



HAMPSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF CDA

Club Discipline Officers (CDOs) are reminded that if they cease to hold that post the CDA should be notified personally of that fact, together with the full contact details of the new CDO (Reg.3.3 EH Red Card & MMO Regs. 2008), which should then also be updated immediately on the Club's webpage on the HHA/HHUA website. Updating the website alone is NOT the same as notifying the CDA.

(last season's figures in brackets)

This season, **the worst in recent history**, there have been a total of **20** (16) discipline incidents involving Hampshire players - **17** (16) red cards, **1** (0) M.M.O., and **2** (0) Disrepute Offences.

Category a) - 11 + 1+2 (10) for non-violent offences, e.g. misconduct/dissent/umpire abuse.

Category b) - 6 (4) for using/attempting/threatening violence to another player.

Category c) - 0 (2) for using/attempting/threatening violence to an umpire.

Of the **17** red cards, **8** (7) were given by HHUA appointed umpires, **8** (8) by club umpires, and **1** by an Avon & Somerset HUA appointed umpire to a visiting Hampshire player. The MMO and one of the Disrepute Offences were reported by Club umpires – the other D.O. by an HHUA appointee. To my knowledge one HHUA umpire gave red cards to 2 visiting Sussex players, which were dealt with by the Sussex CDA.

Only one of the 20 offenders was female.

Petersfield, Poole, Winchester, and Fleet & Ewshot each had 2 players disciplined (Winchester and Fleet & Ewshot had both their 2 sent off in one match – though not against each other) - Andover & Hamble had one each sent off in their match against each other, and Bournemouth, Fareham, Wimborne Wayfarers, Blandford & Sturminster Newton, City of Portsmouth, Southampton Solent University, Southampton University, Basingstoke, Salisbury, and Weymouth all had just one offending player. For the purists, the breakdown by county is Hampshire 13, Dorset 6, & Wilts 1.

One of those red-carded was a team captain, another one a team coach..

Only 2 of the Cat.a) offences (non-violence) were for technical/playing offences following yellow cards for the same offence

Of the 6 Cat.b) offences (physical violence to a player), 2 were committed with the stick, 2 were kicks, and 2 were pushes. Very fortunately some of the intended blows didn't connect, and in none of these incidents was any injury reported.

More disturbingly, despite this phenomenon being highlighted in my last year's report, no fewer than 11 offenders who were red-carded or reported for 'umpire-abuse' had already been yellow-carded for that offence – 7 of whom **immediately** upgraded their 5 minutes temporary suspension for a substantial permanent suspension by showing further dissent/abuse whilst still walking off the field!

The following paragraph is from last year's report:- "*What is particularly of concern from this past season's incidents is the high number of players, etc., who have 'talked' their way to an upgrade of their penalty – from 5-10 minutes of temporary suspension to at least 16, and more often 30, days of **permanent** suspension. That does seem a very bad deal indeed, and The County is very surprised that so many people are still willing to enter into it. 'Umpire-abuse' already attracts the usual penalty of "not less than 30 days" – one is left wondering what else might deter this very unnecessary and very unpleasant behaviour – personal fines as well, perhaps(?)*."

It seems that nothing changes, but at least I am satisfied that The County has done all it can to publicise its policy, **since 2004**, that the penalty for 'umpire-abuse' is **"unlikely to be less than 30 days suspension"**. It therefore comes as both a surprise & disappointment that, of those players disciplined this season for 'umpire-abuse' who answered a questionnaire sent by The County in an effort to understand why so many people still commit this stupid and unnecessary offence, **NONE** admitted to being aware of this policy! This **MUST** change - now!

THE COUNTY ASKS, AND FRANKLY REQUIRES & EXPECTS, EVERY CLUB TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF ITS MEMBERS FULLY AWARE OF THE HAMPSHIRE H.A. POLICY ON 'UMPIRE-ABUSE' BEFORE THE START OF NEXT SEASON.

I also stress again that the role of the team Captain is vital in maintaining discipline on, and off, the field. No player should ever be red-carded for misconduct whilst temporarily suspended by yellow-card without some effort first having been made by the Captain, either at the request of the umpire or of his own volition, to control that player. As far as The County is concerned, the *only* option any yellow-carded player or coach has is, quite bluntly, **to shut up and go and stand in the corner**, (or wherever else directed)! To do anything else makes that player very liable to an enhanced penalty – it really is not worth it.

No fewer than 3 players are carrying over suspensions into the next (2012/13) season. One player returns from a long suspension on 31 August.

With 20 disciplinary incidents Hampshire, unsurprisingly, heads the unofficial league of shame in the South. Surrey & Middlesex tie at 2nd with a total each of 15 incidents, followed in 4th place by Kent with 11.

This was the fourth season under the new EH Red Card & Matchday Misconduct Offence Regulations 2008 & the separate EH Disrepute Offence Regulations 2008, both of which replaced the former EH Code of Discipline 2006. It is disappointing, therefore, to report that some umpires & players are still not fully conversant with the definition of, & procedures to be followed for Matchday Misconduct Offences (MMOs), which are laid down in Regulation 4.4.

Next season some help will be at hand when it will be acceptable for the umpire to show the offender a red card instead of having to state formally to the offender that an MMO would be reported. **However, it will still be necessary for the umpire to inform the team captain that the MMO has occurred since, if it happens for instance after the final whistle, the captain might not see, or otherwise be aware of, the incident.**

My special thanks go to my Deputy, Steve Downham, and thanks go also to HHA Chairman and Committee for their advice and support throughout the season. I also thank the CDOs of those clubs with which we have had dealings during the season, and those Umpires who have not flinched from doing what is right, necessary, and often unpleasant.

CB

5.6.12