club, provincial/district level rugby association or group of clubs, or similar organisations, recognised by and/or affiliated directly or indirectly to a Member.

- 2.1.16. **“Rugby India”** means the Indian Rugby Football Union, the governing body for Rugby in India.
 - 2.1.17. **“Rugby India Disciplinary Officer”** means the person appointed by Rugby India on its behalf to investigate, present and enforce (as appropriate) this Code.
 - 2.1.18. **“Territory”** shall mean India.
 - 2.1.19. **“Tournament”** means any tournaments relating to the Game organised under the aegis or with the support of Rugby India as specified under Rugby India’s registration policy.
 - 2.1.20. **“Tournament Organiser”** means any entity that arranges, organises and has administrative responsibility for a Tournament or a Match.
 - 2.1.21. **“World Rugby”** means World Rugby the global governing body for Rugby formerly known as the International Rugby Board.
 - 2.1.22. **“World Rugby Regulations”** shall mean the “World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game” as may be applicable and amended from time to time.
- 2.2. Capitalised terms used in this Code but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Articles.

3. PREFERRED CONDUCT

- 3.1. All Members, Rugby Bodies, Players and Persons:
 - 3.1.1. must ensure that the Game is played and conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour and acknowledge that it is not sufficient to rely solely upon the Match Officials to maintain those principles;
 - 3.1.2. shall co-operate in ensuring that the spirit of the Laws of the Game is upheld and encourage players to refrain from committing acts of foul play (including by refraining from selecting them where appropriate);
 - 3.1.3. shall not repeatedly breach the Laws of the Game;
 - 3.1.4. shall accept and observe the authority and decisions of Match Officials and all other rugby disciplinary bodies;
 - 3.1.5. shall not publish or cause to be published criticism of the manner in which a Match Official handled a Match;
 - 3.1.6. shall not publish or cause to be published criticism of the manner in which world rugby council or any other rugby disciplinary body handled or resolved any dispute or disciplinary matter resulting from a breach of the World Rugby By-laws, the Articles, the Regulations, or Laws of the Game;
 - 3.1.7. shall not engage in any conduct or any activity on or off the field that may impair public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of a Match, tour, tournament or series of Matches (including, but not limited to, the supply of information in relation to the Game, directly or indirectly, to bookmakers or to persons who may use such information to their advantage) or in the integrity and good character of any Person;

- 3.1.8. shall not commit a breach of any of the Regulations;
- 3.1.9. shall promote the reputation of the Game and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute;
- 3.1.10. shall not abuse, threaten or intimidate a Match Official, whether on or off the field of play;
- 3.1.11. shall not use crude or abusive language or gestures towards Match Officials or spectators;
- 3.1.12. shall not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other Person on the ground of their religion, race, sex, sexual orientation, colour or national or ethnic origin; and
- 3.1.13. shall not do anything which adversely affects the Game, Rugby India, World Rugby, any Member or Rugby Body or any commercial partner of the Game.

4. MISCONDUCT

- 4.1. Any act of Misconduct shall constitute an offence under this Code and may result in disciplinary proceedings being brought against and sanctions being imposed upon the Player, Person, Member and/or Rugby Body involved.
- 4.2. In respect of any act or omission in relation to the Game, “**Misconduct**” shall mean any conduct, behaviour, statements and/or practices on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with a Match or otherwise, that is unsporting and/or cheating and/or insulting and/or unruly and/or ill-disciplined and/or that brings or has the potential to bring the Game and/or any of its constituent bodies, World Rugby, Rugby India, and/or its appointed personnel or commercial partners and/or Match Officials and/or judicial personnel into disrepute. Misconduct shall only exclude foul play during a Match which has been the subject of consideration and a finding under the regime prescribed for ordering off and/or citing in Regulation 17 of the World Rugby Regulations.
- 4.3. Whilst it is not possible to provide a definitive and exhaustive list of the types of conduct, behaviour, statements or practices that may amount to Misconduct under this Code, by way of illustration, each of the following types of conduct, behaviour, statements or practices however or wheresoever undertaken are examples of and constitute Misconduct:
 - 4.3.1. any breach of Clause 3 above;
 - 4.3.2. acts of violence or intimidation within the venue in which the Match is being played including (without limitation) the tunnel, changing rooms and/or warm-up areas;
 - 4.3.3. acting in an abusive, insulting, intimidating or offensive manner towards referees, assistant referees, disciplinary personnel or any other officials or any person associated with Rugby India, the Members or Rugby Bodies participating in the Match or spectators;
 - 4.3.4. acts or statements that are, or conduct that is, discriminatory on the basis of the characteristics referred to in Clause 3.1.12;
 - 4.3.5. providing inaccurate and/or misleading information about the previous disciplinary record of the Player or Person in any proceedings under this Code, or

any other regulations of Rugby India, or other disciplinary proceedings and/or misleading information concerning the Player's future playing intentions;

- 4.3.6. comments and/or conduct in connection with current and/or anticipated disciplinary proceedings and/or Match officiating (or any aspect thereof), which may be prejudicial to or adversely impact such proceedings and/or which are prejudicial to the interests of the Game and/or any Person and/or any disciplinary personnel;
 - 4.3.7. failure to cooperate with the citing and/or judicial process in the absence of a reasonable explanation or making a citing referral frivolously or in bad faith;
 - 4.3.8. failure or refusal by a Player, Person, Member or Rugby Body to cooperate fully with any investigations conducted pursuant to the anti-corruption rules, or the anti-doping rules or in connection with any complaint or dispute which is initiated under the Rugby India Regulations; and/or
 - 4.3.9. making any comments (including to the media) that attack, disparage or denigrate the Game and/or any of its constituent bodies, World Rugby and/or its associated entities and its or their appointed personnel or commercial partners, Rugby India and/or its associated entities or their appointed personnel or commercial partners, and/or Match Officials and/or disciplinary personnel.
- 4.4. Members are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons within their jurisdiction. Members, Rugby Bodies, Players and Persons must conduct themselves in a disciplined and sporting manner and ensure that they do not commit any act(s) of Misconduct.

5. ROLES AND JURISDICTION

- 5.1. Each Member and/or Tournament Organiser shall nominate a designated disciplinary officer who shall administer this Code and shall be entitled to undertake such investigations (personally or through a nominee(s)) as the officer may consider necessary into incidents that constitute or may be capable of constituting Misconduct on the part of Players and/or Persons and/or Rugby Bodies within their jurisdiction in accordance with this Code.
- 5.2. In respect of Rugby India, the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer shall act as the designated disciplinary officer for any incidents that come under the purview of Rugby India under this Code.
- 5.3. In the context of a Match or Tournament, the role of the designated disciplinary official may be delegated to the Match commissioner or other suitable person.
- 5.4. Where a Misconduct investigation is into the activities of a Member, Rugby Body or Tournament Organiser and/or its appointed personnel, the designated disciplinary officer shall be independent of the Member, Rugby Body or Tournament Organiser. If in the reasonable opinion of the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer, the designated disciplinary officer is unable to independently exercise such role, then the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer may on behalf of Rugby India appoint or act as the designated disciplinary officer.
- 5.5. Nothing in this Code shall limit or restrict the right of the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer on behalf of Rugby India to appoint a designated disciplinary officer to undertake such investigations as they may consider necessary into incidents that constitute or may be capable of constituting Misconduct or acts which have the potential to bring the Game or World Rugby or Rugby India into disrepute on the part of Players, Persons, Members and/or Rugby Bodies. This provision shall apply equally to situations where no action or insufficient action has been taken by the Member and/or Tournament Organiser.

5.6. No person who is a member or a paid employee of a Member, club or other affiliated organisation responsible for the management of any Person or team involved in the incident being investigated shall be eligible for appointment as a designated disciplinary official.

6. INITIAL PROCEDURES – MISCONDUCT

6.1. The designated disciplinary official (or their nominee) shall be entitled to undertake such investigations as he may consider necessary into incidents that constitute or may be capable of constituting Misconduct involving any Member, Rugby Body, Player and/or Person within the designated disciplinary official's jurisdiction. Every Member, Rugby Body, Player and Person shall be obliged to cooperate with any such investigations, referrals and/or hearings and a failure to cooperate with such investigation may itself constitute Misconduct under this Code.

6.2. Subject to the provisions of this Code, the designated disciplinary official shall determine whether to investigate an incident or incidents and/or to bring a Misconduct complaint against any Member, Rugby Body, Player and/or Person within the designated disciplinary officer's jurisdiction and his/her decision in respect of both initiating an investigation and/or bringing a Misconduct complaint shall be final.

6.3. Notwithstanding Clause 6.2 above, where the designated disciplinary officer has reason to believe that an act or acts of Misconduct may have been committed by a member, they must immediately inform the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer, in writing. The Rugby India Disciplinary Officer or their nominee shall then deal with the matter as they consider appropriate.

6.4. In cases involving conduct and/or behaviour that in the opinion of the designated disciplinary officer of a Host Member are more appropriately dealt with by a designated disciplinary officer of another Member, or Rugby India, the designated disciplinary officer may, on behalf of the Host Member, refer the matter to the other Member or Rugby India (as the case may be) to deal with.

6.5. In cases involving conduct and/or behaviour that in the opinion of the designated disciplinary officer of the Tournament Organiser are more appropriately dealt with by the Current Member of the Player or Person concerned or Rugby India, the designated disciplinary officer may, on behalf of the Tournament Organiser refer the matter to the Current Member of the Player or Person concerned or Rugby India (as the case may be) to deal with.

6.6. Where any referral is made to Rugby India, Rugby India shall determine if it is appropriate in all the circumstances to take over the matter. Where Rugby India agrees to take up the matter, the relevant Member or Tournament Organiser shall assist Rugby India with the case (and/or investigation).

6.7. If a matter is referred to a visiting Member, pursuant to Clause 6.4 above, or is referred to the Member of the Player or Person concerned, pursuant to Clause 6.5 above, then the visiting Member or Member of the Player or Person concerned shall be obliged to progress the matter in accordance with disciplinary procedures which shall be based on those set out in this Code and shall advise the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer who shall have the right to require that the referring Member or Tournament Organiser or Rugby India to retain conduct of the matter.

6.8. If the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer (or their nominee) allows the visiting Member or Member of the Player or Person to whom the matter has been referred pursuant to Clause 6.4 and 6.5 to handle the case, then they shall report the outcome to the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer as soon as it is concluded.

6.9. The Rugby India Disciplinary Officer (or their nominee) may take such action against the Member, Rugby Body, Player and/or Person concerned as they consider appropriate in the event

that the visiting Member or the Member of the Player or Person concerned do not conclude the investigation and/or adjudicate on the matter expeditiously and in good faith.

- 6.10. If the designated disciplinary officer and/or the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer elects to bring a Misconduct complaint, then the matter shall be referred to an independent Judicial Officer for consideration.

7. MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT

- 7.1. Any Misconduct complaint by the designated disciplinary officer shall be sent in writing to the Current Member of the Player, Person or body against whom the Misconduct complaint is made (or other applicable body). The Misconduct complaint should contain the following information:

- 7.1.1. date and place of the alleged Misconduct;
- 7.1.2. the name of the Player, Person, Rugby Body or other party in respect of whom the complaint is made and (where applicable) their Current Member and/or affiliated Rugby Body; and
- 7.1.3. details of the alleged Misconduct (including brief details of the evidence to be relied upon).

- 7.2. On receipt of a Misconduct complaint, the Member shall send a copy of the Misconduct complaint and applicable information and/or reports to the Player or Person (and their Rugby Body) or other party in respect of whom it is made together with notification of the appointed judicial committee or Judicial Officer and relevant details regarding the Misconduct hearing.

- 7.3. A Member, Tournament Organiser, Player or Person may refer an allegation of Misconduct to the designated disciplinary officer appointed by the Host Member or Tournament Organiser having jurisdiction. The designated disciplinary officer shall consider the matter and determine whether to bring a Misconduct complaint or not as a result of a referral subject always to the provisions of this Code.

8. JUDICIAL OFFICER

- 8.1. Rugby India shall appoint a Judicial Officer to adjudicate on complaints relating to Misconduct under this Code. The Judicial Officer shall be a person of eminent legal standing.

- 8.2. In addition to the procedures prescribed under this Clause 6, Rugby India shall have the power to bring out rules and regulations prescribing procedures before the Judicial Officer, which rules, and regulations shall become effective upon notification by Rugby India on its website.

- 8.3. The Rugby India Judicial Officer shall deal with cases involving alleged Misconduct as soon as practicable and at a convenient location for the Member, Rugby Body Player or Person subject to the Misconduct proceedings. This location does not have to be in the State/Union Territory in which the alleged Misconduct took place and shall be determined by the Judicial Officer in consultation with the Host Member or Tournament Organiser or Rugby India (as appropriate). A Member, Rugby Body Player or Person subject to the Misconduct proceedings shall be entitled to request an expedited hearing and the judicial committee appointed to the case shall consider such a request and make a determination accordingly.

- 8.4. In exceptional circumstances where the conduct of a Player(s) or Person(s) is considered by the Judicial Officer to be of such a serious/gross nature that their continued involvement in the Game in any capacity pending the final determination of the matter, then the Judicial Officer may at their discretion impose a provisional suspension on a Player or Person subject to a Misconduct

complaint pending the resolution of the case. The Player or Person affected may appeal such decision in which case an Appeal Officer shall be appointed and the appeal provisions specified in Clause 10 of this Code shall apply accordingly.

- 8.5. At any hearing of a Misconduct complaint, the designated disciplinary officer (or their nominee) shall be in attendance to explain the basis of the Misconduct complaint and present the Misconduct complaint and may be assisted by a legal advisor.
- 8.6. The designated disciplinary officer shall have the burden of proving, on the balance of probabilities, that an act or acts of Misconduct have been committed. The Member, Rugby Body or Player, Person or other party subject to the Misconduct complaint shall be asked if they accept that they have committed an act of Misconduct. The Judicial Officer shall determine their factual findings and whether they are satisfied on the balance of probabilities that an act or acts of Misconduct has been committed by the Member, Rugby Body, Player, Person or other party concerned.

9. SANCTIONS FOR MISCONDUCT

- 9.1. If the Judicial Officer determines that an act or acts of Misconduct have been committed, then they shall receive and consider representations on sanctions. The Judicial Officer shall be entitled to impose such sanction as it thinks fit on the Member, Rugby Body, Player, Person and/or other party concerned including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 9.1.1. a caution, warning as to future conduct, reprimand;
 - 9.1.2. a fine and/or compensation orders;
 - 9.1.3. a suspension for a specified number of Matches (including all on-field activities) or period of time;
 - 9.1.4. expulsion from the remainder of a Tournament and/or series of Matches;
 - 9.1.5. exclusion orders from Rugby India or grounds within the control of Rugby India;
 - 9.1.6. suspension from involvement in officiating, coaching and/or administration of the Game;
 - 9.1.7. the withdrawal of other benefits of membership of Rugby India including but not limited to the right to apply to host Rugby India or Tournaments and/or funding;
 - 9.1.8. the deduction or cancellation of points or any such similar sports or tournament-based sanction;
 - 9.1.9. the cancellation of a Match result;
 - 9.1.10. the replaying of a Match;
 - 9.1.11. the forfeiture of a Match; and/or
 - 9.1.12. any combination of the above or such other sanction as may be appropriate.
- 9.2. When imposing a sanction for Misconduct the Judicial Officer shall describe the precise nature of any sanction and its scope and the extent of any activities restricted and/or prohibited.
- 9.3. The decision of the Judicial Officer shall be communicated to the relevant Member, Rugby Body player, Person and/or other party concerned and/or their representatives as soon as reasonably practicable and shall be binding upon notification to the Rugby Body, Player and/or Person concerned or their representatives.
- 9.4. Any penalties imposed shall remain effective pending the final determination of the appeal.
- 9.5. Any decision of the Judicial Officer shall be recognised and applied (including any sanctions thereunder) by all Members, Rugby Bodies and Tournament Organisers who shall take all necessary actions to render such decision effective within their jurisdiction(s).

9.6. Rugby India shall ordinarily publish reports of the Judicial Officer's proceedings, findings and penalties in full save where the Judicial Officer has directed or where commercial or other sensitivities preclude publication in full. The Judicial Officer shall not be permitted to comment to the media on a decision made by the Judicial Officer without Rugby India's consent.

10. APPEALS

10.1. Rugby India shall appoint an Appeal Officer to adjudicate on any appeals on the findings of the Judicial Officer, filed under this Code. The Appeal Officer shall be a person of eminent legal standing.

10.2. In addition to the procedures prescribed under this Clause 10, Rugby India shall have the power to bring out rules and regulations prescribing procedures before the Appeal Officer, which rules, and regulations shall become effective upon notification by Rugby India on its website.

10.3. A Member, Rugby Body, Player, Person and/or other party who is found to have committed an act or acts of Misconduct shall have the right to appeal against the finding of an offence of Misconduct and/or the sanction imposed.

10.4. To be valid, any appeal against the decision of a Judicial Officer in relation to Misconduct must be lodged with the designated disciplinary officer (or his/her nominee) in writing within seven (7) days of the notification of the decision to the Member, Rugby Body, Player, Person and/or other party concerned, or their representative(s), if any. For the purposes of this Code "decision" shall mean the final written decision of the Judicial Officer.

10.5. Rugby India has a supervisory jurisdiction in respect of disciplinary matters (Misconduct). In the event the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer determines it is appropriate that a particular decision should be appealed the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer on behalf of Rugby India shall have the right to appeal the matter, and such right of appeal shall be exercised within seven (7) days following notification of the decision to Rugby India.

10.6. The appeal shall be heard as soon as reasonably practicable. The appeal shall be dealt with in the most convenient location having regard to the Player(s), Person(s) or other party(ies) involved. It need not take place in the location in which the Misconduct occurred. This will be determined by the appointed Appeal Officer in consultation with the Member or Tournament Organiser or Rugby India (as appropriate).

10.7. The Appeal Officer shall determine the basis on which the appeal shall proceed, including the standard of review.

10.8. In the event of an appeal against the decision of a Judicial Officer with respect to Misconduct, the sanction, if any, imposed by the Judicial Officer shall apply until the case has been dealt with by the Appeal Officer.

10.9. The majority decision of the Appeal Officer (as the case may be) shall be effective immediately on notification to the appellant and/or his/her representatives and shall be final and binding.

11. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

11.1. The Judicial Officer and Appeal Officer, prior to a hearing or at any stage during a hearing may amend the offence for which the Player, Person or other party has been charged unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, such amendment cannot be made without causing injustice. Where an amendment is made, in appropriate cases an adjournment may be granted.

- 11.2. Where Misconduct proceedings, however arising, are taken against more than one Player, Person or other party as a result of incidents occurring in or in connection with a Match or Tournament, such proceedings may be heard by a Judicial Officer and Appeal Officer at the same time, provided there is no prejudice to any Player, Person or other party against whom the Misconduct proceedings are taken.
- 11.3. In exceptional circumstances where the conduct of a Player(s) or Person(s) or other parties is of such a serious/gross nature that their continued involvement in the Game in any capacity pending the final determination of the matter by the relevant authority is deemed by Rugby India to be inappropriate and/or potentially prejudicial to the image and reputation of the sport, then Rugby India is entitled to provisionally suspend such Player(s) or Person(s) or other parties from any involvement in the sport.
- 11.4. In respect of any matter not provided for in this Code the appropriate body or Person shall take a decision according to general principles of natural justice and fairness.

12. THE ROLE OF RUGBY INDIA IN MISCONDUCT MATTERS

- 12.1. Where Rugby India reasonably determines that circumstances exist or could arise where it is in the overall interests of the Game to intercede, Rugby India shall be entitled to appoint the Rugby India Disciplinary Officer (or their nominee) as a designated disciplinary officer to undertake an investigation into incidents that constitute or may be capable of constituting Misconduct on the part of a Player, Person or other party. In such cases, Rugby India shall take on the role of the Host Member or Tournament Organiser in respect of its duties pursuant to this Code.
- 12.2. Rugby India shall appoint a designated disciplinary officer for all events organised directly by Rugby India.

13. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO SEVENS MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS

- 13.1. The structure of Sevens events, with multiple Matches taking place on the same day, means that expedition in dealing with any Misconduct matters which may arise is important. The supplemental provisions in this Code are intended to provide assistance in dealing expeditiously with Misconduct complaints at Sevens events.
- 13.2. The Judicial Officer shall deal with cases involving alleged Misconduct as soon as practicable and, wherever possible, during the same day as the Match during which Misconduct occurs. If a case is not dealt with during same day it will, ordinarily, be dealt with as soon as reasonably practicable during the Tournament or following the conclusion of the Tournament, at a convenient location for the Player(s), Person(s) or other party(ies) concerned. This location does not have to be in the State/Union Territory in which the Tournament was played and shall be determined by the Judicial Officer in consultation with the Host Member or Tournament Organiser or Rugby India.
- 13.3. To be valid, any appeal against the decision of a Judicial Officer in relation to Misconduct must be lodged with the designated disciplinary officer (or their nominee) in writing within (seven) 7 days of the notification of the written decision of the Judicial Officer to the Member, Rugby Body, Player, Person or other party concerned, or their representative(s), if any.
- 13.4. If a Player, Person or other party named in this Clause 13 lodges an appeal then, subject to the discretion of the Appeal Officer and, where reasonably practicable, the appeal shall be dealt with during the course of the Tournament. If the appeal is not dealt with during the course of the Tournament, it will be dealt with as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter and, ordinarily, within seven (7) days of the lodgement of the appeal.

14. Recognition of Decisions

- 14.1. Rugby India may as appropriate recognise decisions imposed by World Rugby or any public authorities, other sports and/or other properly constituted bodies in respect of equivalent offence(s) to Misconduct as defined in this Code and/or breach(es) of disciplinary and/or conduct rules (including without limitation with respect to conduct committed on or off the field of play, or equivalent, in another sport), and may recognise and/or impose appropriate sports-based sanctions, including without limitation equivalent sanctions to those provided for in this Code. For the avoidance of doubt there shall be no form or time limit applicable to the recognition of any decision by Rugby India pursuant to this Clause 14. Where Rugby India recognises such a decision, the decision shall thereafter be recognised automatically (without the need for further formality) by all Members and Tournament Organisers which shall take all necessary action to render such decision (including without limitation any sanctions and/or penalties) effective in relation to involvement in the Game (in compliance with any applicable laws).