

EAST CODE OF DISCIPLINE

THE COMMITTEE

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The **Discipline Committee** shall consist of:

- a) a Chairman either the President, Vice-President, a Committee Convener or the District Secretary
- b) Two Representatives from a District Committee

2. QUORUM

At any meeting of the Discipline Committee, a quorum shall be three. Each member shall have one vote with the Chairman having a casting vote when required. The Chairman and two District representatives shall be called to a meeting of a Discipline Panel to consider an incident; the quorum for a Discipline Panel shall be two.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The chairman shall not invite any member of the Discipline Committee to a Panel hearing if he/she has been involved in any way with the case in question, or if he/she is a member of the club(s) of the player involved. Should the Chairman be unable to take the Chair if he or his club has a personal interest or involvement, then the Discipline Panel shall elect one of their number to take the chair for that part of the meeting. Further, any member of the panel who is seen to have a conflict of interest in a case, shall not take part in any proceedings related to that case.

4. REMIT

The District Committee will finally determine any question regarding the remit of the Discipline Committee or their procedures that is not covered by this Code.

The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for all disciplinary matters in relation to matches within the jurisdiction of the district. The authority of the Discipline Committee shall extend to all members of affiliated clubs. Its responsibilities shall include the proceedings on the field of play and indiscipline before or after any match as reported by the umpires or by any Tournament Director appointed by the district. (The issuing of cards should be restricted to the game and half time and penalty stroke competitions. Matters outwith this should be referred by letter to the Discipline Chairman). The Discipline Committee will apply equity and fairness.

The Discipline Committee shall in addition deal with and written reports of misconduct by members of district clubs.

CODE OF DISCIPLINE

1. METHOD OF OPERATION

The Umpires officiating in any district fixture shall report in writing on a match report form all temporary suspensions (yellow card) and sendings off (red card) and shall also give a written report of any other matters of discipline. The match report form shall be sent to the District Competitions Convener as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours after the date of the match. The District Competitions Convener shall maintain a record of all such reports and all matters reported to him/her.

Tournament Directors officiating at outdoor tournaments, Outdoor League, District Cups, Indoor League and Indoor Cup stages who, on their own accord, have suspended a player from any match or asked any official to leave the pitch shall send a written report to the district competitions convener as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours after the date of the match.

Matches (outdoor and indoor) within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee:

- Trials and other fixtures arranged by the district;
- District Leagues (Indoor and Outdoor);
- East District Cup and Plate;

- Affiliated touring clubs and matches played by any team representing the district;
- Any other event designated for the purposes of this rule by the district Committee; or
- Any other card or matter reported to the committee to deal with.

A record of the proceedings of every Discipline Committee shall be taken.

2. CATEGORIES

Yellow Card

A temporary suspension from matches is applicable where a player receives a yellow card.

Explanatory Note: A second yellow card leading to the issue of a red card in the same match will not be separately recorded and count towards any accumulated yellow card period of suspension.

Penalties

On accumulation of four yellow cards within a period of twelve calendar months, a player will be automatically suspended for two nominated matches.

There shall be no appeal against any automatic suspension or nomination of matches.

Red Card

Sending off (Red Card) are to be divided into 2 categories:

Class 1 - for violent physical assault on a player, umpire, official or spectator.

Explanatory Note: Offences under this class would include punching, kicking, headbutting, spitting or throwing or directing an item of equipment or other object at a player, umpire, official or spectator.

Class 2 - for repeated or foul mouthed verbal abuse, persistent fouling or a single serious foul.

Explanatory Note: Offences under this class would include deliberate tripping, shoving, threatening behaviour and generally the type of offence which is more serious than that meriting a yellow card but falls short of a violent physical assault.

Whenever a red card is awarded the umpire at the end of the match shall inform the manager or captain of the offender's team or their substitute whether the red card is a class 1 or class 2, and in the case of a class 1, shall indicate the nature of the offence.

There shall be no appeal against the merits of any yellow or red card.

Penalties

Any player in receipt of a Red Card class 1 will be suspended automatically from all hockey until the Discipline Panel has met and reached a verdict. In the case of the award of a Red Card class 1 where a period of time is specified in the penalty suspension, this period will apply to all hockey at any level.

Any player in receipt of a Red Card class 2 will receive an automatic suspension for 2 matches (League or Cup, indoor or outdoor) as nominated by the district competitions convener. There shall be no appeal against any such automatic penalty or the nomination of matches.

For all above classes of card:

The district competitions convener shall intimate the penalty to both the club and player concerned in writing by stating the period of suspension or nominated matches. The relevant District Secretary and Secretary of the Scottish Hockey Union Ltd will be informed.

In the case of a penalty of suspension for specific League or Cup matches either outdoor or indoor, the suspension will apply to all hockey on the specified dates; if the match is postponed, the suspension will apply to the next 2 matches to be played, after notifying the district competitions convener.

Second or subsequent automatic suspension offence:

If a player receives a card that would normally result in a automatic suspension, and that this suspension is not their first suspension in a period of twelve calendar months then a Discipline Panel shall consider the players record. If in their opinion no further action is necessary the player will receive their automatic suspension. If in their opinion, further action is necessary, a Discipline Panel meeting shall be convened following the same procedures as in the case of a Red Card Class 1. No player subject to a meeting due to a second or subsequent automatic suspension offence can be suspended for less than the automatic ban period.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE – DISCIPLINE PANEL HEARINGS

On receipt of the match report form containing the Umpire's written report on the incident(s) leading to the award of a Red Card Class 1 the district competitions convener shall convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Panel.

In the event of a failure to produce a match report form when an umpires report of a Red Class 1 has been received the matter will be dealt with following the same procedures as for a Match Incident.

The district competitions convener will inform the club concerned of the decision to convene the meeting, which the player and a representative of his club will be invited to attend so that his version of the offence is made known to the meeting. A copy of the official Match Report Form will be enclosed with the notification of the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel. Any additional reports will be copied and distributed to the player and his representative at the meeting. (Additional reports may be invited from the umpire, the disengaged umpire, and the tournament director if applicable). The Discipline Committee may invite to the meeting the Umpire who suspended the player in question. The Committee may also invite the technical delegate to attend the meeting. Where a club is subject to discipline proceedings, 2 registered members of that club may attend.

Other witnesses may be invited to attend so long as they were listed on the MRF and that the Chairman feels they will be adding new information to the proceedings and that the Chairman feels they can provide relevant evidence or information.

NOTE - Should the player be under eighteen years of age then the parent or guardian will be invited to accompany the player in addition to the club's representative.

Video evidence is permissible at the discretion of the Chairman and on the condition that those wishing to use it provide the necessary equipment

A meeting of the Discipline Panel shall be convened to consider all cases within three weeks of the date of the issue of a Red Card class 1. No decision or proceedings of the Discipline Panel shall be invalidated by virtue of an accidental failure to comply with the foregoing time limit provided that no injustice arises. In considering the period of suspension, the Discipline Panel shall have due regard to the number of matches from which the player has been suspended prior to the meeting of the Discipline Panel.

The Discipline Panel may adjourn to obtain such further information it considers necessary in order to reach a fair decision.

Match Incident's:

On receipt of an umpire's/ tournament director's/ or official's (appointed to the game by the district) written report of a before, during or after match incident, a Discipline Panel will consider the report. If in their opinion, further action is necessary, a Discipline Panel meeting shall be convened following the same procedures as in the case of a Red Card Class 1.

Notice of the decision of the disciplinary meeting will be conveyed in writing **to both the club and player concerned** by recorded delivery post within 7 days of the meeting.

In the event of a breach of suspension, the player will be dealt with by the Discipline Panel. In addition, the relevant Competitions Convener shall be notified and may impose such penalty on the club as is deemed appropriate.

NON FIELD DISCIPLINE

Any matters of misconduct which do not relate to the field discipline code can be dealt with by the same procedures as above for match incidents. In addition the committee can obtain additional evidence from any registered member who may assist with their enquiries.

The discipline committee has the power to suspend individuals from a number of league matches or a period of time. In addition they may deduct points or remove teams from district competitions

APPEALS

Appeals will be dealt with in the manner laid down in the SHU Appeals Policy, a copy of which can be found in the SHU Ethics Manual.

ETTRA

A budget shall be prepared by the discipline committee and submitted to the general committee and all affairs will be conducted within the budget approved by the general committee.

The Discipline Committee reserves the right to refer cases to the SHU Ltd National Discipline committee.

COMPOSITION OF THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Chairman and two other district committee representatives