

SHEPTON MALLET HOCKEY CLUB DISCIPLINARY CODE

1. **Overview.** SMHC takes discipline and conduct very seriously. The Club's aim is to play hard but fair hockey with a strong mental focus and self-control. There is no room for ill-disciplined or bad behaviour as this detracts from the spirit of the game and undermines performance and reputation. Accordingly, SMHC fully subscribes to the England Hockey Code of Ethics and Behaviour, Safeguarding Young People Policy and the West Leagues' Player Behaviour Policy.

2. **Responsibilities.** Conduct on the field of play is fundamentally the responsibility of the individual player and the Team Captain and the Club looks to its players and Captains to act accordingly. The match umpires will apply the laws of the game, applying the rules in respect to cards and other sanctions. The Club will abide by the application of these rules by the match officials and England Hockey. Additionally, the Club may elect to apply additional sanctions as decided by its Disciplinary Committee.

3. **Disciplinary Officer.** The Club shall appoint a Club Disciplinary Officer (CDO) as per England Hockey Code of Ethics and Behaviour. The CDO will be the principal intermediary on major disciplinary matters, as well as advising players on their responsibilities and rights and the details of the regulations.

4. **SMHC Disciplinary Committee.** The Disciplinary Committee receives its authority directly from the Executive Committee. It is chaired by the CDO (or in his absence a member of the Executive Committee appointed by the Chairman) and shall consist of the appropriate Men's/Ladies Club Captain and at least one Team Captain from across the Club. In the case of any dispute involving a Junior Player (under 18 years of age), the Welfare Officer will also sit on the Disciplinary Committee.

5. **England Hockey Sanctions.** The Club will take the following considerations when cards are awarded as follows.

a. **Green card.** A one-off green card is common in hockey but if a player is regularly receiving a caution then the Team Captain should speak to the player concerned. Green cards are not required to be recorded on the Club website.

b. **Yellow card.** All yellow cards are required to be recorded by the Team Captain on the SMHC website as part of the Match Report. If a player receives 3 yellow cards in a season, this will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee by the relevant Team Captain which will consider the circumstances; this will result in the application of one of the sanctions listed at para 7 depending on the circumstances (a particularly strong line will be taken against any player repeatedly carded for verbal abuse). If the player wishes to defend themselves, they may do so. For players in the EHL, England Hockey will automatically apply a 1 match suspension if a player receives 3 yellow cards in a season.

c. **Red card.** A player who receives a red card will have the minimum punishment laid down by England Hockey. A Club Disciplinary Meeting will be called and the player will have the right to represent himself/herself. If it is considered appropriate, the Disciplinary Committee may take further action. All red cards are to be recorded on the website.

d. **Match day Misconduct Offence (MMO) and Disrepute Complaints.**

These are serious charges and will be dealt with in accordance with the EH Code of Ethics and Behaviour. The Club Disciplinary Officer (CDO) will be the principal intermediary on such matters, as well as advising players on their responsibilities and rights and the details of the regulations.

6. **Club Considerations.** SMHC considers that incidents involving directed verbal or physical abuse at match officials or players, surrounding umpires while offering verbal abuse are unacceptable. To that end, should they occur, players may be liable to additional sanctions from the Club. The Club also considers that incidents involving unreasonable behaviour towards junior players are also totally unacceptable.

7. **Club Sanctions.** Sanctions which the Disciplinary Committee may consider include by way of guidance:

- Warnings to future conduct – informal and formal.
- Match suspensions of between 1 and 3 matches.
- 'Suspended' match suspensions i.e. not awarded pending future good conduct for the remainder of the season.
- Suspension or Termination of Membership – extremely serious cases which might have implications for membership can only be handled by the Executive Committee.

Issue	Date	Description	Changes made by
V1.0	27 Mar 19	First issue	