

# PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## POLICY ON PERSONAL PENALTIES AND SUSPENSIONS

### Introduction

All Umpires officiating in PMHHA sanctioned events, have the authority to issue personal penalties to players as per the current issue of the FIH Rules. For any offence the offending player may be:

- Cautioned – indicated by spoken words,
- Warned and temporarily suspended for 2 minutes of playing time – indicated by a Green Card,
- Temporarily suspended for a min. of 5 minutes of playing time – indicated by a Yellow Card
- Permanently suspended from that match – indicated by a Red Card

For the duration of each temporary green and yellow card suspension of a player on or off the field, the offending team plays with one fewer player.

If a player is permanently suspended, the offending team plays for the remainder of the match with one fewer player.

Any personal penalty may be awarded in addition to other appropriate penalties as per the rules of hockey.

### PMHHA Clarification on Cards

#### Green Card - Warnings

- There is no local variation to the FIH Green Card rules,
- Any Green Card shown to a player shall be a “Warning” to that player that also constitutes a 2-minute temporary suspension, and
- A second Green Card may be issued to the same player on the proviso they are for different offences (as per the FIH guidance).

#### Yellow Card – Temporary Suspension

The FIH rules for yellow cards shall be modified as follows.

- A “minor” Yellow Card offence shall be a temporary suspension for a period of 5 mins, and
- A “major” Yellow Card offence shall be a temporary suspension for a period of 10 mins.

A second “minor” Yellow Card may be issued to the same player on the proviso they are for different offences (as per the FIH guidance) and the length of suspension is increased to 10mins for the second Yellow Card offence.

A second “major” Yellow Card offence shall be upgraded immediately to a Red Card.

#### Temporarily Suspended Players

Temporarily suspended players shall sit in the designated safe place and shall not interact with their team or be coached during the suspension. The safe place shall be at approximately the centre line of the pitch outside the pitch fence on the dug-out side of the field.

Temporarily suspended players shall be under the control of the duty Technical Official, or in the absence of a Technical Official, the umpires shall retain control. The Technical Official has the power to upgrade a card or

increase the length of suspension, up to a maximum of a 10min Yellow Card, should they deem necessary for misconduct. Umpires retain the authority to upgrade as they deem fit based on game circumstances.

The Technical Official, or in their absence, the umpire who issued the card, shall allow the temporarily suspended player to resume once their time is completed.

Temporarily suspended players are not to sit in either of the team dug outs.

Temporarily suspended players may join their team during a break between periods but must return to the designated safe space to serve out the remainder of their temporary suspension.

### Permanent Suspensions (Red Cards)

Players that are permanently suspended by an umpire during a match shall be required to gather their belongings and leave the facility without delay. Minors or other persons that may be waiting on parents or guardians to finish playing the current match that have been permanently suspended shall wait near the canteen under the guidance of a responsible adult until such time that they can be escorted from the complex by their parent / guardian.

Failure to comply with this clause may result in further sanctions against the player in determining any suspensions under this policy.

### Accumulation of Temporary Suspensions

- Each Green or Yellow Card personal penalty shall carry with it penalty points.
- The accumulation of at least 15 penalty points in any season shall constitute that player having to serve a one (1) week ban from hockey.
- The accumulation of a further 9 points in any season shall constitute that player having to serve a two (2) week ban from hockey.
- In the event any player accrues another 5 penalty points, they will be not be eligible to play hockey for the remainder of that season. PMHHA Management reserves the right to call the player before the judiciary.

### Penalty Points

- Green Card = 2 Penalty points
- Yellow Card Minor = 5 Penalty points
- Yellow Card Major = 10 Penalty points

*If a player accumulates enough penalty points to warrant a suspension under this policy, that player is entitled to play out the remainder of that week / round of matches as they have not been 'Permanently Suspended' under Red Card from a match.*

*PMHHA Management will confirm the day and dates of the suspension, but will normally be for the following week / round of local hockey matches. If there is no or limited hockey in that following week, the suspension may carry over to the subsequent week.*

## Notes on Personal Penalty Cards

Personal Penalty Cards are for use on players during a match only. If any misconduct occurs before or after a match, Umpires, Technical Officials and other witnesses are encouraged to take notes of these events and report them to PMHHA Management as soon as it is practicably safe to do so.

Similarly, Personally Penalty Cards are not to be used for Coaches, Managers or any other non-player. Technical Officials have the authority to control and discipline non-playing persons in the team bench areas. Any unruly behaviour by any spectators or other persons in attendance that are not in the playing capacity, should be reported to the senior most member of PMHHA Committee that is present at the facility. If no Committee Member is available, Club Presidents and / or committee members are to control any incident and report back to PMHHA Management as soon as it is practicably safe to do so.

All misconduct by anyone other than players during a match is to be reported to PMHHA Management as soon as it is practicably safe to do so.

## Procedures for Permanent Suspensions (Red Cards)

The umpire shall inform an Office Bearer of the association within forty-eight (48) hours of the Red Card being issued.

The umpire shall be obliged to give brief reasons via the match report (back of a physical match card or via online match details).

The umpire is to submit a further report prior to 5.00pm Monday immediately after the event via email or other means to PMHHA Association Secretary. The Association Vice President is to be 'carbon copied' into the correspondence.

The player shall serve an "automatic" suspension consisting of not being able to play hockey for any other match in the current week of hockey, nor for any match in the subsequent week of hockey – in effect a one (1) week suspension.

The permanently suspended player shall be informed of the content of the umpire's report on the Tuesday following the incident by the Association Secretary.

After reviewing the report and match card, the President of the Association, in conjunction with the Officer Bearers, shall confirm the length of the suspension the player is to serve, as per the grade of the offence recommended by the umpire. The Association President will advise the club of the findings by close of business on the Thursday following the incident (or earlier if a Wednesday game is scheduled). This suspension shall be in addition to the automatic suspension for the red card.

The Association President shall also inform the other club Presidents of the suspension. The Association President shall only share the name and club of the player in question, and their return to hockey date.

The permanently suspended player has every right to appeal against the content in the umpire's report, and in particular the grade and severity of offence, and ask that a full Judiciary meeting be called to hear the case.

The player shall remain suspended and not take place in any association game until the judiciary has convened.

## Umpires Report

The details supplied by the umpire in the report shall include;

- a) Match details – time, date, teams etc
- b) Reason for the red card,
- c) Any incidents that led up to the issue of the red card including yellow cards, warnings, cautions etc that may have involved the player,
- d) The rules of hockey that the player was in breach of,
- e) The “grade” of the offence and length of recommended suspension, and
- f) Any other information that may be relevant.

If no umpires report is forthcoming, PMHHA Office Bearers shall determine an appropriate suspension based on the original match report, any other means as deemed appropriate, and in consultation with the grades of offences listed below.

## Repeat Offences

If a player receives a second Red Card in the same season, the player WILL front the judiciary to “show cause” as to why they should not be de-registered for the remainder of the season, or a longer period as determined by the judiciary panel.

All confirmed charges will be held against the players record for a period of 3 years from the date of the original offence.

For a repeat offence during the three (3) year time frame, the Association President may double the prescribed length of suspension as part of this policy.

## **GRADES OF OFFENCE (MINIMUM STANDARDS)**

### **Grade 1 – One (1) Week Suspension**

- Persistent breaches of the rules (second yellow card offence),
- Low-level;
  - Verbal offence

### **Grade 2 – Two (2) Week Suspension**

- Low-level;
  - Physical offence
  - Equipment offence

### **Grade 3 – Three (3) Week Suspension**

- Conduct unbecoming of a participant of PMHHA whilst in the playing capacity.
- Low-level;
  - Vilification offence
- Mid-level;
  - Verbal offence
  - Equipment offence

### **Grade 4 – Four (4) Week Suspension**

- Mid-level;
  - Physical offence

### **Grade 5 – Five (5) Week Suspension**

- Mid-level;
  - Vilification offence
- High-level;
  - Verbal offence

### **Grade 6 – Six (6) Week Suspension**

- High-level;
  - Equipment offence

### **Grade 7 – Seven (7) Week Suspension**

- High-level;
  - Vilification offence

### **Grade 8 – Seven (8) Week Suspension**

- High-level;
  - Physical offence

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Verbal offence** may be defined as an act that involves the use of oral, or gestured language directed to another person. Verbal offence can include the act of harassing, labelling, insulting, scolding, rebuking, being argumentative, swearing, disputing decisions, or excessive yelling towards an individual or group. It can also include the use of derogatory terms, the delivery of statements intended to frighten, humiliate, denigrate, or belittle a person.

**Physical offence** may be defined as attempted or intentional bodily harm to a player, spectator, official or any other participant of hockey. Some examples may include; slapping, pinching, choking, kicking, biting shoving, hitting, punching, wrestling, rough, dangerous or intimidatory play, use of a hockey stick to threaten, use of a hockey stick to physically harm or hit someone.

**Vilification offence** may be defined as behaviour that incites or encourages hatred, serious contempt, revulsion or severe ridicule for a person or group of people because of their race, sex, sexual preferences, gender, religion, age, skin colour, or disability etc.

**Equipment offence** may be defined as the intentional incorrect use or abuse of equipment that may lead to, or causes;

- physical harm or injury,
- damage to the facility, the field or any related fittings, or
- danger to others.

Some examples may include, hitting any part of the facility, field or fittings with a hockey stick throwing the hockey stick at or towards others, or at other hockey equipment (clubhouse, goals, dugouts, side fences etc).

## General Notes

- These grades of offences are intended as a guide only. If a more serious offence occurs, an official can recommend higher grades or longer sentences as appropriate.
- For the most serious of offences, PMHHA Management Reserve the right to forward the matter to a meeting of the full judiciary,
- Umpires are to recommend an appropriate grade of offence in their report,
- The player in question is to be notified of the outcomes of the umpire's report as per the means listed in this policy,
- The suspensions listed above are to be served CONSECUTIVELY with the automatic suspension for the issue of the Red Card, and
- An umpire may recommend that a player be charged with more than one offence where the incident warrants more than one charge. If the player accepts these multi-charges, the suspensions shall be served CONCURRENTLY, and the charges remain on file for a period of three (3) years. – examples may include "low level verbal offence" and "high level physical offence".

*Nothing in this policy or any other policy or playing rules of PMHHA shall prevent further criminal or civil action if warranted by any parties.*