

- 1 - ARTICLES OF THE MALTA RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
Ratified by Council & Clubs Committee following AGM of 26th Sep 2008

NAME

1.
The name of the Union is “The Malta Rugby Football Union” (hereafter called the “Union” or “MRFU”).

ADDRESS

2.
The address of the Union shall be c/o The Secretary, Malta Rugby Football Union, **Malta Rugby Football Union Club House, Marsa Sports Complex, Aldo Moro Street, Marsa, MRS 9064, Malta, Europe**, or any other place designated from time to time by the Council provided that all members are given notice in writing within ten days of the change of address.

OBJECTS

3.
The objects for which the Union is established are to develop, organise and promote the sporting activity of **RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL** (hereinafter called “RUGBY”) in the Maltese Islands. Such activities would include but are not limited to:

- a) To set up a series of matches and rugby-activities in private or public areas, for the training, instruction and entertainment of its members, their supporters and any other enthusiasts.
- b) To obtain the services of coaches and other personnel experienced in the sport, whether local or foreign, in order to obtain the best performance and maximum benefit for the sportsmen involved both physically as well as psychologically.
- c) To ensure that the sport is practiced in accordance with the Laws of the International Rugby Board (IRB), as the governing body of world Rugby, as the International Regulations adhered to by the MRFU, and to see that all Union Laws are respected and fulfilled. In so doing it will arrange for suitable Referees and disciplinary measures (see by-laws).
- d) To encourage and organise knock-outs, leagues and other competitions on a regular basis between Rugby Clubs registered with the Union and to promote Maltese Rugby within general sports circles.
- e) To bring over foreign rugby teams to play in Malta as well as to assist Maltese teams or Clubs to go abroad on tours to play foreign teams.
- f) To provide members and Clubs with facilities and opportunities for meeting and for discussing latest developments both locally and concerning the sport in general.
- g) To publicise as far as possible the activities of the Union and of the Rugby teams in Malta, through the media, so as to generate further interest and enthusiasm among the general public.
- h) To raise funds through memberships, sponsorships and fundraising events as well as recharging expenses to members and Clubs on a pre-agreed basis for specific events.

MEMBERSHIP

- 4.
- a) The membership of the Union is open to all those who demonstrate a genuine interest in the sport of Rugby – whether they desire to play the game, assist in setting up and running of teams, help in the administration of the sport in general
 - b) The minimum age required for a senior member to join the Union is age eighteen (18). The minimum age for a junior member to join the Union is six (6) years.
 - c) Membership is open to males and females.
 - d) For a person to be a full playing member of a Rugby Club or a team, that person must also belong to this Union as a Registered Member, and be up-to-date with any membership fees in order to play in any competitive matches. This does not apply to social or associate members of a Rugby Club unless they also wish to cast their vote in Union meetings.
 - e) Each full player member is entitled to one free transfer during a season, in as long that any membership debts to the original Club are fully settled. Notice of this transfer must be sent in writing to the Secretary at least a week in advance.

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- f) All members, upon joining, automatically undertake to accept and abide by these Laws, a copy of which can be downloaded from the Union's web site or requested of the Secretary, and to be subject to the payment of Membership fees and all other matters required by virtue hereof.
- g) Enrolment shall take place on the submission of the relevant application form which is to be sent to the Secretary at the Union's registered address or by handing it to an official of the Council, with the relevant subscription fee.
- h) A member may be removed from the books of the Union and have his/her membership terminated if in the opinion of the Council this person has committed a serious breach of the Laws or caused the Union to or any of its Members to suffer bad repute, public criticism or financial or material damage.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

5.

- a) Every Member of the Union shall pay an annual membership fee.
- b) i) The Enrolment Fee shall be LM – Nil – for all founder Members, (i.e. those attending the first General Meeting of the Union that will approve the present Laws). The original Enrolment Fee of LM 1.00,0 has been waived as per AGM 27th June 2000 in favour of an increased Annual Membership Fee.
ii) The Annual Membership Fee, payable in advance, shall be as per registration form (attached) for all playing and voting members. The Union will strive to include an adequate player's insurance policy as part of the membership fee as long as it is economically feasible to do so. The other category of membership shall be for non-playing but voting members as per registration form. These fees may be amended at the discretion of the Council by consultation with the MRFU Clubs Committee.
- c) The Enrolment Fee and the Annual Membership Fee may be changed by the members at the General Meeting by a simple majority of votes without prior notice to members being required.

ASSOCIATE & JUNIOR & OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP

6.

If the first or any subsequent General Meeting of the Union approves by means of a Resolution passed by at least 60% (sixty per cent) of all members present at the meeting, it shall be possible to have a second category of membership – namely Associate Membership. This shall be open to pure supporters and well-wishers, who do not otherwise involve themselves directly in the organisation, administration or practice of the sport or in the running of the Union, but who attend as spectators or otherwise act as benefactors of the Union in any way, or who intend to do so in the future.

Associate and Junior members will pay an Annual membership fee as per registration form (non-voting). These fees may be amended at the discretion of the Council by consultation with the MRFU Clubs Committee.

THE COUNCIL

7.

- a) The Union shall be managed by a Council to be elected every three years from amongst the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Only full Members, however, can be appointed to the Council.
- b) The Council shall be composed of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) Members: Suggested roles for these six Members follow. However these may be changed at the complete discretion of the Council according to the requirements of the time: 1. Chairman, Rugby Development Committee; 2. Chairman, MRFU Clubs Committee; 3. Chairman, Marketing and PR Committee; 4. Chairman, Services Committee (Logistics) 5. Ladies Representative and 6. Vice President. In absence of seconded nominations, the Council may then choose to co-opt up to (6) members with a unanimous vote required for each co-opted member. Co-opted members have the same rights and obligations as the elected members on the Council. The Council may elect other officials from amongst themselves to facilitate the functions of office.
- c) The Council shall have all power to run the Union to the best of its ability, and can regulate its own procedures in accordance with generally accepted 'conduct of meetings'. In so doing it shall act

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impartially, and will ensure at all times that the Laws of the Union and any by-laws, annexures or regulations are duly fulfilled.

- d) Any vacancies arising during its term of office can be replaced by co-option at the Council's discretion. Where the co-option involves the President, Secretary or Treasurer, this should be confirmed by the members at the next Annual General Meeting. If the members do not agree with the co-option at the next Annual General Meeting, then an election must be made, where nominations are taken from the members present. Only nominated members present can be elected.
- e) The Quorum for all Council meetings shall be one-half plus one of the total number of members in the Council. Failure to attend four (4) consecutive meetings by a Council member, shall empower the Council to suspend the member and replace him.
- f) All decisions are to be taken by a show of hands, and by a simple majority, and the Chairman shall have a casting-vote in the event of parity of votes.
- g) All members of the Council must be notified of any Council Meetings at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Proxies in writing may be sent by those unable to attend and the representative will be given full voting power at the relevant meeting.

GENERAL MEETINGS

8. There shall be two types of meetings. The Annual General Meeting to be held preferably in the month of September in each year, with advance notice in writing to all paid up members of at least ten (10) days – Only members that are fully signed-up at least seven (7) days before a General Meeting are eligible to vote in that meeting. Requests for nominations for positions on the Council are to be sent out at least 30 days before an Annual General Meeting during which elections are to be held, and received up to 5 days before the AGM. In absence of formal nominations, nominations can be made and seconded during an Annual General Meeting.

and

the Extraordinary General Meeting which requires notice of seven (7) days.

The quorum for meetings will be 60 members. If a quorum of 60 members is not met by 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the meeting, the quorum can be set to 30 members. If a quorum can still not be achieved, the meeting has to be rescheduled for a suitable date.

9. An Agenda shall be drawn up for each type of Meeting which shall be circulated to the members with the notice of the meeting and it shall be adhered to.

The Annual General Meeting will include as its Agenda:

- a) The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- b) The Report of the Secretary.
- c) The presentation of the accounts for the year by the Treasurer for approval.
- d) The President's address.
- e) Election of the Council.

The accounts will be circulated and approved by the members present and a list of fully paid up members, as well as those who lapsed during the current year will be circulated.

AMENDMENTS

10. Any member may call an Extraordinary General Meeting by writing to the Secretary showing evidence of support of this move by no less than twenty-five (25) Members and the Secretary shall call the meeting within twenty (20) days of receipt of the notice by sending out notice of the meeting and the Agenda to the members.

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11. Any amendments relating to the existing regulations or the Statute must be sent to the Secretary to be sent to all members fifteen (15) days before notice of a meeting. The amendments must be circulated to all members with the amendment noted in full on the agenda in the relevant notice period.

Amendments will be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

12.

a) The legal representation of the Union shall be in the person of the President and the Secretary of the Union. They may sue or be sued in the name of the Union and generally represent the Union in ALL matters, including those related to banking and financial affairs, dealing with Government authorities or Institutions, and in any matters concerning applications, permits etc. in so far as they have been given authority to do so by the Council under Article 7.

b) That the Union be allowed to borrow such funds from any of the main commercial Banks in Malta as are required for the furtherance of its objects provided that the proposal to borrow such funds if in excess of Euro 10,000 will be approved by the Council and all the existing Club presidents of registered Clubs as are existing at the time. (ref. EGM of 10th March 2009, at MRFU Club House at 6pm)

REGISTERED CLUBS

13.

- a) Only registered Clubs may compete in leagues and competitions organised by the Union unless they comprise of teams visiting the Island for a period of under four (4) weeks.
- b) Clubs may only be registered if they accept to abide by the regulations set by the Union.
- c) Enrolment shall take place on the submission of the relevant application form which is to be sent to the Secretary at the Union's registered address.

DURATION & DISSOLUTION

14.

- a) The Union is established for a period of ten (10) years or any longer period to be authorised by General Meeting. However, if its objects can no longer be fulfilled for any reason whatsoever, or if seventy-five per cent (75%) majority of Members so determine by extraordinary resolution taken at a General Meeting, the Union can be dissolved prior to its full term.
- b) In the event of dissolution, the Union shall be wound up by a liquidator appointed by the General Meeting and he shall draw up a statement of assets and liabilities and a balance sheet, which he will then present to a final General Meeting for approval. When approved, these accounts shall form the basis of a distribution of any resulting assets among the full members, or in the sharing of the liabilities among the same. The liquidator shall ensure that as far as possible, all dues are collected from or distributed to, creditors or entitled parties respectively in the shortest possible time.
- c) All Full Members of the Union shall be deemed guarantors of the activities, rights and delegations of the Union, as represented by the Council which, by its election, is deemed to enjoy the confidence of the membership and to act as its delegate for all intents and purposes of law. Wherever possible, insurance would be purchased to cover all envisaged liabilities and obligations.

signed. Gordon McHarg, Martin Galea
Inaugural Committee of Management 10th April 1991
Updated on the 12th September 2009

ANNEXURE

BY-LAWS

1. MATCH FEES

Match fees at the discretion of the Council by consultation with the MRFU Clubs Committee.

2. FINES

Set Fines (no previous description of fines in Articles of MRFU) as follows. These fines may be amended at the discretion of the Council by consultation with the MRFU Clubs Committee.

- a. EUR 50 per send-off.
- b. Walkover fine of EUR 75. The cut-off time for a walkover is less than 12 fully kitted players available 10 minutes before official kick-off time in the case of XVs, unless the other team has officially written to the Secretary or Administration Officer of the MRFU to give notice that they would be giving a walkover. The other team will be awarded full match points for the game plus a nominal winning score of 20-0.
- c. EUR 75 per unregistered player plus loss of match points.
- d. EUR 75 per unwarranted guest player or unlisted player. Loan of players in XVs. If a team lacks reserves but has a full XV, that team would not be allowed to borrow players unless specialist players (i.e. front-row and locks) were absent (as per 1st Council Meeting for Season 2000/2001 held on Wednesday 5th July 2000). This by-law could be waived from time to time at the discretion of the extended Council with Club and Referee representatives.

3. LEAGUE OR CUP MATCH ADMINISTRATION, WALKOVER etc.

Rule 1.

Definitions:-

"Registered" means "Membership details filed with MRFU and contributory fee paid".

"Kick-off time" as per "Fixtures list" and measured against watch of Referee.

(a) A walkover is deemed to have been granted if a Club does not fill out a match list of all the players in the team and supply this list to the match official by ten minutes before the official kick-off time.

(b) A walkover is deemed to have been granted if a Club cannot field twelve (12) players by ten minutes before the official kick-off time. This can be a minimum of nine (9) registered Club-members and three (3) registered guest-players. Thus, the match will be played with twelve players versus fifteen.

(c) A walkover is deemed to have been granted if an unlisted player enters the field of play and plays for a team.

(d) A walkover is deemed to have been granted if a team sends official notice to Secretary or Administration Officer of the MRFU that they will not be able to field a team at least one day before.

(e) No Club can field guest players if they have own Club-member players as replacements. Club-member players must play in the starting line-up and guest players can stand in as replacements in case of (i) injury, (ii) suitability for front row position. The reason behind this ruling is to prevent possible attrition of Club players to the detriment of the game. The only possible flexing of this rule is for the front row, where a Club player is demonstrably unable to hold a front row position and a guest front row player can be brought in. If this is not possible, the match can either be (i) played with "uncontested scrums" or (ii) "cancelled" with no points being granted to either teams.

(f) Club-member players who are declared injured prior to a match cannot be listed on the match list as replacements.

(g) If players are expected late, their names must be on the list so that they can play; otherwise they will not be able to play.

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Rule 2.

(a) The first match home team must:

- (i) Ensure pitch is marked out correctly.
- (ii) Supply paint or chalk (cheap plastic emulsion at not more than EUR 50 per 20 Litre) and submit fiscal receipt to the Treasurer for reimbursement.
- (iii) Procure rollers from person in charge (Club Services representative)
- (iv) Fit post protectors and flagpoles as per IRB Law 1.
- (v) Affix the league sponsor banner on the fence at the half-way line.
- (vi) In absence of a second match, remove the post protectors and flagpoles after the match and store them neatly in the hall.

(b) If there is a second match, the second match home team must remove the post protectors and flagpoles after the match and store them neatly in the hall.

Failure to do so will imply a fine as per the walkover fine and disciplinary proceedings to the Club.

4. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Principles

Code of Conduct

The purpose of a Disciplinary Committee is to ensure that the standards of sportsmanship, normal civilized behaviour and gentlemanly or ladylike conduct, can be enforced where education fails.

References and Guidelines

This deals with universal sport law concepts, the spirit and ethos of the game, misconduct and abuse of match officials. These universal concepts, are covered in various documents published by the MRFU and the IRB, specifically, the MRFU Codes of Conduct described in the Fair Play Codes of the Malta Rugby Pathway, and the IRB Regulations 6, 12, 17, 18, 20 and 21. If any of these regulations, documents etc. are modified or abrogated, either by amendment, omission or by resolution of the IRB or MRFU, the Council can refer to Article 4 h). However, these references have been introduced as they are of value as fall-back positions for the Disciplinary Committee or the Council when addressing cases that may not be explicitly covered by the Articles or By-Laws of the MRFU, but which still constitute misconduct as envisaged in Article 4 h).

Purpose of Sanctions "Prevention is better than cure"

Sanctions are applied in the form of automatic send-off fines as described in By-Law 2 above and bans that primarily consist of scheduled league or cup matches. The sporting principle behind the Disciplinary Committee is that the player or Club member's unfair play, misdeeds or misconduct will hurt the Club so that the Club, for the failure of having proactively addressed adherence to an acceptable code of conduct, will then be constrained to improve the discipline of its members after the event.

Any other unscheduled matches, friendlies, unimportant touring side matches, more important trials, etc. interposed between the date of a disciplinary ruling and the first match scheduled in a ban, and between matches denoted in a ban, are not included in the match-ban count, but the player still cannot play in those matches.

As a result, players and other Club members also guilty of misconduct will have their attention drawn to the fact that they, their Club, and possibly also their country, have had to suffer the consequences of their misguided actions, and which is indeed the idea behind discipline in sport. If a player or Club member errs, team or Club mates suffer, the Club suffers, and woe betide that player if he/she were short-listed to play for his/her country, the country would suffer too, thus placing the onus on the Club to be proactive and prevent such instances from occurring/recurring.

Role of Match Commissioner / Citing Officer

The Referee is the sole judge of affairs on the field of play. To ensure that the Referee and "qualified" Touch Judges can focus on this, the Union have created a supporting role in the form of Match

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Commissioner and Citing Officer who will support the administration of discipline. The Match Commissioner who may himself/herself serve as a Citing Officer or appoint suitable persons to be Citing Officers. A Citing Officer has to be a person that is fully qualified and versed in the laws and regulations of the game.

On the one hand a Citing Officer can cite a player for an infringement that was not penalised by a Referee during a match. If, however, a Referee has penalised a player, but not sufficiently according to the Citing Officer, the Citing Officer has no power to cite that player, as the Referee is the sole judge of fact and law on the field of play.

Match Commissioner(s) shall be appointed as necessary by the MRFU Council. A Match Commissioner can appoint a person(s) to assume the role of Citing Officer(s) from a list of qualified persons that has been drawn up by the MRFU Council.

(a) Structure and Sitings.

The Disciplinary Committee will consist of two boards: A Disciplinary Board and an Appeals Board. The MRFU Council shall endeavor to nominate and agree upon a Chairman/Vice Chairman and a panel of persons who are prepared to make themselves available, should it be deemed necessary. The Committee will consist of a non-voting Chairman and seven members, one of whom will be a Vice-chairman. The Chairman and members should be persons who are not members of any Club. These persons, where possible, should have a sound knowledge of the Laws of the Game (IRB Laws of the Game).

This Committee shall be convened for the sole purpose of deciding as to contraventions of the laws of the game by player(s) participating in matches sanctioned by the MRFU (IRB Laws of the game). It shall convene by setting up a Board as follows made up of a subset of the members of the Committee. However, it may also take into consideration any matters that relate to the *References and Guidelines* described above and make recommendations to the MRFU Council as necessary for further sanctions not listed in the guidelines below.

Board Structure:
Chairman or Vice.
Board Member.
Board Member.
Board Member.

The Chairman or Vice would be a non-voting chairman judge, on top of the three Board Members appointed to that Board. His decision will be final. This person will also oversee procedure and ensure that disciplinary and statutory guidelines described in these Articles and By-Laws be followed as well.

The Club President or a registered Club committee member of an offending party has the right to be present for the hearing with observer status only, the only exception being; should the President be attending as the player's Club representative, or, having been a player who has been dismissed from the field of play or cited for contraventions to the laws of the game (IRB Laws of the game), and in this instance he shall have the right to have a Club member or a neutral person present to represent him.

Special Provision

If the MRFU Council has designated an official Match Commissioner for any game, and there is a sending-off during that game, a Disciplinary Hearing can take place after the game(s) of that date have concluded. The player, the player's representative, Referee, Touch Judge (if this involved a sending off after a Touch Judge report) can immediately conclude as is the case with FIRA-AER sanctioned Internationals. If the player decides not to have the hearing on the match date, the Disciplinary Board shall convene as normal in the By-Law 4 (d).

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The Match Commissioner shall hear the testimony of the Referee (and Touch Judge in the case of a sending-off with a report by a Touch Judge) and the testimony of the player. He can then decide on the sanctions immediately.

In this case, there can be an appeal as per By-Law 4 (g) .

Language

The languages to be used in official communications and sittings of the Disciplinary Committee shall be Maltese and/or English as necessary, both languages being official languages of the Republic of Malta.

(b) The Board will be convened under the following terms and conditions only.

The Chairman having received (from the Secretary of the MRFU) a report from a Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer, who, having been appointed by the MRFU, will study the case to determine the applicable procedure and convene the Board as necessary. Furthermore:

- 1) Any player dismissed or cited, within the playing enclosure, has to be a player listed on a team(s) team sheet, prior to the start of a match played, which was sanctioned by the MRFU.
- 2) Should a registered player(s) whose name was not included on the team(s) sheet prior to the start of the match, be dismissed or cited, then that player's Club shall be penalised.
- 3) Should a Club submit a team sheet prior to the start of a match that contains the name(s) of unregistered player(s) then that Club shall be penalised.

The penalty for b2 and b3 is a 3 (three) points deduction from the league or cup standings (as per By-Law 2). However, the match points score will stand. Fines described in By-Law 2 must also be immediately applied.

Further sanctions may also be considered by the MRFU Council due to the possibility that infringements b1 – b3 open up the MRFU to liabilities and damages in view of, but not limited to, Insurance policy, tournament management, etc.

(c) Submissions of reports by a Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer.

(1) Report(s) of a sending off by the Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer are to be sent via email to the Secretary, and copied to the President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the MRFU within 48 hours of the incident. Email addresses being the following.

secretary@mrfu.org president@mrfu.org vpresident@mrfu.org treasurer@mrfu.org
admin@mrfu.org

However if this is not possible, then this should be done within a maximum of 7 (seven) days after the sending off.

Should the Referee fail to submit a report within the above time frame, then the player(s) shall be eligible to play after that player(s) Club(s) next officially sanctioned match, this match being the automatic one match suspension for having received a red card. The Treasurer or delegated Administration Officer is nonetheless immediately empowered to request automatic fine payments as per By-Law 2 regardless. Failure to do so does not imply forfeiture of the fine and the player or Club is dutibound to ensure the fine is paid.

(2) Upon receipt of any report(s), the MRFU Secretary will, without delay, forward any such report(s)

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to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Board.

(d) Notification of hearing(s).

(1) Upon receipt of a report(s) the Chairman will address the issue and decide whether it is necessary to convene the Disciplinary Board to sit in judgement of the case. Such decision shall be communicated back to the Secretary in writing.

(2) All hearing(s) shall, where possible, be held on the Thursday following a sending off or citing. In the event of this not being possible, a hearing will be held within a maximum of 10 (ten) working days after the said sending off.

Should the player(s) not be able to attend the hearing on the date stated, then the hearing will still go ahead. However, that player(s) may nominate a Club representative to attend on his/her behalf.

(3) The Chairman shall inform the player/s, his Club(s) and the Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer as to the time, date and place of the hearing. The Chairman will forward a copy of the Referees/Touch Judge or Citing Officers report to the player(s) and his/her Club(s) at least two (2) days prior to the hearing.

(4) In the event that the above it is not possible, due to reasons beyond the control of any or all concerned, "there will be no "time- barring" on any incident. The Board will sit, however protracted that may be, to deliberate any incident, as reported by the Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer as to the Laws of the Game. (IRB Laws of the Game.)

(5) In the event that a player or Club representative or any other form of proxy does not attend the scheduled hearing, the Disciplinary Board shall still convene and decide in absentia and the player or Club will lose any right of appeal.

It is the players' and Clubs' responsibility to ensure that they follow procedure.

(e) Representation and Evidence.

Any player(s) red carded or cited shall have the right to have a Club committee member or any other representative present with him during the hearing. He also has the right to call any person(s) to testify on his behalf.

This right is lost in the case of failure to attend the hearing, for obvious reasons.

During the hearing the player or his representative has the right to put questions to the Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer, however, such questions must be put through the Board Chairman.

The Referee/Touch Judge and/or Citing Officer are to be given the opportunity to supplement their report(s).

(f) Judgement.

(1) Once all evidence has been presented and submissions made, the player(s), his/her representative and the Referee/Touch Judge or Citing Officer will be required to leave the room.

Before deciding on the penalty should the case be proven, the Chairman is to inform the Board members as to any prior disciplinary record(s) that the player(s) may have.

(2) If the Board decides that there are areas that need further investigation before coming to a decision, there will be a "time barring," of up to a maximum of one (1) calendar month from the date of the first

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hearing as to when a decision is handed down and the player(s) shall remain suspended until such time as a decision is rendered.

(3) Once the Board has decided the merits of the case the player(s) and their representative(s) are to be invited back. The player(s) are to be informed of the Board's decision and any sanctions that are to be imposed. If sanctions are to be imposed the player(s) are to be informed that any matches that the player(s) have missed since the red cards/citing(s) have been taken into account.

(4) The Board Chairman shall, not later than three (3) working days, forward in writing, to the player(s) Club(s) and the MRFU Secretary the decision taken by the Board.

(g) Appeal.

The player(s) and their representative(s) are to be informed that he/she has the right of appeal to the MRFU Council to the sanctions handed down. Should an appeal be submitted, the player(s) shall remain suspended until such time as the appeal(s) are heard.

Any such appeal(s) have to be made in writing within 48 hours of written confirmation of the Board's decision. Any such appeal(s) are to be sent to the MRFU Secretary. Furthermore, the player(s) and their representative(s) wishing to appeal against the ruling of the Disciplinary Board, must, also within 48 hours, lodge a deposit of EUR 100 per cited person with the Secretary of the MRFU or an Administrative Officer as delegated by the Secretary. The MRFU Council will review the appeal in a form of its choosing, and if the appeal is found frivolous, the deposit is forfeited. The Council's decision on this matter will be final.

In the event the MRFU Council deems the appeal to deserve the necessary attention, the Council shall ask the Disciplinary Committee to convene the Appeals Board which shall consist of three persons appointed from the Disciplinary Committee that are independent of any Club and the original Disciplinary Board whose decision is being appealed, led by the non-voting Vice-chairman judge.

(h) Sanctions.

(1) When determining sanctions to be handed down, the Board have the discretionary powers to vary the number of matches in the ban or impose any other such sanctions that they feel are appropriate.

(2) ALL matches appearing on the MFRU fixture list will count towards any sanctions that may be handed down. However the primary focus will be, as described in the **Principles**, to target Club fixtures that go towards a season's honours, as well as any prospective national representative match caps the player may have been able to achieve. Should a Club arrange a match (during the term of any suspensions of one or more of their players) that does not appear on the MRFU fixture list, then those player(s) will not be eligible for that match(es) irrespective of the number of matches that he/she has been suspended for.

With regards to 7s - 10s or Clubs tournament falling within the time/match period of any suspension and due to the length of these matches it will be deemed that these 7s-10s or Clubs tournament (whole tournament or day) shall count as 1 (one) match in determining what sanctions are to be handed down.

In the event of any match(es) being played that are not covered by the above section, (h) (1) will apply. Any decisions taken by the Disciplinary Board or Appeals Board will be binding on both the player and his Club.

(3) Non-observance of sanctions. In the event of sanctions not being observed either by sanctioned player or Club of sanctioned Club member, the Club will be prevented from playing any fixtures unless the sanctions are seen to be observed, redress made where redress is necessary, and fines paid to the full. The other team will be awarded a walkover, and fines, suspensions, and loss or award of points as

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per the By-Laws applied. Furthermore, if persistent in its failure to observe sanctions, the playing member or Club guilty of not observing the imposed sanctions may risk further disciplinary sanctions including those for misconduct.

(4) Relapsing. If a player is subsequently brought before the Disciplinary Board, his/her previous disciplinary record is to be taken into account.

During the subsequent hearing, the Disciplinary Board can invoke a heavier penalty on the player.

(5) Misconduct. If the Disciplinary Board deems that there was misconduct in breach of Article 4 Clause h), it can recommend to the MRFU Council that the membership be terminated.

(6) Any team, Club or Club member with a disciplinary sanction or player send-off will be disqualified from receiving any award during that season's awards night or similar event aimed at the purpose of presenting achievement awards for the season. If all Clubs have a tarnished record, only the one with the least infringements will be considered. Similarly, with players, if all nominees have a tarnished record, only the ones with the least infringements will be considered. The MRFU Council will reserve the right to strike off an award for that year if it deems the overall disciplinary records has been too poor for that award to be credible if assigned.

See attached list of possible sanctions.

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List of possible Sanctions.

This list should not be considered to be the automatic number of matches that a player(s) could be suspended for.

Recommended sanctions for offences committed within the playing enclosure.

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PENALTIES (Based on IRB Regulation 17 Appendix 1 modified to No. of Matches and Revised for Frequency of Matches in Malta). A ban also prohibits the player from participating in any one-day tournaments, touring side matches, or National Representative matches between the date of the Disciplinary Committee decision and last scheduled match in the ban.

Law No.	Description	Entry Point Based on Scale of Seriousness of Player's conduct which constitutes the offending – Lower End (LE), Mid Range (MR), Top End (TE).	Maximum Sanction
6.A.5 10.4(k)	Verbal Abuse of Match Officials	LE – 4 (four) matches MR – 8 (eight) matches TE – 12 (twelve) matches + (up from 2 matches)	One calendar year.
6.A.5 10.4(k)	Physical Abuse of Match Officials	LE – 16 (sixteen) matches MR – 32 (thirty-two) matches TE – 64 (sixty-four) matches + (down from Life)	Life.
6.A.5 10.4(k)	Threatening Actions or Words at Match Officials	LE – 8 (eight) matches MR – 16 (sixteen) matches TE – 32 (thirty-two) matches + (up from 4 matches)	Five calendar years.
10.4(a)	Striking another Player with a hand, arm, fist, including the elbow	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 3 (three) matches TE – 6 (six) matches +	One calendar year.
10.4(b)	Stamping or Trampling on an Opponent	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 3 (three) matches TE (head) – 6 (six) matches + (down from 2 - 4)	One calendar year.
10.4(c)	Kicking an Opponent	LE – 2 (two) matches MR – 5 (five) matches TE (head) – 8 (eight) matches + (up from 1)	One calendar year.
10.4(d)	Tripping an Opponent	LE – 2 (two) matches MR – 3 (three) matches TE – 5 (five) matches + (up from 1)	One calendar year.
10.4(a)	Striking with knee	LE – 2 (two) matches MR – 5 (five) matches TE – 8(eight) matches+	One calendar year.

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Law No.	Description	Entry Point Based on Scale of Seriousness of Player's conduct which constitutes the offending – Lower End (LE), Mid Range (MR), Top End (TE).	Maximum Sanction
		(down from 4)	
10.4(a)	Striking with head	LE – 3 (three) matches MR – 5 (five) matches TE – 8 (eight) matches +	Two calendar years.
10.4(e)	Dangerous tackling of an Opponent including early or late and including the actions known as the “stiff arm tackle” and “spear tackle”	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 4 (four) matches TE – 7 (seven) matches + (down from 2)	One calendar year.
10.4(f)	Holding, pushing or obstructing an Opponent not holding the ball except in a scrum, ruck or maul	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 2 (two) matches TE – 4 (four) matches + (down from 2)	One calendar year.
10.4(f)	Dangerous charging or obstructing or grabbing of Opponent without the ball, including shouldering	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 3 (three) matches TE – 6 (six) matches +	One calendar year.
10.4(g)	Dangerous charging or obstructing or grabbing of Opponent without the ball, including shouldering	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 3 (three) matches TE – 6 (six) matches +	One calendar year.
10.4(i)	Causing a scrum, ruck or maul to collapse (in the case of a maul, in an illegal manner ref. ELVs)	LE – 1 (one) match MR – 3 (three) matches TE – 5 (five) matches + (down from 1)	One calendar year.
10.4(k)	Testicle grabbing or twisting or squeezing	LE – 8 (eight) matches MR – 12 (twelve) matches TE – 16 (sixteen) matches +	Four calendar years.
10.4(k)	Biting	LE – 8 (eight) matches MR – 12 (twelve) matches TE – 16 (sixteen) matches + (up from 6)	Four calendar years.
10.4(k)	Contact with Eyes or the Eye Area (including “gouging”)	LE – 8 (eight) matches MR – 12 (twelve) matches TE – 16 (sixteen) matches + (down from 12)	Three calendar years.

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Law No.	Description	Entry Point Based on Scale of Seriousness of Player's conduct which constitutes the offending – Lower End (LE), Mid Range (MR), Top End (TE).	Maximum Sanction
10.4(k)	Spitting at Players	LE – 3 (three) matches MR – 5 (five) matches TE – 7 (seven) matches +	One calendar year.
10.4(k)	Verbal abuse of Players based on Religion, Race, Colour, or National or Ethnic Origin or otherwise	LE – 3 (three) matches MR – 5 (five) matches TE – 8 (eight) matches +	One calendar year.
	To walk off the pitch without permission of a team captain or match official, without injury or medical need during the course of a match.	As per Disciplinary Board's discretion.	
	To commit any actions which may subject players or officials to unnecessary risk.	As per Disciplinary Board's discretion.	

In respect of offences not referred to above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant officer.

Notwithstanding the recommended sanctions in this list and/or the provisions of By-Law 4 and IRB Regulation 17.14, in cases where the player's actions constitute mid range or top end of offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the relevant MRFU Council officers with the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committees' Boards may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

Approved by Majority Vote during Council and Clubs meeting of 10th Sep 2009.

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5. NATIONAL SQUAD ELIGIBILITY

(as per MRFU Extraordinary General Meeting dd. 1st August 2000 at the MOC Main Hall)

A Maltese passport holder should be eligible to play for Malta but would still be required to fill the IRB "Declaration of Eligibility" which is requested from the IRB for their database. Supporting documentation required here is a Maltese birth certificate or the birth certificate of one of your parents if you happen to have a foreign birth certificate. A notarised photocopy of your Maltese passport would be requested. Notarised means that a lawyer signs the document as being a true copy of the original. Birth certificates are obtainable from the Public Registry. (CM)

Foreign passport holders are eligible to play for Malta if (quoting from the declaration form):

1. They were born in the country of the senior or next senior National Representative Team they wish to play for (or)
2. One of their parents or grandparents was born in the country of the senior or next senior National Representative Team they wish to play for (or)
3. They have completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing in the country for which senior or next National Representative Team they intend to play.

(and)

They have not played for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of any other Union.

Supporting documentation for (1) and (2) are their own, parent's or grandparent's Maltese birth certificates. Supporting documentation for (3) are written, signed and notarized documents or letters of declaration from an employer or reliable witness such as a senior police officer, parish priest, judge or magistrate.