

ADVICE TO UMPIRES FOR THE COMPLETION OF RED CARD/MMO REPORT FORMS

Adapted from, and with grateful acknowledgement to, Chris Bond and Hampshire HA

It is very probable that the red card you give this season will be the very first of your umpiring career. It is almost certain that any MMO you report will be your first. The following advice is offered to you so that when the time comes to complete a Red Card/MMO Report Form (RC/MMORF), be it your first or not, you will be familiar with it, and what is required to complete it satisfactorily.

1 Before the season begins

The Regulations covering the Red Card & MMO procedures are the **RED CARD and MATCH-DAY MISCONDUCT OFFENCE REGULATIONS 2008** (w.e.f. 1.9.08). You should read this document, downloadable from the EH website or obtainable from your Club Discipline Officer (CDO), especially Regulations 4, 5 & 6.

In the following advice 'Reg.' refers to these Regulations. 'Rule' refers to the Rules of Hockey 2009.

- (a) If you have a computer, view the RC/MMORF on, or download a copy of it from, the EH website. Familiarise yourself with this form.
- (b) If you don't have a computer, or can't use one, please have a friend, or your CDO, download a hard copy for you. Familiarise yourself with this form. Arrange also for that computer friend, or your CDO, to be available in future, should you ever need to submit a report form, to transcribe your hand-written report form into an e-mail attachment. Afterwards submit the signed hand-written form to the CDA by way of post.

These forms should be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment within 24 hours of the incident to the County Discipline Administrator (CDA) and the Deputy CDA - this is so, that if the CDA is unavailable, the Deputy can start the necessary follow-up procedures without delay.

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2 At the time of the incident (or as soon as possible thereafter in the case of c) below)

- (c) Obtain from the offender, or his team captain, the offender's name(s) **IN FULL.** Nicknames or diminutives of forenames are *not* acceptable. Both the offender and/or the team captain are obliged by **Reg.5.1.1** to furnish this information. If the offender appears to be, or is likely to be, under 18 years of age, ascertain, if possible, and record the date of birth for the purposes of completing Box 9 (**Reg.5.10. refers**).
- (d) If the offender uses obscene/insulting/abusive language either directly to you, or within earshot, record in writing, (verbatim), **the exact words** used. Likewise, make a written note of any such gestures made. Do not restart the match until you have done this.
- (e) In the case of MMOs, ALL umpires MUST be fully conversant with all the provisions of **Reg. 4.4**, particularly the requirement in **4.4.1** to inform the offender 'as soon as reasonably practicable after the umpire has decided to report an MMO'. 'A representative of the affiliated body' who should 'also' be informed 'in so far as is reasonably possible' is most likely to be the offender's team captain.

Whereas you should be able to remember, and be ready to implement automatically, the requirements of 2(c), (d) and (e) above, the following in paragraph 3 below need not necessarily be committed to memory, (although it might be useful if you can remember what is asked for), but it is offered and strongly recommended that it be used as an aide-memoire when it comes to writing the report itself.

3 At the time of writing the RC/MMORF

The following additional, and extremely useful, information should also be included, without it developing into a lengthy essay, in the Box 9 narrative describing the actual incident.

N.B. Reg.5.10 - indicate in Box 9 if the offender, victim (if Cat. b) or c), or the umpire is under 18.

- (f) The stage of the game, e.g. "the xth minute of the match" and the score at the time.
- (g) Whereabouts on the pitch it occurred, and how far away from reporting umpire.
- (h) What was the 'temperature' or nature of the match at the time, e.g. niggly/physical/dissent?
- (i) Did anything lead up to this incident, or was it 'out of the blue'?
- (j) Had the offender been green- or yellow-carded before the incident – if so, what for?
- (k) If the offence is one of "violence used" – was the victim injured? – what was the injury? – did the victim require medical treatment? – on or off the pitch? – how much time elapsed from the incident until the restart?
- (l) Did the offender leave the pitch and surrounding area (**Rule 14.5**) immediately and without dissent, or did misbehaviour continue? Write exact words used, or describe any gestures made.
- (m) Were you able easily to ascertain the full name of the offender from either the player or his team captain? If not, describe the nature of the difficulty or prevarication by either.
- (n) Was the carded or reported player the team captain? (**Rule 3.4**)
- (o) If your computer server censors any rude words please give the first and last letter of the offending word, and use as many asterisks as letters omitted instead, e.g. f****g or w****r, otherwise such indecent or abusive words used should always be reported in full having been faithfully recorded at the time of the incident.
- (p) If the offender offers any genuine apology after the match describe how, where & when.
- (q) Box 10 – ensure that your umpiring status is properly entered. If umpire is "non-registered", i.e. below Level 1, then **Regs. 4.1 & 4.4.2** apply.

Remember, too, that by virtue of **Reg. 4.6** the **only** circumstance in which a red card can ever be withdrawn before the RC/MMORF is submitted to the relevant Disciplinary Authority (CDA/RDA/NDO) is one where there has been mistaken identity.

I hope that the above advice and guidance helps you if faced with this often difficult and unpleasant feature of the game. However, do not be put off by the paperwork – it is really not difficult – AND, PLEASE, **NEVER** NOT AWARD A RED CARD, OR NOT REPORT AN MMO, SIMPLY TO AVOID THE PAPERWORK! That helps no one.

If anyone, CDO, umpire, or player, has any queries regarding this advice please do not hesitate to ask who Mark Rutherford.