

## **WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd (Rodney Parade) Bans Policy and procedure**

Permission to enter or to remain within the Ground (notwithstanding possession of any ticket) is at the absolute discretion of WRU Gwent Stadium LTD personnel as we have a legal right to determine who should and should not be allowed admission to our private premises. On no account will admission to any Event be granted to any person not in possession of a valid ticket. On no account will admission to a football match be granted to a person who is the subject of a current Banning Order.

WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd recognizes that most supporters come to the Stadium to watch Rugby or Football and not to be subjected to abusive or indecent language from the stands or terraces. Discriminatory behavior, which includes, shouting, chanting or actions such as racist, sectarian, homophobic, sexist or anti disability behavior is unacceptable. WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd is committed to the welfare of its employees and any threats or use of violence towards its staff is totally unacceptable

Our Operations Team reserve the right to issue a written warning or to ban any supporter or other individual from the Rodney Parade Stadium for breaches of the Ground Regulations, or as a result of any other incidents that compromise the safety and wellbeing of persons at the Stadium. Where possible stadium bans will be conveyed in writing, whether by email or post, and may also include the suspension of ticket purchasing privileges for away matches.

There is a unique relationship here at Rodney Parade, with the WRU owning the Stadium and the Dragons, Newport RFC and Newport County FC being tenants at the ground, and the Stadium being run by WRU Gwent Stadium LTD.

WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd holds the Safety Certificate and as a result is ultimately responsible for the Safety of spectators. They will investigate any incident in line with this policy and during the process will consult the club involved and seek their views in determining the sanction imposed against the supporter. However, as previously stated, as the Safety Certificate holder, WRU Gwent Stadium LTD will have the final decision on the sanctions imposed.

We appreciate that no two incidents are the same. Our Operations Team will consider all available evidence when dealing with incidents and determining the length of a ban, if applicable. The table attached at appendix A indicates the categories of behaviour that are not acceptable at the Stadium and the sanctions what may be considered to deal with the incidents. This table is produced as guidance but does not preclude further penalties for incidents that are considered so exceptional that further sanctions against supporters are required. Please note this is intended as guidance only and we reserve the right to exclude supporters whilst the investigation takes place.

The procedure for considering a warning or a ban will be as follows

1. For match day incidents, the Control room will deal with the incident and details will be recorded within the match day log. Full details of the supporter/supporters involved will be obtained. Support from the Police if present will be sought to confirm details provided
2. For incidents that occur outside the match day arena, the member of staff witnessing the occurrence will provide written notification via E-mail to the Head of Operations. Full details will be provided together with witness details.
3. Following the incident, all available evidence will be collated, with the Match day log being the primary location for the detail. CCTV coverage if available will be downloaded or if not possible arrangements for it to be secured will be made with Red Drum IT
4. Within 7 days, a meeting will be held between the Head of Operations, (in his absence his nominated deputy) and the Safety Officers to discuss the incident and consider sanctions. At this stage, all the evidence, and or the identity of the supporters may not be known. In this case the meeting will discuss options to progress the investigation. During this investigation process the supporter(s) involved will be excluded from the ground.
5. Should the supporter turn up at the ground he will be informed of his exclusion and if his details are not known, asked to provide details of his identify. If he refuses, he will remain excluded from the ground
6. Following the initial meeting, representatives from the Club whose supporters where involved (Dragons, Newport County or Newport RFC) will be informed of the details of the incident and their views as to the appropriate sanction to be imposed. They will also be asked to support the investigation if required to assist in establishing any details required.
7. As part of the process, the option of inviting the supporter involved to a meeting with club officials will be considered. This option may not be appropriate in circumstances where threats have been made or violence has been used in the incident. If such a meeting is deemed appropriate, consideration can be given to showing the individual to view CCTV footage of the incident.
8. Following the collation of all the evidence, (if not available at the first meeting at point 3 above) the Head of Operations and a committee of Safety Stewards will schedule a meeting to consider the appropriate sanction. The decision will take cognisance of the appropriate action table but in exceptional circumstances other sanctions can be considered.
9. Following the meeting, the decision of the will be communicated to the supporter involved. The communication will be via e-mail or posted recorded delivery. The banning order will outline brief details, the nature of the offence and also indicate the length of ban, either as a fixed period or a number of matches. If the ban is an indefinite ban then the rational for this sanction will be clearly explained. The Head of Operation or the safety Officer will issue this banning letter.
10. The Club involved will be informed of the decision prior to the issuing of the letter

11. Where deemed appropriate by WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd and the Club involved, the reinstatement of a banned supporter's privileges may be dependent upon them signing and returning an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement.
12. WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd recognises the right to reply for any individual who has been issued with a stadium ban. Should you be dissatisfied with the response that you have received from the Head of Operations in relation to your stadium ban, you can appeal the decision.
13. All appeals must be in writing, providing a detailed response in relation to the issue or specific point(s) that you are appealing.
14. Upon receipt, a full review of the issue or specific points(s) raised within your appeal will be conducted independently of the Operations Team. The appeal will be referred to the CEO of WRU Gwent Stadium Ltd for his/her consideration based upon all the available evidence.
15. The decision of the CEO will be final.