



Discipline Guidance

There are times when the conduct of those involved in a match requires application of one of the stronger penalties in our umpiring toolkit. NPUA will always be supportive when our members are subject to behaviour that falls below an acceptable level, however it is important that the correct penalty is applied and process followed.

If you have any questions, NPUA's Disciplinary Officer [David Ellcock](#) is always happy to help.

These guidelines apply to all hockey played under the jurisdiction of England Hockey. More detail can be found on the [England Hockey website](#).

Offences by players and/or team officials

Yellow Cards to Team Officials

Under England Hockey League regulations (specifically Regulation 12.7) it is possible for an official on a team's bench to be shown a card by an umpire. If an official is shown a yellow card, then the official concerned and the team captain are required to go to the suspension area by the technical table for the duration of the suspension, and the team should play with one less player during the suspension. If an official is red carded, then they should be asked to leave the playing area and the team is required to remove a player from the pitch for the remainder of the game. Please note that the team is still permitted to use all the players on the bench during the rest of the game but must always have one less player on the pitch than they would have had if the red card had not been shown.

Red Cards

A red card may only be issued in respect of an offence or other misconduct committed from the start to the end of a match, including any shoot out / penalty stroke competition, and may be issued to any person participating in the match, including players on the pitch, substitutes and team officials (managers, coaches, physiotherapists and doctors who are part of a team's squad) whether a formal team sheet has been submitted or not. A red card cannot be shown to anyone who is not participating in a game of hockey, nor can it be shown immediately after a game.

Please also be aware that a 'second yellow' red card (i.e. a red card given for a second, repeated minor offence by a player who was shown a yellow card for the first offence) **CANNOT** be shown for:

- any repeated act of physical violence (whether used, attempted or threatened); or,
- any repeated dissent towards an umpire or properly appointed tournament / match official.

In either of these cases a second, repeated offence that warrants a card should be penalised by the showing of a straight red card, NOT a 'second yellow' red card.

There is no longer any such thing as a 'technical red card'.



Match Day Misconduct Offences (MMO)

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 conducts themselves in such a way that one of the match umpires decides that the conduct would have warranted the issuing of a red card had it occurred during the match.

If an umpire decides that they wish to report someone's behaviour as an MMO they must inform the offender or their team captain or a team official or the disciplinary officer of the person's club that the offender's misconduct is to be reported as an MMO. This must happen on the day of the misconduct and in all cases before you leave the venue.

If you are uncomfortable with telling a player or official that you are issuing them with an MMO, you should find another appropriate person from their club that you are doing so.

Completing and Submitting a Red Card / MMO Report Form

There is a very helpful guide on how to complete and submit a Red Card or MMO Report Form (RCRF) on the [England Hockey website](#).

Please remember that it is the relevant Disciplinary Panel (in the case of all matters involving national level competitions, this will be the National Disciplinary Panel) that will consider your report and decide the category of offence. Please therefore:

- Submit an RCRF for **ALL** red cards, including those shown for a second yellow card, within 72 hours of the offence.
- Do not offer reassurances or comments to an offender or their club about the impact of the red card and the likely length of any suspension.
- Use the latest version of the RCRF, accessible via the EH website.
- Make sure that you include as full an account as possible of the events giving rise to the red card/ MMO. This should include the detail of any bad language used.
- If you have any questions about this, contact David Ellcock, your Panel lead or the National Disciplinary Officer, whose details you will find on the reverse of the RCRF.

Offences by spectators / others who are not participating in a game

Umpires have no jurisdiction over people at a game who are not participating in that game, including players warming up for subsequent games. (NB. If an umpire is also umpiring a subsequent game, or has umpired an earlier game, they can use the MMO procedure to address any issues of misconduct from participants in that game.)

Umpires cannot show red cards or issue MMOs to spectators. However, they can report bad behaviour under EH's Disrepute process, details of which can be found here on the [England Hockey website](#). You can report the individuals concerned and/or the club to which they belong. You have 14 days from the date of the alleged offence to report a Disrepute matter to England Hockey.

Please also note that team captains have no responsibility whatsoever for the behaviour of spectators or others who are at the game. You cannot show a yellow or red card to a captain if spectators are misbehaving. You can, however, work with the captain and other representatives from the relevant club to try to stop the behaviour that is unacceptable or to remove those responsible for it from the pitch area. At all national league matches, you will have either an EH-appointed match official or a home club appointed match official, and the home club must identify someone who is responsible for crowd control. If you have concerns engage with these people to sort any issues out.



Summary

You should always remember that you are umpiring as a volunteer. You should never carry on umpiring if you feel unsafe or in danger.

In all cases, please make sure that you raise your concerns about crowd behaviour in your post-match GMS report and also report them to the [NPUA Chair](#) so that NPUA can support you and monitor if there are any clubs where issues are happening on a regular basis.

Remember in all cases that once you have filed your RCRF or raised a disrepute complaint, there are formal processes that come into play. While these cases are ongoing, please do not discuss your case outside of the immediate circle of your panel selector, colleague on the day or Disciplinary Officer as this may compromise the disciplinary process.

Finally...

Giving a red card, issuing an MMO or reporting someone on a Disrepute charge can be a stressful experience. We strongly encourage you to keep in contact with NPUA Discipline Officer, David Ellcock, as well as your panel selector, so that we can give you the appropriate support.

NPUA Executive Committee

Appendix - Serious Offences

