

CIRENCESTER HOCKEY CLUB - DISCIPLINARY CODE

PART A

Objectives of Cirencester Hockey Club's Disciplinary Code

1. To ensure that Cirencester Hockey Club provides an environment for its members, visitors, spectators and officials in which they may enjoy hockey in a respectful, safe and regulated environment.
2. To uphold the integrity of the game of hockey.
3. To meet the appropriate regulatory bodies' requirements for discipline.
4. Provide a framework for monitoring the discipline of the membership and to provide a process for upholding the disciplinary code. This code supports the Player/Club contract which is to be signed by all players as they register for the club at the beginning of the season.
5. Maintain the very high reputation of Cirencester Hockey Club.

PART B

Composition and Process of the Disciplinary Committee

1. Cirencester Hockey Club's Disciplinary Committee will comprise the following:
Disciplinary Officer
Club Chairperson
Mens or Ladies First Team Captain (as appropriate)
2. In the event of a player breaching the disciplinary code then a meeting will be convened as quickly as possible to investigate the incident. The attendees will be the disciplinary committee plus the Captain of the player and the player concerned.
3. The meeting shall review all the evidence available in the company of the player. The player and their Captain shall leave the meeting for the Disciplinary Committee to reach their judgement. The committee may either, apply a ban as specified in the code of conduct, increase the ban or reduce the ban as they see fit. The Disciplinary Committee may not reduce a ban below the level stipulated by the regulatory bodies governing the hockey they play.
4. In the event of a Club Captain breaching the Disciplinary Code then the Vice Captain of that team will be required to attend the disciplinary hearing.
5. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final with no right of appeal.

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PART C

Disciplinary Tariffs/Bans and Thresholds

Green Cards

Green cards do not form part of this disciplinary code but it should be noted that persistent poor behaviour may be reported to the Disciplinary Committee.

Yellow Cards

Due to the technical nature of hockey there will be three separate distinctions for the type of offences that warrant a yellow card and a scale of penalty points will be applied to each category.

- Technical foul: 2 penalty points
- Abuse or comments to umpire: 4 penalty points
- Violence or threat of violence: 7 penalty points

Any player that accrues 14 penalty points (i.e. More than 13 points) in a season will be subject to an immediate 8 day ban from all forms of hockey starting from the date of the match they were yellow carded in.

Any player accruing a further 9 penalty points (Total of 23 points) will be immediately banned for 8 days from the date of the match they were yellow carded in.

Any player accruing a further 6 penalty points (Total of 30 points) will be immediately banned for 8 days from the date of the match they were yellow carded in.

Any player reaching the threshold of 14 points is automatically banned from playing hockey from the date of the incident and can only play if the Disciplinary Committee meets and agrees to reduce the suspension.

Red Cards

Red cards are awarded for very serious offences and the governing bodies that Cirencester Hockey Club is affiliated to and are regulated by, set out mandatory penalties which are dependent on the type of offence. This disciplinary code uses these categories of offences and the mandatory penalties as a minimum tariff. Therefore, Cirencester Hockey Club will always comply with the requirements of the governing bodies.

The following Red Card offences shall apply the following penalties:

Red card with no violence attempted or threatened: 16 day ban

Red card with violence threatened or attempted to player: 30 day ban

Red card with violence used to player: 60 day ban

Red with violence threatened or attempted to umpire: 90 day ban

Red with violence used to umpire: 180 day ban and membership revoked for life.

Any player receiving a Red Card is automatically banned from all forms of hockey from the time of the incident for at least 16 days and can only play hockey in the event of the Disciplinary Committee meeting and ruling that there was a case of mistaken identity.

Whilst serving a ban a player may not play in an England or Wales Hockey recognised match or coach or umpire a game.

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Timing of a Ban

The first day of the penalty is the date on which the incident occurred, ie the player is automatically suspended and may only play hockey if the disciplinary Committee meet and agree to overturn the automatic suspension. When a red card is issued a 16 day suspension, at least, must be served (unless a case of mistaken identity is proven) and there is no right of appeal against this.

The first 16 days of any suspension are to be served from the date the incident took place. The dates of any additional suspension over and above the mandatory 16 day ban can be set for any period as agreed by the Disciplinary Committee. Usually this will start immediately once the 16 day period has finished. However, if this period includes time when there is limited or no hockey activity (eg Christmas or during the summer) then the date of the restart of all or part of the additional suspension can be set by the Disciplinary committee to ensure that an appropriate period of hockey activity is missed.

For example if an offender receives a red card on the last Saturday of the league season, say 1 April and the penalty for this is 30 days the penalty might be served from 1 April to 16 April and 1 October to 14 October, at the discretion of the disciplinary committee.

PART D

Responsibilities of Club Captains

1. It will be the responsibility of all Club Captains to:
 - (a) be aware of the Club's Disciplinary Code and of its objectives and
 - (b) have a basic knowledge of the Code's principles and the course of action that will be taken should an incident arise.
 - (c) report any offences that may be regarded as constituting a breach of the club's disciplinary code direct to the Disciplinary Officer.
2. Club Captains should uphold and endorse the Club's Disciplinary Code on and off the pitch and should actively discourage any such action or behaviour that would result in a breach of the Club's Code or bring the game into disrepute.
3. On occasions when it is considered necessary for the Disciplinary Committee to meet for the purposes of cautioning a player, then the Captain of the player concerned will also be required to attend to give his/her account of events.

Cirencester Hockey Club Disciplinary Officer
November 2008.