

DEALING WITH PLAYER DISSENT

There have been some incidents this season where our members have been verbally abused by players while umpiring. This is totally unacceptable and must be dealt with. Please remember the following points:

1. A player may make a polite enquiry to either umpire. If it is convenient for the umpire to do so, they may give a polite reply. That is then the end of the matter – do not enter a discussion with players!
2. Players should not rush at an umpire or attempt to surround an umpire. If they do, you can issue a green card to the captain of the offending team, along with a firm instruction to control his players.
3. If players start to dissent, you can use the full ladder of control:
 - a. Have a word – this can be done in passing, if the player is close to you, or you can stop time and speak to the relevant player – but remember, do not start a discussion. Simply make it clear that the player (or team) is to keep quiet.
 - b. Issue a green card.
 - c. If the dissent continues, you can issue a yellow card.
 - d. Stop play, speak with the captain of the relevant team and make it clear that it is their job to control their players (and also their bench). If the verbals continue, then the Captain should be awarded a yellow card, as well as the dissenting player.
 - e. Ultimately, you can go as far as a red card. Remember that, if you issue a second yellow card to the same player for the same offence (in this case dissent), then it automatically becomes a technical red card – ie the player has to leave the area, and must get away from the pitch. The technical red does not mean an automatic suspension from hockey. You still have to fill in a red card form and notify the appropriate disciplinary officer. If you feel that the abuse has been unreasonable, you can make it clear on the red card form that this was so, and ask for a suspension from hockey for that player.
 - f. To award a technical red card, use the same procedure as you see in Football for a second yellow card, leading to a red card. That means you show the yellow card, and immediately follow it up with a red card.
 - g. If the abuse is strong enough, you can, of course, go straight to a red card without a yellow first.
 - h. If the dissent continues after the match has finished, you can issue an MMO, and forward the report to the disciplinary officer as you would for a red card.
4. Please note the item on our website “Communication from EH Umpiring – penalties for dissent”.
5. Player dissent should never lead to a match being abandoned. If players are objectionable, then send them off. They cannot dissent if they have been sent off, especially on a red card. However, if a particular team is seriously out of order, please let Steve Court or David Lillywhite know.

NEW RULES

The FIH has issued a new rule book but this will not apply to league matches until the start of next season (ie September 1st 2017). I will put details of the changes on the website after the end of the season.