



Sunshine Coast Hockey Association UMPIRES DIRECTION

Date issued: 20/7/2012	Direction #: 1201
Management Committee Discussion Date: 17/7/2012	
Topic: Umpire Abuse and on field commentary by players	
Relevance: All competition divisions – All players, team managers, team coaches and supporters	

DIRECT UMPIRE ABUSE: – where an Umpire or is verbally abused, verbally or physically threatened or any other behavior that causes the umpire to feel threatened:

Direct Umpire Abuse from a player:

Action: Umpires are to issue the appropriate personal penalty (green, yellow or red card) to the offending player. This behavior is not acceptable and should be dealt with firmly.

Direct Umpire Abuse from Managers and Coaches:

Action: The Captain must first be given the opportunity to correct the behavior of the offender. A personal penalty is to be applied to the team Captain if the abuse is ongoing.

Team supporters (spectators) who are voicing their view – request the supporters' team captain talk with the spectator/s only if the abuse is direct – ongoing abuse by a supporter may incur a Captain's personal penalty after warnings. Take no action if the supporter is only voicing their view of the game and not directing their comments at the umpire.

INDIRECT UMPIRE ABUSE: - where verbal commentary, persistent questions of the umpire decisions or any other verbal or physical action which is an act of dissent including ongoing discussions or arguments with an Umpire by a player or other person.

Action: Umpires are not to tolerate commentary from players regarding umpire decisions. This includes repetitive calling out of breaches, holding hands up or any other behavior that the player is making comment on the umpire's decision making.

Umpires are to verbally caution offending players first and then for subsequent times use the following strategies to counter the INDIRECT UMPIRE ABUSE.

- First -** Reversal of the decision or apply a 10 metre advantage to the opposing team
- Then -** Award of personal penalties even though the commentary regarding decision is not offensive it remains to be dissent.
- Last -** Players who continue to engage in passive umpire abuse after personal penalties have been issued risk upgrade of the personal penalty to a higher card level or a personal penalty issued onto their team Captain (FIH Rule 3.4).

This behavior is contrary to FIH rules of hockey and is to be dealt with firmly (FIH Rule 2.3c).

FIH Rule 2.3c – “it is not acceptable for players to abuse opponents, umpires or other technical officials verbally or through body language and attitude. Umpires must deal firmly with abuse of this sort and in appropriate circumstances issue a caution, warning (green card), or a temporary (yellow card) or permanent (red card) suspension. Cautions, warnings and suspensions can be given in isolation or in combination with another penalty”

**This Umpires Direction has the full support of the SCHA Management Committee
All Umpires will receive full support in matters that relate to any form of Umpire abuse**