

Player, Club Official and Spectator Match Day Conduct

Market Deeping Hockey Club understands that players, club officials and spectators want to enjoy their hockey and that passion and emotions can become fired up on match day. Occasionally, a line may be crossed where neutral officials such as umpires may have to take action against you as a player, spectator or official.

This action falls into two broad areas depending on the time of the offence, and the people involved.

Red and Yellow Cards

A red or yellow card may only be issued for an offence from the start of a match up to its finish, including half-time, any breaks in play, extra time, or penalty stroke competitions. It can be issued to a player, a substitute, or a team official whether or not listed on a team sheet.

If a yellow card is issued, the player must leave the pitch for a time period assigned by the umpire, normally of between 10 and 20 minutes. If the yellow card is issued to a non playing member of the team, the team must withdraw one player from the pitch for the duration the time penalty. You may feel that you have been treated harshly to be given a yellow card in the last few minutes of a game instead of a green card, however, umpires are coached to not give out green cards in the last 15-20 minutes of a match, as they have little impact.

In the case of a red card the player is permanently suspended from further participation in the match. If issued to a team official or to a player who is not playing at the time, the team must withdraw a player from the field of play for the remainder of the match. For example, a substitute or coach can be given a red card, and the team may only continue with a maximum of 10 players on the pitch. A spectator will not be given a red card.

Match Day Misconduct Offences (MMO)

An MMO is issued if a match umpire decides that behaviour would have led to a red card had it occurred during the match. It may only be issued on the day of a match, excluding the time from the start to the finish of the match, and it can be issued to any intended or actual participant in the match. Examples of when MMOs are issued include verbal abuse to an umpire or players threatening or fighting with each other after the final whistle has gone, and aggressive or abusive incidents away from the pitch or in the teas venue after the match. Spectators can be given an MMO.

Note that if you are playing in the game after and have been given an MMO, it affects you for your match.

The recipient of a red card or MMO must provide the umpire with information that is reasonably needed to complete a Report Form. Refusal to do may lead to a charge of disrepute, which carries further penalties. The umpire will require the name of the player, their shirt number and the name of the two clubs involved in the game. The umpire then sends the form to the disciplinary officer. The officer will notify the club whether the 16-day suspension is the entire penalty, or if an additional penalty is under consideration. There is an appeals process, but this must be lodged very quickly, and costs £100. If the appeal is unsuccessful, you will lose your £100!

The recipient of a red card or an MMO is immediately suspended for a mandatory minimum of 16 consecutive days from playing, umpiring, or acting as a team coach, team official, or match official during any hockey match or event. The day of the match is day 1 of the suspension. If you have been given an MMO during the game immediately prior to the one you are playing, you cannot start your game: you must leave the venue!

The suspension includes **all** hockey, whether friendly, club internal games and training. The ban also extends to turning up to the venues used for pre match meets and teas, and even bans you from being a spectator at any hockey game, from a club game, your child in a school match to an international!

There are mandatory minimum periods of suspension (all incorporating the initial 16 days)

where physical violence is not used attempted or threatened:	16 days
where physical violence is used attempted or threatened to a player or other person:	30 days
where physical violence is used attempted or threatened to an umpire/match official	60 days

If this is a second or subsequent red card or MMO in a 12 month period, these minimum periods of suspension are doubled.

Red cards and Match Day Misconduct Offences (MMOs) issued by umpires are dealt with by the England Hockey Disciplinary Procedures, and involve County and Regional Disciplinary Officers. The East League does not become involved in this. However a player, team or club may be subject to disciplinary action by the East League under some circumstances. Such disciplinary action usually, but not exclusively, arises from incidents that are beyond the England hockey disciplinary code, for example persistent misbehaviour by individuals or teams over a period.

Yellow cards are monitored by the East League and players receiving three or more yellow cards in League matches in a season are subject to bans from one or more League matches. **It is the responsibility of the player and the club to activate the ban.** The league will check team sheets to ensure that the appropriate number of games suspension has been served. Failure to withdraw the player from selection will lead to team penalties. Be aware that pool umpires become good at spotting players, and will identify you if you are playing under a different name!

Penalties for all MDHC league games, both Men and Ladies, are covered under Rule 7 of the East League Rules, as outlined below:

7. DISCIPLINE, AND PENALTIES

7.1 General penalties.

If a Rule does not specify penalties, failures to comply will result in warnings and point deductions. For a first offence: a warning to the team with a written confirmation. For a subsequent offence irrespective of the rule broken: a one-point deduction.

7.2 Additional penalties.

The League Management Committee also reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed appropriate against any club, team, or

player having a poor disciplinary record, persistently breaking the Rules of the East League, disregarding ERHA or EHA regulations, bringing the East League or hockey into disrepute, treating umpires with disrespect, or behaving in any way contrary to the interests of the East League, the ERHA or hockey generally. Penalties applied in the circumstances may include the deduction of points, the reversal of results, the suspension of players from East League hockey, fines, the relegation of one or more teams, or the expulsion of teams or clubs from the East League.

7.3 Conduct

The Disciplinary Code of the EHA shall be applied at all League matches. All teams are expected to study, and comply with, the "Guidance Notes for Pitch side Conduct", which are also printed in this handbook.

A player who receives three yellow cards in one season in league matches shall be automatically suspended by his club for the next league day, and for the next league day following a fourth yellow card. A player receiving a fifth or subsequent yellow card shall be automatically suspended for the next two league days. If a 3rd or subsequent yellow card is received in the last league match of the season, the League Management Committee may determine that the penalty be carried forward to the following season. (A league day is a Saturday included in the League Fixture List or a day on which the club is playing a slip. If the team for which the player normally plays has no fixture on the next league day, the penalty shall move forward).

Market Deeping Hockey Club will also invoke its own disciplinary procedure, as outlined in Section 9 of the Constitution.

c) The Club committee shall be responsible for responding to disciplinary matters both on and off the field of play, in accordance with the association's requirements. Any player who has been cautioned by an umpire with a yellow or red card may appear before the committee and may be fined or suspended from club activities for a period deemed appropriate. Any person receiving a card from an umpire during a game will have a review with their captain and appropriate coaching discussed and asked to complete. Any player receiving 3 or more Yellow cards or 1 Red card will be suspended and the Club will add an additional week to the formal suspension handed out to this individual. Any player wishing to appeal a decision or a suspension may do so in writing within 10 days of the suspension addressed to the Club Chairperson. This will then be discussed during the next Club Committee meeting and the individual concerned may be asked to attend.

Additional penalties can be imposed at the discretion of the disciplinary officer, which are covered in the England Hockey Code, but note that there may be breaks in a suspension to avoid it being served or running out in holiday periods or out of the league season.

This means that if you receive a red card in the last 30 seconds of the last game of the season, your ban will not come properly into effect until the start of the new season! You have been warned!

ENGLAND HOCKEY GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PITCHSIDE CONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that good manners and courtesy prevail towards the opposition, umpires and other officials before, during and after the game. Once the pitch is available, the Match Delegate (if appointed) or home Captain shall assume authority for the pitch and its surrounding area. Clubs are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and that they are aware of local health and safety legislation regarding the pitch and their facilities. Captains, Umpires and Match Delegates (if appointed) should:

- a. Agree the location of managers, coaches, substitutes and suspended players during their suspension and from where substitutions will take place.
- b. Satisfy themselves as to the quality and safety of the pitch and its facilities and ensure that other pitch side furniture is removed to the safest location.
- c. Check the availability and location of an emergency telephone and first aid.
- d. Agree with home team officials the location and allowed proximity of spectators.
- e. Substitutes should warm up in clothing in a colour other than the participating teams in the agreed area of the pitch side.
- f. Coaches and managers must remain in their designated area.
- g. Vocal communication by team officials and players on the bench must not, in any way be directed at the umpires or players of the opposing team.
- h. Players not taking part in the game, or those in subsequent or previous matches, must not knock up or cool down on or near the pitch whilst the match is in progress.
- i. Post match inquests should be held away from the pitch.
- j. Spectators should be advised, if necessary, of matters relating to their conduct and particularly in so far as this affects the game in hand.
- k. Small children should not be allowed to wander freely around the perimeter of the pitch whilst games are in progress. Children should remain under the control of the parent/guardian at all times.
- l. Babies in push chairs should not be left parked on the side of the pitch.
- m. Captains, coaches and managers should be responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their players at all times.

Further details on the England Hockey Code of Ethics and Behaviour can be found on the website <http://www.englishockey.co.uk> and browsing to the Equity, Ethics and Discipline section.

In addition to this, the East League has a discipline section at <http://www.east-hockey.co.uk/discipline/discipline.htm>