

## **Player, Bench and Spectator Behaviour.**

From time to time Umpires come across situations relating to behaviour which thankfully do not occur on a regular basis but, as a result, they sometimes fail to deal with or cannot recall the correct procedure.

### **Players.**

Paragraph 2.3c Umpiring Section of the Rules of Outdoor Hockey 2011

It is not acceptable for players to abuse opponents, umpires or other technical officials verbally or through body language and attitude. **Umpires must deal firmly with abuse of this sort** and in appropriate circumstances issue a caution, warning (green card), or a temporary (yellow card) or permanent (red card) suspension. Cautions, warnings and suspensions can be given in isolation or in combination with another penalty.

### **Bench**

Coaches and substitutes on the bench will have their views on umpires' decisions. We should not allow this to get out of control and can manage it in a selection of ways.

- a) Politely ask them to refrain/stop.
- b) If they do not refrain, stop the game, and talk openly, advise them that the captain will be spoken to next and further punishment may follow. Make it very clear that you have the authority and what the consequences will be.
- c) Stop the game, call the captain over, and ask him/her to manage the bench. Again advise him/her of the consequences.
- d) Stop the game, call the captain over, and ask them to remove the said offender
- e) Temporarily or permanently suspend (yellow/red card) any player or official from the bench for ill-discipline in which case Rules 14.1c and 14.1d state: the offending team plays with one less player.

### **Matchday Misconduct**

4.4 An **MMO** is committed when at any time during the day of a match, but excluding the time from the start to the end of the match, a person due to participate or who has participated in the match misconducts himself in such a way that one of the match umpires decides (a) it would have warranted the issue of a Red Card had such misconduct occurred during the match, and (b) is to be reported as an MMO, and the umpire so informs the offender **on the day of the match.**

## Spectators

The NHA Guidance Notes for Pitch side Conduct states: The onus is on the home club to take responsibility for spectators and their behaviour.

Our first step must be to separate supporters from the bench area. Also, avoid sending any suspended players into a crowd (think - if you do not have a delegate, is the bench the best place?).

Supporters are probably the hardest for us to deal with as we generally do not know club members etc. Be very careful about what is banter and what is unacceptable abuse. Again use the captain to deal with this, and generally do not get involved. If you know there is a senior member of the club there, ask them to resolve the problem.

Should the behaviour of a spectator become unacceptable, and they are within the 'cage', advise them of the consequences and then if it continues require them to be removed.

If in the opinion of the umpires the behaviour breaches the EHB Code of Ethics and Behaviour .it should be reported as a **Disrepute Offence**.

**A Disrepute Offence** is committed where there is conduct by an individual or an affiliated body at any time that is prejudicial to the EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour or is otherwise liable to cause the sport of hockey to be brought into disrepute (other than an offence penalised by the umpires during a match).

### SUMMARY.

- 1. Players.** Always deal with any form of dissent using the control loop.  
**Don't ignore it.**
- 2. Bench.** When reasoning fails card the member on the bench and require the team to take a player off the field.
- 3. Spectators.** Stop the game and ask the Captain of the home team to deal with it.
- 4. Red Card/MMO Report Form.** (Down load from the NHUA Website.) To be sent asap and within 72hrs of the offence to the **County Disciplinary Administrator** for the County through which the offender's Club is affiliated. **In the event of two or more red cards in a match going to separate C.D.O.'s they should be cross referenced.**  
**N.B. a Red Card can only be rescinded if the umpire who issued the card is satisfied that there has been a case of mistaken identity**
- 5. Code of Ethics and Behaviour Disrepute Form.** (Download from the EHB Website) This should be sent within 14 days to the **County Disciplinary Administrator** or, in the case of Clubs from different Counties being involved, the North Disciplinary Administrator : Chris Kingshott

**Up to date contact details are on the North web site and in the current Handbook.**

