



ULSTER HOCKEY UNION

CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

1. Introduction

The Ulster Hockey Union (UHU) has become increasingly concerned at the levels of misconduct in hockey and believes that “participants” (as defined below) must not act in any way which may prejudice the interests of hockey or bring the game into disrepute. The UHU believes that clubs and schools must take responsibility for and actively regulate the behaviour and actions of “participants” during and after matches and activities under the auspices of the UHU or of the Irish Hockey Association (IHA).

These draft guidelines for the development of a code of conduct are intended to provide a basis to enable clubs and schools, which do not already have an appropriate code of conduct, to develop such a code.

The term “participants” includes:

- Players
- Team officials (e.g. coaches, managers, umpires, physiotherapists etc.)
- Spectators
- Club/School members
- This list is not exhaustive

The guidelines do not include references to behaviour on, for example, licensed club premises where clubs may have appropriate provision in their own club rules to deal with instances of misconduct.

The guidelines have taken into account the codes of conduct stipulated by the Federation de Internationale Hockey (FIH) and the European Hockey Federation (EHF) in relation to approved FIH, EHF and certain other tournaments and codes of conduct developed in the past by a number of Ulster clubs.

2. Responsibility

Clubs and Schools are responsible and accountable for the behaviour and conduct of participants who are required to abide by the relevant UHU and IHA rules and instructions/directives/guidelines and, where applicable, those of the FIH and EHF.

3. Misconduct

In broad terms, the following is regarded as conduct that is improper, unfair and unacceptable:

- Verbal/physical abuse or hostility towards any other participant, person or member of the public.
- Disputing, protesting, reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner towards any decision made by an umpire/official or otherwise acting in an inappropriate way
- Using rude, abusive, racist, sectarian or sexist language or gestures.
- Urinating in any area of the pitch or in view of any players, spectators, officials and children is strictly forbidden

All incidents reported to the Ulster Hockey Union will result in an immediate penalty for the club/school in question.

In addition, spectators must not:

- Encroach on to the playing area or, where there is a fence around a pitch, go inside it.
- Watch matches from the team dugouts or team officials benches
- Retaliate if they are subject to provocative behaviour by an opposition spectator or player. Such conduct should be reported to an official of each club/school involved as soon as possible.
- Enter umpires' or opposition dressing rooms unless by invitation or to provide assistance.

Clubs are requested to install a sign stating that only authorised persons are allowed within the playing area during matches. For health and safety reasons, only the following are allowed within the playing area/dugouts:

- Players
- Team Officials (e.g. coaches, managers, umpires, physiotherapists etc.)
- Technical Officials

4. Public Statements

Public statements (including those made in the press, websites, e-mail, social media, radio or television) must be fair and reasonable and must **not** involve a personal attack on another player, umpire, official or club/school or any other person or body which could bring the game into disrepute.

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