

# **Hockey Ireland**

## **Technical Official's Briefing - Pitch Discipline**

### **Background**

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of incidents of ill discipline, misconduct and violation of the Code of Conduct of Irish Hockey over the last number of years. These incidents often involve members of a team's bench and often happen after a game has finished.

The Hockey Ireland Board plans to take strong position in relation to dealing with Code of Conduct incidents going forward. Every reported incident will be followed up and dealt with via the Disciplinary Panel of the Hockey Ireland Board. The outcome of Disciplinary Panel will be publicised. Note the Code of Conduct and/or Disrepute offences are separate to on pitch Yellow /Red Card incidences.

This briefing notes sets out the guidelines for Technical Officials in relation to dealing with any such incidents. Please refer to the Code of Conduct and the Constitution, available on the website for further background information.

### **Pitch responsibilities**

- The Umpire is responsible for all situations and discipline incidents on the field of play.
- The Technical Official is responsible for the conduct of the team benches and has the authority to remove players or officials for ill-discipline (temporarily or permanently asked to leave the playing area). See Rules & Regulations 7.2
- The TO's responsibility and authority applies before, during and after the game.

### **Guidance to Technical Official's**

- Ensure team benches are controlled at all times.
- Where incidences of abuse towards umpires, the other team or the TO table occur, act decisively to deal with the issue and if it continues utilise the authority to remove the person responsible.
- Work to support the Umpires in carrying out their role. Should incidents occur after the match, continue to control the team benches, reminding them of their Code of Conduct responsibilities and that the TO remains in control of the area. Note, Red Cards cannot be issued after the game is over.
- Where serious incidents occur during or after a match, REPORT them on the Match Report form. Complete the Match Report clearly and mark the incident for attention.
- Prior to sending in the Match Report, take time to detail a full report, if required.
- Follow up on the Monday with a call or email to the IHA Office to notify of the incident.

### **What happens after a reported incident**

- The Disciplinary Panel will be in touch within a number of days to follow up and outline the process which will follow next.
- You should expect that ALL reported incidents will be followed up and ACTION will be taken when a breach of the Code of Conduct or a Disrepute Offence has been deemed to have occurred.