

Barbarians Rugby Football Club (Intramural Team)

Tuesday 7 May 2019

Record of decision

Made under Section 11 of Rule 9

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### **Introduction**

Rule 9 requires that:

1. *“Minutes shall be kept of the hearings of the Committee, which shall include a numerical record of any vote held, but shall not include the content of any private deliberation between members of the Committee”, in addition to,*
2. *“The outcome of every hearing shall be published on the Union website, and reported to the next meeting of Union Senate, with the identity of the respondent, any witnesses and the complainant (except where this is the Union President on behalf of the Union) removed.”*
3. *The identity of the respondent shall be published where:*
  - a. *the Committee have decided that the name of the respondent should be published, or*
  - b. *the respondent is a Group (but the identity of any person appearing on the behalf of the Group shall not be published).*

This document is therefore that record as required under Rule 9.

### **Complaint**

The complaint was brought to the committee by an elected Sabbatical Officer on behalf of the Students' Union. The complaint detailed the following:

1. That a video had been hosted on the “Southampton Barbarians RFC” Instagram account.
2. The material, up until the point where a complaint was made, appears to have been available to view publicly since it was posted.
3. That social t-shirts displaying “University of Southampton” with the Barbarians logo were printed with slogans with inappropriate connotations and details.
4. That the content of this material comprised a breach of good order through:
  - a. conduct detrimental to the reasonable enjoyment of Union facilities by other members of the Union or to the reputation of the Union, contrary to section 4.2(b) of Rule 9 of the Union.

## Hearing

The Committee consisted of 5 members drawn randomly from the Disciplinary Pool, including the Chair of Disciplinary Committee. The complaint was presented by an elected Sabbatical Officer on behalf of the Students' Union. The respondents attended the hearing on behalf of Barbarians RFC as an intramural rugby team and provided their own statements in response.

When asked by the chair, the respondents admitted to the charge brought against the team.

## Penalties

The Committee imposed the following penalties and actions:

1. That Barbarians RFC issue a public apology to be posted on the "Latest News" section of the SUSU website, to be sent to all intra-mural teams and the student who highlighted the social t-shirt issue
2. Slogans on social t-shirts are to be checked by a member of another intramural team (external to Barbarians RFC) from this point forward, and this process to involve communication with SUSU Activities in the academic year 2019/20.
3. Social t-shirts with inappropriate slogans (as identified by the Committee) to be handed-in to the SUSU Activities Team, with the expectation that members be reimbursed by Barbarians RFC.
4. A copy of this report to be sent to all current members of the Barbarians RFC.

In imposing the above penalties, the Disciplinary Committee acknowledge the interim suspension already imposed on Barbarians RFC, and their cooperation with SUSU through the disciplinary process.

The Disciplinary Chair further outlines that should the Barbarians RFC come before another formal Disciplinary Committee for similar charges ("similar" shall be at the discretion of the Disciplinary Chair), this report shall be received as evidence and recommends that the following penalties be imposed **as a minimum**:

1. Barbarians RFC be excluded from the next Intra-Mural Bunfight.
2. Barbarians RFC be excluded from the next round of SUSU supported taster sessions.

## The vote

The Committee voted:

- Unanimously, for **Penalties 1-4 as detailed above.**

As no votes were tied, the Chair did not exercise their casting vote at any stage.

## Adrian Li

Disciplinary Chair ([disciplinarychair@susu.org](mailto:disciplinarychair@susu.org))