



Dragons Stadium Limited (Rodney Parade) Bans Policy and procedure – 2024/25 season- Dragons RFC and Newport County AFC.

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**The below policy is applicable to all Dragons RFC, Newport County AFC, Football Association of Wales, and any other fixture played at Rodney Parade Stadium.**

- Permission to enter or to remain within the Ground (notwithstanding possession of any ticket) is at the absolute discretion of Dragons Stadium Limited 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 designated football match be granted to a person who is subject of a current Banning order.
- Dragons Stadium Limited 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. Dragons Stadium Limited and Newport County AFC is committed to the welfare of its employees and any threats or use of violence towards its staff is totally unacceptable.
- Our Operations Team reserves 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 because 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, Dragons Stadium Limited owning the Stadium and Dragons RFC, and Newport County AFC being tenants at the ground.
- Dragons Stadium Limited 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 if the incident occurs at a designated football match the EFL guidance. Throughout the process, key personnel of the club involved will be consulted and their views sought in determining the sanction imposed against the supporter. However, as previously stated, as the Safety Certificate holder, Dragons Stadium Limited 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. Video surveillance coverage if available will be downloaded or if not possible arrangements for it to be secured will be made with our IT provider.
4. Within 7 days, a meeting will be held between the Operations manager, a club representative, 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. This exclusion will be in the form of an "interim suspension".
6. Details of this suspension will be delivered in a letter outlining the incident, and the fact that the supporter will not be allowed to enter the ground until further notice. This letter can be delivered via E-mail, recorded delivery at last known address.
7. 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 the supporter refuses, they will remain excluded from the ground until details are provided.
8. 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 Video Surveillance footage of the incident.
9. Following the sanction meeting, the decision will be communicated to the supporter involved. The communication will be via e-mail or posted recorded delivery. Any 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 Operations manager, club secretary or the safety Officer will issue this banning letter.
10. Where deemed appropriate, the reinstatement of a banned supporter's privileges may be dependent upon them signing and returning an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement.

- 10 . Dragons Stadium Limited and Newport County AFC recognises the right to reply for any individual who has been issued with a stadium ban, and provides a right to appeal.
11. All appeals must be in writing, providing a detailed response in relation to the issue or specific point(s) that you are appealing.
12. 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 Dragons Stadium Limited for his/her consideration based upon all the available evidence.
13. The decision of the CEO will be final.

The following table highlights the potential sanctions for potential offences and the recommended sanctions for each offence category

Key	
Minimum suggested action	Yellow
Maximum suggested action	Red
Optional action	Orange

Offence	Ejection	Written warning	3 match ban	6 match ban	Season ban	Indefinite ban
<u>Unacceptable conduct</u> – Persistent standing, visiting supporters in home areas						
<u>Racism, homophobia, anti-semitic, discriminatory chanting</u> – Language, chants or songs in home area						
<u>General disorder</u> – Fighting, physical assault						
<u>Missile throwing</u> – objects, pyrotechnics, smoke bombs (including lighting)						
<u>Pitch incursion</u> – pre, post or in game						
<u>Abuse/aggression towards staff</u> – Verbal or physical abuse, assault or threats of assault						
<u>Drunk inside the stadium</u> – concourse, stands, hospitality or footprint						
<b>Drinking alcohol in view of pitch (Football only)</b> – In stands, concourse or hospitality areas						
<u>Persistent foul and abusive language</u> – towards players, staff, supporters both home and away						
<u>Smoking (including vaping)</u> – Noncompliance with stadium regulations						
Ticketing – Touting, misuse of concession						