

fundamental principles that are set forth in the IRB Laws and Regulations and ERFU rules and respect the decisions of referees.

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- No later than by February 2010, all players taking part in ERFU events will need to have passed the test on ERFU rules and IRB Laws that will be organised by the ERFU Board together with the Refereeing Manager. The ERFU Board, together with the support of the Refereeing Manager, will offer the clubs assistance concerning training on ERFU rules and IRB Laws.

### **3. Cairo Rugby – Alexandria RFC game of 30 October 2009**

On 10 November 2009, the representatives of Alexandria RFC and Cairo Rugby; the player cited, Mohamad Mostafa Mohalal; and, the referees of the Cairo Rugby – Alexandria RFC game of 30 October 2009 were to orally present their views to the Ethics and Discipline Commission at its hearing of 13 November.

After having considered all the elements before it (i.e., the match report, the e-mails received from the representatives of Alexandria RFC and Cairo Rugby, the referees and the ERFU's Refereeing Manager as well as the video footage of the game) and the oral statements of those present at the hearing of 13 November (i.e., the referees and a representative of Cairo Rugby), the Ethics and Discipline Commission unanimously decided the following:

- Pursuant to the ERFU Council decisions of 22 November 2008 and 29 May 2009, Cairo Rugby is sanctioned by a penalty point and a 200 LE fine for having failed to ensure that: (i) a qualified doctor / nurse was present during the game and (ii) not having posts compliant with IRB Law 1.4.

Since rugby is a contact sport, it is essential, that in line with ERFU Council decisions, the home team ensures that a qualified doctor / nurse is present during the game. The home team should also inform the closest decent hospital and have the emergency number available. Information concerning the name and telephone number of the qualified doctor / nurse who will be present at the game as well as of the name and phone number of the closest hospital should be sent to the visiting team and to the ERFU secretariat at least one week prior to the game.

- Mostafa Abdel Based, who was a spectator at the game, shall incur a one game penalty for non-sportive conduct (i.e., for entering on the pitch to fight with players) pursuant to IRB Law 10.4(a) and IRB Regulation 18.
- Alexandria RFC and Cairo Rugby are warned that if their players and officials were to engage in non-sportive behaviour in future games during the 2009/2010 season, sanctions will be taken against the players and officials concerned as well as against their club. It is the primary duty of the clubs to ensure that their players and officials strictly adhere to the

## ***Enjoyment and Entertainment***

*The laws provide the framework for a game that is both enjoyable to play and entertaining to watch. If, on occasions, these objectives appear to be incompatible, enjoyment and entertainment are enhanced by enabling the players to give full rein to their skills. To achieve the correct balance, the laws are constantly under review.*

## ***Application***

*There is an over-riding obligation on the players to observe the laws and to respect the principles of fair play.*

*The laws must be applied in such a way as to ensure that the game is played according to the principles of play. The referee and his touch judges can achieve this through fairness, consistency, sensitivity and, at the highest levels, management. In return, it is the responsibility of coaches, captains and players to respect the authority of the match officials.*

## **2. Ethics**

In order to promote a right approach to the game of rugby, the Ethics and Discipline Commission unanimously decided the following:

- Prior to each game, all the officials and players of the home team should greet the referees and all the officials and players of the visiting team. The referees, officials and players shall then have a 15-20 minute meeting where the main officiating referee will remind all official and players of certain basic IRB Laws and will indicate how he intends to direct the game.
- Throughout the game and after it, players, coaches and officials shall refrain from commenting the decisions of referees. Team captains may during a game ask the referee for explanations and players are encouraged to exchange with referees after the game. However, it is essential that players, coaches and officials respect referees and comply with their decisions.
- If an incident (e.g., a fight) takes place during a game, after having made its decision known to the two team captains, the referee shall allow them some time to speak to their teammates. Captains should order players not in control of their emotions off the pitch.
- After each game, the referees, officials and players teams should exchange salutations and amicably exchange on the game.

# EGYPTIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

## Ethics and Discipline Commission

Cairo – 13/11/2009



The Ethics and Discipline Commission met in Cairo on 13 November 2009 to consider actions to promote a right approach to the game of rugby and to examine the incidents that took place during the Cairo Rugby – Alexandria RFC game of 30 October 2009.

### 1. IRB Playing Charter

Since the Ethics and Discipline Commission was meeting for the first time since its establishment, it considered it important to refer, in introduction, to some of the fundamental principles of the game of rugby that are set forth in the Playing Charter that forms an integral part of the IRB Laws.

#### *Principles of the Game*

##### *Spirit*

*Rugby owes much of its appeal to the fact that it is played both to the letter and within the spirit of the laws. The responsibility for ensuring that this happens lies not with one individual – it involves coaches, captains, players and referees.*

*It is through discipline, control and mutual respect that the spirit of the game flourishes and, in the context of a game as physically challenging as rugby, these are the qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play so essential to the game's ongoing success and survival.*

##### *Principles of the Laws*

##### *A Sport For All*

*The laws provide players of different physiques, skills, genders and ages with the opportunity to participate at their levels of ability in a controlled, competitive and enjoyable environment. It is incumbent upon all who play rugby to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the game.*