

HOCKEY IRELAND GAMES DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

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PRINCIPLES BEING APPLIED

In dealing with discipline relating to Irish Competition matches, the following principles apply:

Club Competitions - Outdoor (Cups and EYHL):

- Yellow cards accumulated in all Irish competitions will be counted in totality across the season
- The accumulation of yellow cards is reset to zero at the beginning of each season
- The Games Disciplinary Panel will seek to ensure that sanctions are served in the following order:
 - In the next Irish Club Competition match for the player in the current season
 - In another Irish Competition within the current season (e.g. Interpros)
 - If it is the end of the season, sanctions will be carried forward to the next season/s
- When a sanction is applied, it will apply to all hockey – including Branch hockey

Tournament Competitions

- The Tournament Director has responsibility and authority for discipline issues arising at the Tournament.
- The TD will seek to ensure sanctions are served within the tournament.
- If the player's team is taking no further part in the Tournament, sanctions will be carried forward to other Irish Competitions and seasons, if required.

Red Card Definition

- Red Card means a straight Red Card as opposed to 2 yellows making a Red Card. A Red Card for a 2nd yellow – will count as 2 yellows towards an accumulation.

Definition of Sanctions

The following decisions, while not exhaustive, are available to the Disciplinary Panel and may be applied to an individual or Club

- dismiss the case
- no further action required
- issue warning as to future conduct
- suspension for a number of matches
- suspension for a period of time
- suspension "sine die"
- suspension imposed but "deferred" for a period of time
- fine imposed on Club

When deliberating on a decision, the Disciplinary Panel may consider the following:

- any sanction imposed on an individual by the Club in respect of the offence
- the individual/Club's previous record

Where a suspension is imposed, the suspension bars the player from participating in any capacity, ie. playing, coaching, managing or umpiring, during the period of the suspension.

TRACKING SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

Central Database

A central database will be maintained to track the accumulation of Red and Yellow Cards issued to players while playing in Hockey Ireland Competitions. The database will also be used to track the serving of sanctions and suspensions. The database will record the following information:

- Player's name
- Club
- Colour, date and competition of each card earned
- Card accumulation totals
- Nominated Date and competition for each sanction/suspension (current or following season)
- Actual date and competition that the sanction/suspension was served

SECTION 1 – Applies to Irish Cups and EYHL Pool Stage

1.1 GAMES DISCIPLINARY PANEL

- 1.1.1 The Chair of the Games Disciplinary Panel shall be appointed annually by the Hockey Ireland Board.
- 1.1.2 The Games Disciplinary Panel shall contain up to 6 personnel appointed annually by the Hockey Ireland CEO.
- 1.1.3 For the purposes of any hearing or decision to be made by the Games Disciplinary Panel, the Chair will request any two of the Panel members to act with him/her as the Games Disciplinary Tribunal.
- 1.1.4 No person who has previously been involved in the incident or is in any way connected to the person or body involved in the incident may sit on the Games Disciplinary Tribunal relating to the matter.

1.1.5 The Chair will invoke a Games Disciplinary Tribunal on being notified that a Red Card Report has been received or an accumulation of 3 yellow cards or an accumulation by a player of 20 minutes yellow cards suspensions in one season in all Hockey Ireland run competitions.

1.1.6 The Games Disciplinary Tribunal will be entitled, if required, to call upon and accept legal advice from a legal assessor in the event that legal issues are raised in the context of a Disciplinary matter.

1.2 RED CARD

1.2.1 The Umpire who issued the Red Card shall submit a Red Card Report which should arrive at the Hockey Ireland Office within 48 hours of the completion of the match. The Umpire shall not engage in any communications with the player concerned or representatives of the player's club prior to, or subsequent to, completing the Red Card Report.

1.2.2 The Match Report shall be submitted to the Hockey Ireland Office as per responsibilities outlined in the Club Outdoor Competition Regulations and should arrive within 30 minutes of the completion of the match.

1.3 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

1.3.1 The Games Disciplinary Tribunal will review the contents of the Red Card Report to decide whether the mandatory minimum suspension (refer 1.4.1) should be increased.

1.3.2 The Games Disciplinary Tribunal shall decide when the minimum suspension shall be applied and, if applicable, when any further suspension shall be applied.

1.3.3 The decision of the Games Disciplinary Tribunal shall be communicated within 24 hours of their decision to the following:

- The Player and the Club Secretary of the player concerned;
- The Competitions Committee and Club Outdoors Sub-Group, as appropriate
- The Branch Secretary of the player concerned;
- The Hockey Ireland Office
- The Hockey Ireland Website

1.4 SANCTIONS

1.4.1 The ***mandatory minimum period*** of suspension for a (Straight) Red Card is one match, to be applied in the next Irish Competition for the player in the current season

1.4.2 If the player's team will be playing no further part in the current season, then the sanction will be served by the player in the first match of the following season/s in an Irish Competition

1.4.3 Additional Sanctions

- In addition to the mandatory minimum suspension, the Games Disciplinary Tribunal may impose any additional sanction, including further suspension, if it deems fit.
- An additional sanction is likely, but not limited to, incidents where physical violence is used, attempted or threatened to another player, umpire or appointed Technical Official.

1.4.4 Unfulfilled Matches

Where the match in which a suspension was due to apply, but for whatever reason the game was not played or completed, the suspension must still be served as per 1.4.1, 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 above.

In the event that a player is suspended as a result of an incident in a match which is then abandoned, the suspension shall take effect immediately i.e. the next match in the competition will be the first match for which the suspension takes effect.

1.5 APPEALS

1.5.1 Where a sanction or an additional sanction over and above the mandatory minimum suspension is applied by the Disciplinary Panel, the player or the player's club may appeal the sanction to an Appeals Board to be appointed by the Hockey Ireland Management Board as outlined in the Hockey Ireland Constitution, such appeal to be treated as if it were an appeal from a decision of the Games Disciplinary Panel under the Hockey Ireland Constitution.

1.5.2 Any sanction applied will stand until the appeal has been heard and finalised.

1.6 ABANDONED MATCHES

Any disciplinary issues that occur prior to a match being abandoned or suspended will be dealt with under this Procedure. Conduct during an abandoned match still falls subject to the Hockey Ireland Disciplinary Procedure, notwithstanding that the match may be abandoned or suspended.

SECTION 2 – Applies to Tournament Format competition / stages

2. DISCIPLINE – TOURNAMENTS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 2 applies to all Irish Competitions played under tournament conditions, including: Interprovincials, All Ireland Schools and Colleges Competitions, EY Champions Trophy, EY Provincial Play Offs and Indoor.

2.2 TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

2.2.1 A Tournament Director will be appointed by the competition organising committee to run the tournament. The Tournament Director has full power and authority in matters concerning the conduct of the tournament in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the particular competition.

2.2.2 The Tournament Director has the authority to suspend players, team officials or other officials, who, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, are guilty of misconduct. In deciding the length of any suspension, the Tournament Director is limited to the remaining matches of the tournament but may at his discretion, report the matter to the Chief Executive of the Hockey Ireland for consideration as a disciplinary matter to be considered by the Games Disciplinary Panel, in which case further suspension and penalties may be considered and further to that impose a suspension that has effect beyond the conclusion of the tournament.

2.3 RED CARD

2.3.1 The Umpire who issued the Red Card should submit a Red Card Report to the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of the completion of the match. The Umpire shall not engage in any communication with the player concerned or representatives of the player's club, school or branch prior to, or subsequent to, completing the Red Card Report.

2.3.2 The Technical Officer appointed to the match should submit the Match Report to the Tournament Director within 10 minutes of the completion of the match.

2.3.3 The Tournament Director shall decide, based on the content of the Reports, whether to impose a further sanction beyond the ***mandatory minimum suspension of one match and shall have the discretion to report the matter to the Chief Executive of Hockey Ireland as outlined in 2.2.2 above.***

2.3.4 The Tournament Director shall communicate his/her decision to the player's Team Manager in writing within three hours of receiving the Umpire's Red Card Report.

2.4 SANCTIONS

2.4.1 The ***mandatory minimum period*** of suspension is one match, to be applied in the next match of the tournament after which the Red Card was issued.

2.4.2 If the player's team will be playing no further part in the tournament in which the Red Card was issued, then the sanction will be served in the following order:

- In the player's next Irish Competition match, within the current season
- In the first match of the following season/s in an Irish Competition

2.4.3 Additional Sanctions

- In addition to the mandatory minimum suspension, the Tournament Director may impose any additional sanction, including further suspension, if he/she deems fit.
- An additional sanction is likely, but not limited to, where physical violence is used, attempted, or threatened to another player, umpire or appointed Technical Official.

2.5 YELLOW CARDS

- An accumulation by a player of 3 yellow cards in one season in all Hockey Ireland run competitions will lead in all cases to the Tournament Director dealing with the accumulation as per 2.2.2 and making a decision on what action, if any, will be taken.
- Note: Yellow cards issued in the earlier rounds of the EYHL and Irish Cup competitions carry forward and are provided to the Tournament Director in advance of the start of the Tournament and are included in the accumulated total for any cards earned in the EYHL Trophy Finals and EY Provincial Playoff Weekends.

2.6 APPEALS

- 2.5.1** Where a sanction or additional sanction over and above the mandatory minimum suspension has been applied by the Tournament Director, the player or the player's club, school or branch may appeal the further sanction or suspension within 30 minutes of receiving the decision from the Tournament Director, to the Tournament Appeal Panel. Such an appeal is to be treated as if it were an appeal from a decision of the Games Disciplinary Panel under the Hockey Ireland Constitution.
- 2.5.2** The Tournament Director will appoint a panel of 3 members to consider the appeal, which must be completed 1 hour before the player's next match.
- 2.5.3** A Tournament Appeal Panel (including a Chairperson) must be appointed in advance of all Tournaments by the Tournament Director to ensure that there is transparency in such appointments, and the Tournament Appeal Panel will be drawn from this Appeal Panel and consist of three members of the Appeal Panel.
- 2.5.4** The decision of the Tournament Appeal Panel shall be final in respect of participation in the Tournament but does not preclude the Tournament Director from reporting conduct to the Chief Executive for further investigation under section 2.2.2.