



## PLAYER BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Behaving yourself, the CHC way:

### 1. THE ROLE OF THE CAPTAIN

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

### 2. SWEARING

Swearing is unacceptable in a hockey field. All instances of audible swearing should be dealt with by the umpires with a personal and/or team penalty being applied where appropriate. The personal penalties may include:

- (a) A verbal warning;
- (b) A green card; or
- (c) A yellow card.

A team penalty should result in the upgrading or reversal of a decision as appropriate.

Swearing directed at an umpire, about a decision of an umpire, at an opponent, at any other official or at a spectator should be punished with a yellow card. The duration of the yellow card should reflect the seriousness of the offence.

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 stopping. Subsequent or repeated occurrences should see more severe penalties applied.

### 3. DISSENT / VERBAL ABUSE

Dissent or verbal abuse directed towards an umpire, about the decision of an umpire, at an opponent, or any other official or spectator should be punished with a yellow card. The duration of the yellow card 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.

### 4. PERSISTENT QUESTIONING / INDIRECT DISSENT

Persistent questioning of or complaining about umpires' decisions undermines their authority and is unacceptable. Whilst 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, their decisions, non-verbal dissent (eg throwing away the stick) and generally petulant behaviour will be dealt with in the same manner as swearing in section 2 above.

### 5. SURROUNDING UMPIRES

Surrounding an umpire means more than 2 players approaching an umpire to contest a decision. Surrounding umpires is unacceptable and should be punished by umpires in every instance. On the first occasion the team captain should be awarded a green card and warned to control his players. On subsequent occasions, the captain and/or offending players may be awarded a yellow card.

### 6. APPEALING

Encouraging umpires to award cards to members of the opposing team is unacceptable. Players doing this (either verbally or by waving imaginary cards) should receive a minimum penalty of a green card.