



Umpires Code of Conduct

Winchester Hockey Club will work to ensure that the following Principles of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Umpiring will be followed throughout all aspects of the sport within the Club, and across all sections.

These areas are clearly laid out in this document, and it is imperative that all umpires read and understand this Code before umpiring a game of hockey.

Introduction

These guidelines fully support the code and standards set by England Hockey. It is important that the expected standards of ethical behaviour in umpiring are widely publicised within the Club and maintained. It is essential that those using the services of hockey umpires are also informed of the Code of Ethics and Conduct. All Club codes of conduct are available for downloading from the Club's web site.

- The role of the umpire within the sport is a very important one.
- The umpire is any person who controls and applies the Rules to a game of hockey
- They are the sole judges of fair play.
- Umpires are usually people who are linked to a school or a club and have attained a recognised level of competence within the England Hockey Umpire Awards Structure.
- Schoolteachers, players, students, and parents also umpire.

Personal Standards

The base line on which all umpires should set their standard.

- Personal appearance and presentation are of great importance when umpiring.
- Umpires should consistently project a favourable image of umpires and umpiring to colleagues, players, officials, parents, spectators, and the general public.

In addition to this the umpire should:

- Be punctual
- Wear clothing appropriate to the match
- Never umpire under the influence of alcohol or drugs under any circumstances
- Avoid using profanities

Umpires should have confidence in and maintain their integrity.

They should umpire the game:

- In an unbiased, honest manner regardless of the reactions of players, coaches, spectators; time remaining; score, previous decisions, or any other potential source of influence.
- Respect other umpires and their decision-making.
- Take responsibility for their own continuous development, making the most of opportunities offered to them through England Hockey, their associations or other education agencies.

An umpire shall not:

- Engage in any conduct that is prejudicial to the interests of the game of hockey.
- Make any public comment or media statement that is detrimental to the game of hockey.
- Disclose or comment on any alleged breach of this Code or the England Hockey Code of Discipline.



Competency

Level of competency and the umpires' ability to apply the Rules and deal with situations.

- Qualified umpires should be able to provide proof of qualification and level of competency as defined by the England Hockey Umpire Awards Structure.
- Umpires should demonstrate a thorough and complete understanding of the Rules and regulations governing hockey and their application.
- Recognise the importance of and seek to achieve consistency in all aspects of umpiring.
- Endeavour to ensure that the spirit of the game is maintained.

Relationships

How the umpire interacts with players, coaches, and other umpires.

Umpires should:

- Set and maintain an atmosphere for the enjoyment of the game.
- Show respect to their colleague, players, and the game - whatever the level.
- Foster regular and effective communication with colleagues, coaches, and players.
- Make decisions with quiet confidence, never with arrogance.
- Ensure that on or off the pitch their behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Encourage and assist in the development of other umpires.

Safety

- Umpires have a responsibility to make sure that they provide a safe environment in which players can properly display their hockey skills.
- It is recommended that umpires carry out their duties in keeping with the regular and approved practices adopted and published by England Hockey.
- It is strongly recommended that umpires arrange adequate insurance (civil liability and personal injury) to cover their umpiring. *NB: Winchester Hockey Club holds a Club insurance policy that covers all players, coaches, and officials, of the Club, who are participating either for or on behalf of the Club.*

Equity

- Umpires shall respect the rights of every human being they work with and treat all as equals. This must be regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, cultural background, or political affiliation.
- Umpires should try to ensure that anyone umpiring under their supervision is equitable in their behaviour.

Complaints Procedure

Anyone wishing to make a complaint about any person acting in the capacity of hockey umpire within the context of this Code must follow the set procedure.

- Submit a report in writing to England Hockey who may delegate responsibility for dealing with the complaint to the appropriate Umpires' Association. If the complaint involves a minor (a person under the age of 18) the complainer must include the confirmed age of the person involved.
- On receipt of a complaint, procedural guidelines will be issued to all parties by England Hockey or the delegated authority.

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