

## **UK Ultimate Conduct Committee**

### **2 April 2014**

UK Ultimate ('UKU') received a written complaint from Nick Brownbill regarding the behaviour of James Bush at Club Open Indoor Regionals in Dudley on the 7th and 8th of December 2013. A Conduct Committee was formed to consider that complaint, per the UK Ultimate Conduct and Complaints Policy.

#### Evidence and Findings

The committee thanks all of those who gave the committee their views and evidence in relation to the complaint. The committee has considered all the evidence and representations put forward in respect of this matter and has come to the following conclusions:

1. The committee accepts that there is contention over some of the specific facts and has decided not to make a finding in respect of those specific facts;
2. However, the committee does take a view that there has been unacceptable conduct on the part of James Bush and to that extent the complaint is upheld;
3. The rules that were breached by James Bush are listed below (figures in brackets refer to the rule number in the WFDF rules):
  - a. Players must be fair-minded and objective (rule 1.3.2.)
  - b. Players must resolve disputes using respectful language; (1.3.6.)
  - c. Players should never sacrifice the mutual respect between players (1.4)
  - d. Taunting or intimidating opposing players is a clear violation of the spirit of the game and must be avoided (1.6.3.)

#### Other matters taken into account by the committee

In deciding what action to take in respect of this complaint the committee took into account that a complaint relating to similar conduct had been admitted by James Bush in November 2013.

#### Action in respect of the complaint

**1. The committee decided to censure James Bush in respect of his conduct on the pitch and to note that, in the event of similar future breaches of the rules of ultimate, one or more of the following sanctions might be applied:**

- A ban of up to 12 months from all ultimate tournaments in the UK.
- Cancellation of UKU membership with no refund.
- Compulsory attendance at a spirit of the game coaching session.
- Monitoring of future games at UKU events at which James Bush plays by a UKU appointed person. UKU's costs for this to be paid by the player.

**2. The committee offers to James Bush support for any of the issues raised, and would provide such support outside of this process.** This support includes meeting with the UK Ultimate conduct committee and/or access to experienced players who have been in similar situations.

#### Further note

The committee noted that the purpose of this ruling, and of disciplinary oversight generally, is a positive one. In the ultimate-playing community it is important to maintain the spirit of the game for all players and encourage players to take responsibility for their conduct.

The committee noted that, while that standard of self-control expected of ultimate players in a self-officiating sport must be maintained, it also recognizes that, in a large and diverse population, some players, who otherwise make a valued contribution, may find this aspect more difficult than other players. Such players should be supported – so long as they are honest and willing to recognize when their conduct has fallen short of the general standard.

### Appeals

James Bush has the right to appeal the decision by contacting the chairman of the Board of UK Ultimate, Graham Mynott. This should be done by initially contacting Simon Hill (si.hill@ukultimate.com).

Appeals may contest the decision, challenge the specifics of the sanction or provide new evidence or information. Appeals that simply re-state a case may be deemed frivolous and need not be considered. The full board will hear and rule on any appeals that reach this level. A person appealing has the option to be accompanied to any meetings/discussions by a person of their choice. The board will respond within two weeks, and will aim to resolve the issue within one month. Their decision will be final.

### Publication

This decision will be published on the UK ultimate website, and a copy will also be sent to the complainant Nick Brownbill.