

Season 18 Umpires and Officials Briefing

1. Roles and responsibilities of Tech Officials

- a. Is a PMHHA Policy and can be found at <http://www.portmacquariehockey.com.au/policy--documents/policies/>
- b. Are the “3rd Umpire” in the event of an on-field umpire becoming injured,
- c. Responsible for conduct of players and staff in the dug-outs,
- d. Controls who can and can't access the dug-outs, controls substitutions, and informs the umpires (discreetly) of any offences / breeches – THINK SAFETY!
- e. Controls the timings and locations of suspended players and has the power to increase or upgrade a suspension

2. New rule updates

- a. There are no new rules or interpretations for season 18 from FIH, HA or HNSW
- b. Rule books and an interactive quiz app can be downloaded for all iOS and Android phones and tablets

3. 5 point plan for umpires

- a. SAFETY – Is the action safe? Are the players safe? What constitutes unsafe or dangerous actions / play?
- b. ADVANTAGE – See it Blow it! Particularly early in the season! Players are not necessarily “match fit” and the better and SAFER option is to award the penalty and not provide dubious or overly long advantage
- c. FAIRNESS AND CONSISTENCY – Nothing irks players more than perceived or actual bias, nor an inconsistent approach to decision making – keep it consistent, keep it fair
- d. POSITIONING – Your best bet to see everything that happens on the field, keeping players safe, seeing dangerous actions and maintaining your level of fairness and consistency is being in a good position to do so. Standing on the attacking 23m line is NOT a good position to see through 15 sets of legs and sticks when the ball is near the goal line,
- e. KNOWLEDGE of the RULES – Self-explanatory really...!!! If you are unsure, please seek guidance from your clubs umpire coach or from a senior association Umpire OR READ THE RULE BOOK.

These actions in combination, plus treating players the way you wish to be treated, will ensure that you maintain control of match. CARDS DO NOT FIX CONTROL! They are only one of many tools to assist umpires in the control of a match

4. Roles of Club Umpire Coaches and Managers

- a. Each club has a nominated UC or UM. These people are responsible for the coaching and appointment of umpires within their own clubs. The club's UM /UC is responsible for upskilling themselves and seeking out coaching methods and tips from the Associations Senior / Experienced umpires.
- b. A clubs UM / UC is responsible for training an umpire to a point whereby they are deemed ready for assessment as “competent” by PMHHA

5. Appointments process

- a. PMHHA will continue to appoint umpires and TO's on a CLUB / TEAM basis – eg Port City Marlins @ 14:30 or TPTHC Cougars at 17:30
- b. Clubs are to ensure that these positions are filled by COMPETENT or suitable umpires / TO's under training
- c. Clubs are to be mindful that two fields will be in operation and as such, traditional "Men umpiring Women's" games may no longer be possible. Each TEAM is to ensure they have suitably trained and competent umpires or willing trainee umpires UNDER SUPERVISION.

Further Notes

Dress and Bearing & Training Aids (To be incorporated into Policy at next review)

1. Umpires and Technical Officials are to "look the part". PMHHA has a commercial sponsorship arrangement for our officials and all clubs, umpires and tech officials are to respect this agreement,
2. Not only does being dressed correctly support our sponsors, it provides a whole of association approach to officiating and presents our officials as "one team" to the rest of the association. Use of non-official PMHHA "McDonalds" shirts is prohibited – (Note a fluorescent vest is acceptable for the TO whilst in the dug-out areas),
3. PMHHA understands the advantage of using radio microphones and other forms of technology to assist with officiating. Experience and anecdotal evidence suggest that introducing technology too early into the umpiring journey and supervision by inexperienced coaches leads to poor techniques and over reliance within the ranks of the inexperienced. PMHHA restricts their use to;
 - a. The highest grade of local senior and junior hockey (Premier League and Under 16's for season 18),
 - b. Umpires that are deemed as "un-restricted" umpires capable of umpiring at all levels,
 - c. Where one umpire is a senior umpire and the other umpire is a higher level local umpire, or
 - d. Umpire coach (side-line based) talking to one umpire only for the purposes of 1-on-1 coaching!

Non Conformance

Clubs UM's and UC's are reminded that there are financial and competition point penalties for the non-compliance of Umpires and TO duties. Clubs may also be further liable for the failure of their representatives to carry out these duties in a professional, respectful, and SAFE manner.