



PLAYER BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Bad behaviour by players has a detrimental effect on all those players, officials and spectators, who enjoy the game.

Importantly this Policy is **not** intended:

- to take away the umpires' ability to manage the game and apply their common sense;
or
- to discourage a dialogue between players and umpires in appropriate circumstances.

ROLE OF THE CAPTAIN

Captains are responsible for the behaviour of all players on their team, including those on the bench and ensuring that the substitutions on their team are carried out correctly (Rule 3.4). The importance of this rule cannot be underestimated. Umpires will expect and must receive the assistance of both captains at all times to assist their management of the game. A personal penalty will be awarded to a captain who does not exercise his/her responsibilities.

The responsibility for the good behaviour of team bench personnel, e.g. Coach, Medical Assistant, lies with the team manager or, if there is not one, with the team captain.

SWEARING

Swearing is unacceptable on a hockey field. All instances of audible swearing will be dealt with by the umpires with a personal and/or team penalty being applied where appropriate. This includes swearing directed at an umpire, about the decision of an umpire, at an opponent, any other official or a spectator. The duration of the suspension will reflect the seriousness of the offence. The personal penalties may include:

- (a) A verbal warning;
- (b) A Green card (Caution)
- (c) A Yellow card (temporary suspension) or
- (d) A Red card (permanent suspension)

Swearing which is audible only within a short distance or which is genuinely borne out of frustration (but not in reaction to a decision of the umpires) will generally be dealt with by a verbal caution in the first instance, perhaps even without the game's stopping. Subsequent or repeated occurrences will engender the application of more severe penalties.

DISSENT / VERBAL ABUSE

Dissent or verbal abuse directed towards an umpire, about the decision of an umpire, at an opponent, any other official or a spectator will be punished with the appropriate personal penalty. If a yellow card is given the duration will reflect the seriousness of the offence. Team penalties may also be applied.

Ordinarily a captain will be invited to deal with the first instance of verbal abuse between members of his/her own team unless it is particularly serious. Thereafter, the umpires will apply such penalties as they see fit.

PERSISTENT QUESTIONING / INDIRECT DISSENT

Umpires' authority is diminished by persistent questioning of or complaining about umpires' decisions and is unacceptable. While there will always be individual instances of questioning the umpires' decisions during a match, this should ordinarily be undertaken by the captain and always in an appropriate manner. Any explanation offered by an umpire will be the end of the matter and not be subject to further discussion during the match.

Persistent questioning, indirect comments about umpires and/or their decisions, non-verbal dissent (e.g. throwing away the stick) and generally petulant behaviour will be dealt with by the umpires with a personal and/or team penalty being applied where appropriate.

SURROUNDING UMPIRES

Surrounding an umpire means more than 1 player approaching an umpire to contest a decision. Surrounding umpires is unacceptable and will also be dealt with by the umpires with a personal and/or team penalty being applied where appropriate.

REMEMBER

Further team and club sanctions can, will and have been in the past, applied by HHUA (and supported by HHA) should a team lead itself into disrepute before, during or after a game. It is always advised to save any frustrations you may have till the meal after the game at a minimum. Hot headed post-match comments at the side of the pitch cannot be tolerated. The umpires will be open to sensible post-match debate. If you feel you still have not satisfied the situation there is a feedback form/email you can use which is clearly displayed on the website home page.

CLARIFICATION

Further information can be found on the HHA website on pitch side conduct under information and downloads called "guidance notes for pitch side conduct"

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