



NDHA Procedures for Unacceptable Behaviour On and Off the Field

Application or interpretation of rules:

The umpire shall be the sole judge of the interpretation and application of the rules and the application of the advantage rule. Unless there is a concern for player safety, any disagreement with the decisions of the umpire should only be discussed at half time or after the game and only by the captains of the teams involved in the game (or coaches in the case of junior teams). If an umpire does not wish to discuss any issue regarding the decisions made then the captain/coach shall take no further action at the time and may make a report to their club coordinator.

Player safety – where, in the opinion of a coach/captain, an issue of player safety is present the umpires should halt the game and be willing to discuss with both coaches/captains the issue of concern. If the issue is unable to be settled to the satisfaction of all parties the incident needs to be reported to the relevant Executive member/s (e.g. safety of the physical environment to be reported to Groundsperson).

Unsportsmanlike behaviour on field – This is a matter that should be brought to the attention of the umpires in the manner described above. No coach shall address a member of the opposing team without the consent, and only in the presence of, that player's coach. All players, coaches, officials parents and spectators are expected to abide by the codes of conduct as released by Hockey Australia and/or Hockey SA.

Unruly behaviour on the sideline:

Coaches should only address people associated with their own team. The umpires have the right to ask a person to leave the ground and shall be supported by the coaches. If the person refuses to leave the umpires may halt the game to seek the support of NDHA committee members in dealing with the situation.

At all times Coaches, Captains and Umpires are to work together to calm a situation and allow the game to continue. All other issues should be left to the club executives or NDHA committee members to deal with.

Procedure for dealing with unruly sideline behaviour:

- The team coach/captain/manager concerned about the incident should talk to the opposition team coach/captain/manager and advise them of their concerns about the behaviour. The umpires are also encouraged to speak to the coaches/captains regarding inappropriate sideline behaviours and are asked to follow this procedure.
- Should this behaviour continue or escalate, the team management should report the incident verbally to their club executives within 24 hours of the completion of the match unless the matter has the potential to escalate quickly into an unsafe situation for members. In this situation the incident is to be passed on to NDHA Executives to deal with as a matter of urgency. This may include contacting local authorities for support.
- The club executive of the reporting team considers the verbal report and decides if they should contact the opposition club executive to discuss the incident.
- After discussion with the opposition club executive, and if it cannot be dealt with satisfactorily between the two clubs, the reporting club then completes a formal written complaint and forwards this to the relevant NDHA committee member to attempt to resolve the matter.
- If the incident cannot be resolved by the NDHA committee member within 48 hours of the incident occurring, the matter will be forwarded on to the NDHA Executive who will take the necessary action according to the Complaints and Grievance procedures and HA Member Protection Policy with regard to tribunal procedures.