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## **Dealing with Off-field breaches of the Code of Conduct 2026**

Referees are not responsible for policing Code of Conduct breaches by people outside the playing enclosure. The responsibility for providing a safe environment around the venue is with the host club/school, through the appointed Ground Marshall(s) or Match Day Controller. In some competitions (SJRU and Subbies in particular), both teams are required to provide a Ground Marshall, who is responsible for the behaviour of their team's supporters.

If there is a breach of the Code of Conduct by a player (including a reserve), Assistant Referee or Team Official (e.g. water runner or coach) within the playing enclosure during or immediately before or after the match, the referee should deal with that through the captain of the relevant team (i.e. your normal process of issuing admonishments or cards).

If there is a breach of the Code of Conduct outside the playing enclosure which is impacting on those within the playing enclosure then the Referee or Assistant Referee should bring that to the attention of the Ground Marshall on the run (in the same way as you'd do a heads up).

If the Ground Marshall is unable to resolve the issue, or it is sufficiently serious that play should not continue, the referee should stop the match, remain in the field of play, and call over the Ground Marshall(s) (and captain(s) if necessary), point out the issue and ask them to resolve it (in the same way as you'd do a final chat).

The referee should not restart play at this point until the issue is resolved.

If the person(s) refuses to comply with the directions of the Ground Marshall/Captain and the Referee believes it would be dangerous to continue the game they should again call out the Ground Marshalls and Captains and advise them that they are abandoning the game.

In all cases where a Ground Marshall has been called on to deal with a Code of Conduct breach a report should be lodged (either TOEDP or Rugby Australia Report a Concern).

DO NOT CONFRONT the person outside the playing enclosure yourself, lest it escalate the situation.