



Hampshire Hockey Association

www.hampshirehockeyassociation.co.uk

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2017 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. 2016), 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 had seen a marked increase in the total number of incidents, due mainly to the introduction of the Category d) "Minor Offence" red card. There was a total of **20** (15) discipline incidents involving Hampshire players/officials - **19** (13) **Red Cards**, **1** (2) **M.M.O.**, and **0** (0) **Disrepute Offences**.

Category a) - **12** + **1** (**7** + **2**) for non-violent offences, e.g. misconduct/dissent/umpire abuse.

Category b) - **1** (**6**) for using/attempting/threatening violence to another player.

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

Category d) - **6** "minor offence"

For once Hampshire does not have the worst record of disciplinary cases than any other County in the South – Surrey had the same number of red cards, but one more MMO. On one particular day, though, Hampshire had no fewer than 5 red cards, 3 of which were Category d).

Of the **19** red cards, **13** (7) were given by HHUA appointed umpires, **3** (3) by club umpires, **3** (0) by SCHUA & the **1** (2) MMO was by other HUA appointed umpires (Avon & Somerset) to a member of a visiting Hampshire team. There were NO appeals to the South against any penalty imposed by Hampshire HA.

Of the 19 red cards "honours" were shared as follows:- Hamble 3; Havant 1 (+ the MMO); & 15 other clubs, too numerous to list, received one each.

Of the 20 reported discipline incidents none (0) involved a female.

As far as was reported none of the recipients of the red cards was a team captain, though in some incidents one is left to wonder at the inability, or unwillingness, of some team captains to exercise their authority under Rule 3.4 of the Rules of Hockey.

Of the 12 Red Card Category a) offences (non-violence) 11 were for dissent in all its forms, as was the one MMO, a worrying doubling from last season. It is still disappointing, too, that players are still not taking the obvious warning inherent in a yellow card by pushing their luck, & the umpire, to red – it's called 'traffic-lights', and is so unnecessary. Clubs are, again, specifically requested to ensure that all their players & team officials are reminded before the start of next season that temporarily suspended personnel (both by yellow & green cards) are, for the length of such suspension, just that – temporarily suspended from participation in the match, & that they should go to the designated place & be quiet, or else!

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It is good to be able to report that the level of Category b) 'violence' offences is markedly down, from 6 last season to only 1 this, & that that one incident did not involve use of the stick, or feet, or fist, but nothing more than a player pushing an opponent to the ground. Please still be reminded that, whereas the EH mandatory minimum for Category b) offences is 30 days, this minimum penalty is only applicable to attempts or threats of violence where no contact is made. To preserve differentiation between levels of violence, actual use of violence, i.e. where contact is made, *will* result in a more substantial penalty.

As for Category d) "Minor Offence" red cards, my own personal view is that they are absolutely pointless, generating only extra paperwork & statistics. Not only was the measure rushed in just before the start of the season, allowing HUAs & Clubs little, or no time properly to train umpires in the use of this measure, as far as I can tell there was no prior consultation with the CDAs who are responsible for administering it. Twice this season Category d) red cards were reported which, on examination of the facts, were Category a) instead because they both involved 'dissent'. However, because the umpires (one SCHUA! & one Club) had erroneously informed the player on the Saturday that their offences were Category d), involving no further suspension, the players were free to play the following day when they should have been suspended. It is for this reason that I am asking ALL umpires in Hampshire to inform me, or my Deputy CDA, on the day of the offence of any red card shown so that the facts can be elicited & advice given as to the correct category to be recorded. Category d) red cards still must be reported, though all that happens is that the Red Card Report Form is forwarded to the South RDA & EH for filing. I also suggest that any player temporarily suspended by a yellow card in the last 5 minutes of any game and then seeing someone else being subsequently red-carded for a Category d) 'Minor Offence' is entitled to feel aggrieved that the red-carded player will serve less suspension than him or herself. Thus is the red card downgraded & devalued. I quite agree with the argument that, before this Category was brought in, a 16 days' mandatory minimum suspension was too long for a playing or 'technical' offence, but had the CDAs been consulted I think that we would have suggested an alternative mandatory minimum 8 days' suspension for this new category, ensuring that at least one future match would be missed, & thereby also removing any thought that 'taking one for the team' in the last few minutes of a match would go relatively unpunished.

For the first time in several years NO players are carrying over suspensions from this season into the next.

This was the ninth season of MMOs, the third under the separate EH Disrepute Offence Regulations 2014, & the first of the new Category d) "Minor Offence" red card.. I am still not convinced that all umpires at all levels fully understand the MMO, or that Red Cards once awarded cannot be rescinded except in cases of mistaken identity (Reg. 4.6), & would urge all umpires to become fully conversant with Regulation 4. In particular, under Reg. 4.4.2 a "non-registered umpire", (i.e. an umpire who is not Level 1 qualified), cannot report an MMO, but must deal with such an offence using the Disrepute Offence Regulations. A knowledge of the workings of Regulations 5 & 6 is also recommended.

My special thanks go to my Deputy, Steve Downham, & 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

13.5.17

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