

WELLINGTON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

JUDICIAL GUIDELINES



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1.1 THE CODE OF CONDUCT

This section of the policy outlines the Code of Conduct as to the standards expected of players, coaches, managers, officials, umpires & player spectators in accordance with the laws of Hockey New Zealand and Wellington Hockey Association. Wellington Hockey Association adheres to the Hockey New Zealand Association Code of Conduct which can be found online at <http://www.hockeynz.co.nz/Events/Tournament-Manual> (scroll down to Policies/Codes).

1.2 DEFINITION

For the purpose of definition, participants, where referred to in this document shall include players, coaches, managers, officials, umpires & player spectators.

1.3 PURPOSE

For the purpose of definition, participants, where referred to in this document shall include players, coaches, managers, officials, umpires & player spectators.

1.4 PENALTIES

Wellington Hockey Association has adopted a card system for use by umpires, which forms the basis for a system, which triggers an automatic penalty or indicates that a participant may, or will, be summonsed to appear before the Judicial Sub-Committee of the Board of the Wellington Hockey Association (the Judiciary). The issue of a card generally carries points, which can be awarded by umpires to any participant associated with the team during a match (which is defined as the period 15 minutes prior to the start of a match until 15 minutes after the match has ended). A card can be issued where participants:

Swear, spontaneously or otherwise;

Spit on, refuse to take measures to stop bleeding on or otherwise cause a turf to be potentially infected in an avoidable manner;

Strike or strike at other participants, whether it be with stick, fist or foot or otherwise;

Indulge in abuse, at other participants or umpires, or indulge in displays of dissent;

Conduct any unseemly or unsporting behaviour;

Display any behaviour, which brings disrepute to the sport of Hockey or the Wellington Hockey Association

In addition, the Judiciary has the power to hear any matters relating to behaviour detrimental to the sport of Hockey or Wellington Hockey Association by any participant whether that behaviour takes place during a match or at some other time.

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1.5 DRESS CODE

All participants & umpires are required to adhere to appropriate dress standards. Players are not to wear hard peaked caps & are to ensure socks are pulled up & shirts are tucked in.

1.6 BLOOD CODE

All players must leave the turf if they are openly bleeding & may return when the wound has been covered. All teams should carry sufficient medical equipment to dress wounds & to clean the turf of excess blood (medical alcohol should be carried for this purpose).

Where a player has blood on their uniform or body, they must leave the turf to have this blood removed. All teams should carry a spare uniform for this purpose.

1.7 CARD SYSTEM

The match umpires during the match may issue a player with a green, yellow or red card. A green card serves as a warning and results in a 2 minute suspension from the game; any level of yellow means suspension from the game for a minimum of 5 minutes & a red card means the recipient will take no further part in the game. The card system operates whether actual plastic cards are used or not. That is, an umpire is able to communicate the nature of the card by presenting the particular card or verbally indicating the issue of a card. Each card will carry penalty points as follows:

Green - 1 Point.

Yellow - 3 to 6 Points in matches controlled by official umpires. Actual number of points to be determined conjointly by the umpires at the end of the match. Should an umpire fail to record the number of points awarded, 3 points will be registered.

Yellow - 3 Points in matches controlled by club umpire appointments.

Red - 12 Points.

Points may not be necessarily awarded for swearing – see Abuse Clause below.

The points system is to operate in respect of cards issued in Wellington Hockey Association club competition & representative matches. Matches played as part of HNZ controlled tournaments & other Host Association controlled games will be included under this system, & points accrued will be added. Team management must record & report to Wellington Hockey Association, all cards & points awarded during HNZ & other Host Association controlled matches.

All players are required to identify themselves by name when requested by an umpire or any other Wellington Hockey official (eg card checks). Failure to do so, once warned, will normally justify the automatic issue of a red card except that a captain may provide the name of the player. Wellington Hockey Association has the power to suspend a team if a club does not identify a player to whom a card has been issued within 48 hours of such a request. An umpire must identify himself or herself to a player, coach or official if requested.

Points allocated to an individual shall have a playing season's life. After that, the points are automatically removed unless there is a judicial outcome to the contrary.

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1.8 ABUSE OF SPECTATORS

Participants may be asked to urge spectators supporting their team to control their behaviour when appropriate.

1.9 SPECIAL CONDITIONS LOCAL RULES

Abuse:

Players who swear on the field may be temporarily suspended, although no points will be awarded in respect to cards issued for this offence. Umpires are to use their discretion as to the appropriate length of the suspension, with a 5-minute minimum applicable. These cards will be recorded & the players who consistently offend may be required to appear before the Judiciary who may impose whatever penalty/suspension they consider appropriate.

Coaches, Managers or Team Officials:

If coaches, player substitutes, managers or team officials behave in a manner that an umpire considers to breach the code of conduct, the umpire may suspend a player from the field. The team captain will be requested to nominate which player is to be suspended. If the captain refuses to co-operate, the umpire will suspend the captain. No points will be awarded against the suspended player, but will be awarded against the offender. Wellington Hockey Association will advise in writing to the club concerned of details on incidents that result in players being suspended because of actions of coaches, managers or team officials.

2.0 JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

The purpose of this Committee is to deal with any matters arising from breaches of the Code of Conduct.

2.1 MEMBERSHIP

To ensure consistent decision making it is important that membership of the Committee is relatively stable. The Committee shall be appointed by the Wellington Hockey Association & comprise of three to five people.

2.2 MATTERS DEALT WITH

The Judiciary may deal with incidents involving individual participants or umpires. Matters may be brought to the attention of the Judiciary either automatically through the accumulation of points via the card system or, as matters raised by way of complaint by either individuals or a club.

Complaints relating to matters that have been dealt with by a match umpire will not usually be considered, unless the umpire or a club that is involved in the incident raises the complaint.

Except for a Red Card, the Judiciary may elect not to hear the matter.

The WHA Board will deal with complaints relating to the behaviour of whole teams, whether it is in respect of on or off the field incidents, or off field incidents involving individual participants or umpires.

Matters not requiring a Hearing of the Judiciary - Automatic suspensions

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2.3 RED CARDS

Players receiving a red card are automatically awarded 12 points & will be suspended for at least one match to be approved by Wellington Hockey Association. This suspension will run concurrent with any imposed as a result of an accumulation of points. This suspension will commence at the conclusion of the match in which the card is issued & no additional notice is required. The Judicial Committee may require the offender to appear before it & impose whatever additional penalty/suspension they consider appropriate. Wellington Hockey Association will confirm the suspension in writing to the player's club secretary, & will also advise of any requirement for the player to appear before the Judicial Committee.

Following the penalty/suspension, 6 points will remain credited to the player, & remain on the record of the player for the duration of the playing season.

2.4 YELLOW & GREEN CARDS

Players accumulating 12 points will automatically be suspended for at least one match to be approved by Wellington Hockey Association. The Judicial Committee may require the offender to appear before it & impose whatever further penalty/suspension they consider appropriate.

Following the penalty/suspension 6 points will remain credited to the player & remain on the record of the player for the duration of the playing season.

Those who reach 12 points will be advised by WHA in writing that they have been automatically suspended for at least one match to be approved by WHA. This notification will be forwarded through the club secretary, & will also advise of any requirement to appear before the Judicial Committee. The player may continue to play until such time as this notice is received. The automatic suspension will be deemed to commence from the day following the match in which the point's threshold was reached or, if the player has participated in a match since the match in which the point's threshold was reached, & before notice was received, from the date of that more recent match. The notification will contain details of the various cards issued, & if available, a copy of any umpire's reports. The player has the right to challenge the fact that a particular card has been issued. Such challenge must be accompanied by a \$30 fee, which may be forfeited if the challenge is not upheld.

Players accumulating 12 points within 6 months of the conclusion of an automatic suspension will be required to appear before the Judicial Committee who may impose whatever additional penalty/suspension they consider appropriate.

Following the penalty/suspension 6 points will remain credited to the player & remain on the record of the player for the duration of the season.

2.5 DISCRETION

Where the Judiciary is of the view that the imposition of at least one match suspension is an unduly harsh penalty, it may impose a lesser penalty/suspension. The Judiciary is to exercise this power only in cases where the imposition will cover a HNZ tournament & will therefore result in the player being unable to attend.

2.6 HEARING OF THE JUDICIAL

These hearings will be conducted in a fair & just manner. Participants have the right to be represented & to respond to any evidence given. Hearings may be held without the participant being present if the participant chooses, by notice or their action, not to attend a meeting of the Judiciary. Failure to respond to a notice of a meeting of the Judiciary can be interpreted as the participant electing not to attend the meeting, when it is clear that the participant has received the notice & has had adequate time to respond.

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2.7 NOTICE OF HEARING

These hearings will be conducted in a fair & just manner. Participants have the right to be represented & to respond to any evidence given. Hearings may be held without the participant being present if the participant chooses, by notice or their action, not to attend a meeting of the Judiciary. Failure to respond to a notice of a meeting of the Judiciary can be interpreted as the participant electing not to attend the meeting, when it is clear that the participant has received the notice & has had adequate time to respond.

2.8 BASIC PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN JUDICIAL HEARINGS

Basic procedures to be followed in judicial hearings

Each hearing will be conducted in a fair & just manner with proceedings being recorded.

The following procedure will be adopted:

The members of the Judiciary will be introduced,

Other parties at the hearing will be identified,

The charges to be considered will be detailed,

The participant will be asked to plead to the charges,

The participant will be given the opportunity to make a statement,

Other evidence will be considered i.e. umpires reports, hearing of witness etc,

The participant will be given the opportunity to make another statement,

The Judiciary will consider the charges,

The decision of the Judiciary will be delivered,

Submissions on penalty will be received,

The Judiciary will consider the penalty,

The decision of the Judiciary will be delivered along with reasons thereof,

The participant will be advised of the right of appeal & the consequences of the penalty,

The Judiciary may adjourn or postpone a hearing.

2.9 BURDEN OF PROOF

The Burden of Proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.

3.0 NOTICE OF PENALTY WHERE HEARING HELD

The outcome of the Judiciary hearing will be put in writing as soon as possible to the Club or Organisation to which the participant is affiliated, the other Club or Organisation involved, HNZ and any other parties as dictated by the HNZ Association Code of Conduct.

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3.1 COMMUNICATION OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS TO CLUBS

All clubs will be advised of details of the Judiciary's decision, along with reasons for the decision where appropriate.

3.2 RIGHT TO APPEAL

Decisions of the Judiciary may be appealed as set forth in the Wellington Hockey Association Code of Conduct under the Appeals Clauses (13) to the Chief Executive of Hockey New Zealand accompanied by a fee of \$300 within one week of the release of the decision. Clubs also have a constitutional right to appeal any decision of this Association to Hockey New Zealand, but only in so far as it concerns any point of law.

3.3 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING GUILT OR OTHERWISE

The participant's past actions are irrelevant to the determination of guilt. The extent of any injury suffered or inflicted is relevant.

3.4 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING IF A PARTICIPANT IS FOUND GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE

Matters to be considered when determining the penalty to be imposed should include:

Greater significance should be placed on the player's intention than on the actual outcome i.e. the fact that a player swings a stick at another player is more critical to determining the extent of the penalty than whether or not it actually connects or causes significant injury. The consequences of any action may, however, influence the penalty to the extent that the Judiciary believes it is equitable. For example, a penalty might reflect the number of weeks a player is unable to play as a consequence of injury caused to him or her.

3.5 PROVOCATION & RETALIATION

In any case in which it is claimed a participant was guilty of an offence by reason of provocative conduct on the part of another participant or person, such provocative conduct shall be no defence to any incident but may be taken into account in determining the penalty/suspension.

The fact that a participant acted in retaliation shall be no defence but may be taken into account in determining the penalty/suspension.

3.6 PENALTY GUIDELINES

Schedule 1 (Appendix 1) to the code of conduct contains suggested penalty guidelines for various offences. The guidelines are not prescriptive but are designed to enhance consistency in the determinations made by the Judiciary.

A suspended sentence provision is a tool which the Judiciary can use when considered necessary. In addition, the Judiciary may find extenuating circumstances, which may necessitate the reduction of the sentences, lower than those suggested in Schedule 1.

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3.7 PROCEEDINGS NOT TO BE INVALIDATED FOR TECHNICAL REASONS

No proceedings heard shall be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality provided there has been no miscarriage of justice.

3.8 DISCIPLINARY & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

Refer to the Code of Conduct, Wellington Hockey Association as approved at the Annual General Meeting 26 March 2014.

Appendix 1 - Schedule 1 Suggested Penalty Guidelines

Disputing an umpire decision, serious reluctance to accept decisions, use of offensive gestures.	Minimum of 1 Match
Abuse of a participant or umpire (in the case of ugly abuse a further penalty).	Minimum of 2 Matches
Persistent and deliberate breach of the Rules of Hockey (generally considered dangerous and intimidating) following a warning from an umpire.	Minimum of 2 Matches
Acts detrimental to a fixture/competition e.g. misbehaviour at a centre – abuse of equipment.	Minimum of 2 Matches
Abusive conduct with a spectator.	Minimum of 4 Matches
Striking a participant with or without a stick – first offence.	Minimum of 2 Matches to life
Striking a participant with or without a stick – second offence.	Minimum of 20 Matches to life
Assault or battery to a participant, or spectator.	Minimum of 4 Matches to life