

SHOALHAVEN HOCKEY INC

Procedure for Judiciary

1. Following the issue of a red card or permanent suspension, the umpire shall:
 - Write the name of the player and indicate “Red” card on the comments part of the same card.
 - Within 48 hours provide to the secretary a written report of the facts surrounding the incident (including lead up penalties – green, yellow etc). This report should be precise and thorough as this may be the only evidence to be put forward by the umpire.
2. The secretary should then call a judiciary meeting to be chaired by a badged umpire (or if none is available an executive member). The judiciary panel shall consist of 3 members and each shall be independent of the umpires and participating teams. The meeting shall be held at a mutually agreeable time, and preferably by the Thursday of the week following the incident.
3. The judiciary meeting shall be heard in similar fashion to a court:
 - All witnesses and observers are to be excluded until called.
 - The accused shall be entitled to have a club representative, or parent, in attendance. This person shall not be able to make comment as a witness, but is able to be present to ensure that the accused’s interests are maintained.
 - A parent/guardian must accompany any junior appearing before the judiciary.
 - Any advocate or club representative accompanying a person or standing in for a person before the judiciary shall not be permitted to appear as a witness.
 - The report of the umpire is read to the committee and to the accused by the chairperson of the committee. The accused is then asked to give his/her side of the incident. The committee then questions the accused. The accused is then excused.
 - Witnesses are then called (or recalled) to give comment and to be questioned by the committee.
 - The committee considers the evidence tendered and then declares:
 - a. guilty and declares penalty
 - b. deferment pending information to be gained from source other than accused or witnesses

The decision is to be provided to the Secretary so that it can be ratified at next general meeting of the Association.

Guidelines for Judiciary Penalties

- All penalties are to be determined in time to end on a Monday.
- The length of penalty shall be determined on the accused player’s normal grade commitments. (No allowance shall be given for the fact that the player regularly plays two or more games).
- Suggested penalties are as follows:
 - Serious verbal abuse of umpire (2 weeks suspension, + 1-2 weeks umpiring prior to playing)
 - Consistent breach of rule (Major) (2 weeks suspension)
 - Consistent breach of rule (Minor) (1 week suspension)
 - Physical abuse of player (3 weeks)
 - Physical abuse of umpire (6 weeks)

Players reappearing before the judiciary should have their history considered. If offence is similar to that previously made, then penalty should be increased by 1 week over previous penalty.

The above penalties are indicators only but to maintain consistency they should be considered as a guide. The use of umpiring duty should only be implemented as a penalty for umpire abuse, and the grade to be umpired shall be commensurate with the person’s ability to umpire.