



AUCKLAND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

This section of the Club Council Policy sets out the Code of Conduct which has been agreed to by the Auckland Hockey Umpires and all Clubs affiliated to the Auckland Hockey Association (Auckland Hockey).

1 Purpose

Auckland Hockey is determined that all hockey matches under its jurisdiction will be played according to the spirit of the Rules and that high standards of behaviour will be maintained both on the field and in pre and post game activity. This Code of Conduct will promote a positive image for the sport of hockey, encourage spectators to attend hockey matches and enhance the level of enjoyment for everyone participating in the sport.

2 Scope

2.1 Matches

This Code of Conduct will apply for the duration of a **match**, which is defined as **the period from 15 minutes before the start of the game until 15 minutes after the game has ended.**

This Code of Conduct covers the following matches:

- All Auckland Hockey club competition matches
- All Auckland Hockey inter-provincial matches
- All other official Auckland Hockey representative games (including games against international teams)

(**Note:** All NZHF National tournaments and NZHL matches will be covered by the NZHF Code of Conduct)

2.2 Participants

This Code of Conduct applies to **all players, coaches, managers and other team officials associated with a team involved in a match**, all of whom are defined as **participants.**

For the purpose of the awarding of personal penalties during a match; coaches, managers and other officials associated with a team will be treated in the same manner as substitutes (Refer Rule 15.4 d. in the FIH Rules). The team captain will be requested

to nominate which player is to leave the field for the period of suspension of any coach, manager or other official associated with the team. If the captain refuses to co-operate, the umpire will require the captain to leave the field for the period of the suspension.

Participants may be asked by an umpire to urge spectators supporting their team to control their behaviour when appropriate.

2.3 Umpires

To the extent that it is able to be applied, eg, regarding misconduct, this Code of Conduct covers all persons umpiring matches under the jurisdiction of Auckland Hockey, whether they be NZHF or Auckland Hockey appointed umpires or Club appointed umpires.

A complaint about a breach of this Code of Conduct by an umpire may be made by a Club to Auckland Hockey. Any such complaint will be promptly referred to the Judicial Commissioner, who will determine whether to deal with the matter directly or refer it to a Judicial Hearing.

3 Rules

3.1 General

All matches covered by this Code of Conduct will be played according to the current Rules of Hockey as issued by the Hockey Rules Board of the International Hockey Federation (referred to as the **FIH Rules**).

All matches will also be subject to any additional trial rules adopted by NZHF or Auckland Hockey and any additional local rules adopted by Auckland Hockey and set out in the Rules section of the Club Council Policy.

The FIH Rules together with any additional trial rules and local rules are collectively referred to as the **Rules**

3.2 Misconduct

Misconduct, as referred to in the FIH Rules, is deemed to include:

- Striking at any participant or any spectator, whether it be with stick, fist or foot or otherwise
- Spitting of any nature
- Refusal to take measures to stop bleeding or other secretions which might cause a turf to be potentially infected in an avoidable manner
- Verbal abuse or any display of dissent
- Swearing of any nature
- Any unseemly or unsporting behaviour
- Any behaviour which brings disrepute to the sport of Hockey or Auckland Hockey

4 Personal Penalties and Points

4.1 Awarding of Personal Penalties (Cards)

During a match, an umpire may award personal penalties (cards) to any participant in accordance with the FIH Rules. The award of such personal penalties will normally be indicated by the use of coloured cards (green, yellow or red) as specified in the FIH Rules but the actual use of a card is not essential provided the umpire clearly communicates the nature of the personal penalty that is awarded.

The umpires must record on the match card the details of all cards awarded during a match, including the penalty points to accrue.

If a red card is awarded, the umpires must provide a written report of the incident to Auckland Hockey within 24 hours of the end of the match. This report will be promptly forwarded to the Judicial Commissioner.

If a red card is awarded by a non affiliated Umpire a written report must still be provided and will be forwarded to the Judicial Commissioner to decide the appropriate action.

4.2 Accrual of Penalty Points

The award of any card during a match will be accompanied by the accrual of penalty points for the participant concerned, according to the type of card awarded, as follows:

Green	1 Point
Yellow	3 to 6 Points - in matches controlled by Auckland Hockey or NZHF appointed umpires. The number of points is to be determined jointly by the umpires at the end of the match and should reflect the length of the suspension. Should the umpires fail to record the number of points, 3 points will be accrued.
Yellow	3 Points - in matches controlled by club appointed umpires.
Red	12 Points.

Penalty points will be accrued in respect of all cards awarded in all matches covered by this Code of Conduct. **The managers of representative teams must record and report to Auckland Hockey all cards awarded and penalty points accrued during Host Association controlled matches.**

Where a participant other than a player is awarded a card, the penalty points will accrue to that participant, not the player who is required to leave the field in their stead. Auckland Hockey will advise the Club concerned, in writing, of the details of incidents where cards are awarded to participants other than players.

4.3 Life of Penalty Points

Penalty points which accrue to a participant during a match will have a **life of 12 months** from the date of the match, after which the points will be removed from their record.

4.4 Identification of Participants receiving Personal Penalties

Participants are required to identify themselves by name when requested by an umpire. Failure to do so will normally justify the award of a red card to the participant, unless the captain provides the name of the participant. Auckland Hockey has the power to suspend a team from the competition if a Club does not identify a participant to whom a card has been issued within 48 hours of a request for the name of the participant.

Umpires are required to identify themselves by name when requested by a participant.

5 Disciplinary Bodies

5.1 Judicial Commissioner

Prior to 1st April each year, the Executive Council of Auckland Hockey will appoint a Judicial Commissioner, whose role is to actively promote the observance and ensure the proper implementation of this Code of Conduct in the best interests of the sport of hockey and Auckland Hockey. The Judicial Commissioner will be selected having regard for the need to:

- Have an understanding of the Rules of hockey
- Conduct inquiries into alleged breaches of this Code of Conduct in a quasi-judicial manner in accordance with the principles of natural justice
- Deal with alleged breaches of this Code of Conduct in a fair and timely fashion

The principal responsibilities of the Judicial Commissioner are:

- To be available to advise Clubs on any matters relating to this Code of Conduct and to ensure that correct disciplinary procedures are followed.
- To initiate preventative intervention with Clubs where teams and/or participants are involved in regular breaches of this Code of Conduct.
- To meet with participants who receive automatic suspensions through the accumulation of penalty points
- To receive reports or complaints concerning any matters requiring a Judicial Hearing and arranging a hearing as soon as possible.
- To appoint at least two appropriate persons from the Judicial Committee to conduct each Judicial Hearing, having regard for the nature of the alleged breach, the parties involved and the need for impartiality.

- To act as the chairman of each Judicial Hearing or, if unavailable, to appoint the chairman of each Judicial Hearing.
- To communicate the decisions resulting from each Judicial Hearing to all the participants involved in the hearing, to all members of the Judicial Committee and to Auckland Hockey.
- To maintain a register of all reports, hearings and decisions made.
- To review this Code of Conduct annually, in conjunction with the Judicial Committee, and to recommend any changes to the Executive Council of Auckland Hockey.
- To recommend to the Executive Council of Auckland Hockey persons for appointment as members of the Judicial Committee.

5.2 Judicial Committee

From time to time the Executive Council of Auckland Hockey will appoint members to the Judicial Committee so that at any time it comprises between four and six people. The maximum term for any member of the Judicial Committee will be two years but upon retiring a member may be appointed for one further term of two years. The role of the Judicial Committee is to assist the Judicial Commissioner in administering this Code of Conduct and in particular to provide members for Judicial Hearings.

5.3 Appeal Committee

The Executive Council of Auckland Hockey will appoint an Appeal Committee, comprising between three and five members, on an ad hoc basis to hear each appeal against a decision made at a Judicial Hearing. Neither the Judicial Commissioner nor any members of the Judicial Committee may be appointed to an Appeal Committee.

6 Disciplinary Procedures

6.1 Automatic suspensions

6.1.1 Through Accumulation of Penalty Points (other than by the award of a Red Card)

Upon accumulating a total of 12 penalty points or more, other than through the award of a red card, a participant will automatically be suspended for one match, during a period to be set by Auckland Hockey.

A judicial hearing must be convened if the participant has accumulated a total of 18 penalty points or more.

Additionally, the participant may be required to attend a meeting with the Judicial Commissioner.

Participants who are automatically suspended in this manner will be advised of this by Auckland Hockey by way of a written notice forwarded through their Club secretary. The participant may continue to participate in matches until such time as this notice is received by the Club secretary. The notice will contain details of the various cards issued, the period during which the suspension is to occur and, if applicable, details of the meeting to take place with the Judicial Commissioner.

6.1.2 Through the Award of a Red Card

12 penalty points will accrue to a participant who is awarded a red card and they will be automatically suspended for one match. This suspension will commence at the conclusion of the match in which the card is awarded and no additional notice is required.

Upon receipt of the umpire's report following the award of a red card, the Judicial Commissioner will, in addition to the automatic suspension, either:

- Meet with the participant to discuss their conduct, or
- Convene a Judicial Hearing, which may result in the imposition of whatever additional suspension is considered appropriate.

A Judicial Hearing must be convened if the participant has accumulated a total of 18 penalty points or more.

Auckland Hockey will advise the participant of any such Judicial Hearing by way of a notice forwarded through their Club secretary.

A Club may challenge the award of a red card within 48 hours of the end of the match. Written notice of such a challenge must be delivered to Auckland Hockey, accompanied by the payment of a fee of \$100 (refundable only if the challenge is successful). If a challenge is lodged a Judicial Hearing will be held and the automatic suspension will be deferred until after the Judicial Hearing. If the Judicial Hearing upholds the award of the red card it will impose a suspension of at least one further match additional to the automatic one match suspension. If the Judicial Hearing upholds the challenge the red card and the associated penalty points will be expunged from the participant's record. If a challenge to a red card is upheld the Judicial Commissioner will meet with the match umpires to review the incident.

If the Judicial Commissioner determines that there will be a Judicial Hearing for a red card incident AND the Club also challenges the red card, the matter will be dealt with by one Judicial Hearing.

6.1.3 Situation Upon Completion of a Suspension

Following the completion of a suspension, only 6 penalty points shall be deducted from the participant's record, all the remaining points shall remain on the participant's record for a period of 12 months from the date that the suspension was completed.

Players re-accumulating a total of 12 points or more within 6 months of the completion of a suspension will be required to appear at a Judicial Hearing, which may result in the imposition of whatever period of suspension is considered appropriate.

Auckland Hockey will advise the participant of any such Judicial Hearing by way of a notice forwarded through their Club secretary

6.2 Judicial Hearings

Judicial Hearings may be held either as a consequence of automatic suspensions, as set out above, or to deal with matters raised by way of a written complaint sent by a Club to Auckland Hockey.

A Judicial Hearing may be held to deal with any matters relating to behaviour by any participant who is detrimental to the sport of Hockey or Auckland Hockey, whether that behaviour takes place during a match or at some other time.

Matters involving more than one person may be dealt with together in one hearing.

6.2.1 Notice of Hearing

Written notice of a Judicial Hearing will be sent to the secretary of the Club to which the participant is affiliated as soon as possible after the need for a hearing becomes known. Wherever possible, written notice will be accompanied by verbal advice to both the Club and the participant.

The written notice must contain details of the breach or complaint and copies of any written evidence to hand, eg, umpires' reports or letters of complaint.

6.2.2 Attendance and Representation

Judicial Hearings may be held without the participant being present if the participant chooses, by notice or their action, not to attend the hearing. Failure to respond to a notice of a Judicial Hearing will be interpreted as the participant electing not to attend the hearing when it is clear that the participant has received the notice and has had adequate time to respond.

Participants have the right to be represented at the hearing and to respond to any evidence given.

6.2.3 Conduct of Proceedings

Judicial Hearings will be conducted in a fair and just manner in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The proceedings will be recorded. The following procedure will be adopted:

1. The Judicial Commissioner and the members of Judicial Committee hearing the matter (the Judiciary) will be introduced
2. Other parties at the hearing will be identified
3. The matters to be heard will be detailed
4. The participant will be asked to plead
5. The participant will be given the opportunity to make a statement
6. The evidence will be considered, eg, umpires' reports, witnesses' statements
7. The participant will be given the opportunity to make a further statement
8. The Judiciary will consider the charges, the evidence and the participant's statements
9. The decision of the Judiciary will be delivered
10. Submissions on the penalty will be received
11. The Judiciary will consider the penalty
12. The decision of the Judiciary will be delivered along with reasons thereof
13. The participant will be advised of the right of appeal and the consequences of the penalty

14. The Judiciary may adjourn or postpone a hearing

6.2.4 Burden of Proof

The burden of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.

6.2.5 Notice of Decisions

The decisions from a Judicial Hearing will be recorded in writing and sent to the Club or organisation to which the participant is affiliated, any other Club or organisation involved, and Auckland Hockey as soon as possible.

The penalty must specify the games to be covered, including both the grade level and the number of games.

6.2.6 Communication of decisions to clubs

All Clubs will be advised of summary details of all Judicial Hearings on a regular basis, including the matters heard and the decisions, along with reasons for the decisions where appropriate.

6.3 Appeals against Decisions of Judicial Hearings

An appeal against the decision of a Judicial Hearing may only be made on the grounds that:

- The penalty imposed is greater than the minimum guideline in Schedule 1, or
- The correct judicial process was not followed at the hearing

An appeal may only be made by a Club and must be made in writing to Auckland Hockey within 48 hours of the receipt of the written decision of a Judicial Hearing by the Club secretary.

The notice of appeal must clearly state the grounds on which the appeal is made and must be accompanied by the payment of a fee of \$100 (refundable only if the appeal is successful).

At the earliest opportunity the Executive Council will appoint an Appeal Committee to hear the appeal (refer 5.3 above).

The role of an Appeal Committee is not to simply re-hear a matter but to determine whether or not the Judicial Hearing was conducted correctly and fairly in accordance with this Code of Conduct.

An Appeal Committee will not normally conduct a hearing but will determine the matter after a review of the written record of the Judicial Hearing, including all reports and statements of evidence. An Appeal Committee may interview any of the members of the Judiciary.

An Appeal Committee may conduct a hearing if it determines that this is necessary, in which case all the parties who attended the Judicial Hearing will be given adequate written notice of such hearing.

6.4 Appeals to NZHF

A Club has a constitutional right to appeal any decision of Auckland Hockey, including any decision of an Appeal Committee, to NZHF but only in so far as it concerns any point of law.

6.5 General

6.5.1 Factors to be considered in determining guilt or otherwise

The past disciplinary record of a participant is not to be considered in determining their guilt or otherwise.

The extent of any injury inflicted by a participant can be considered in determining their guilt or otherwise.

6.5.2 Factors to be considered in determining penalties

The penalty should reflect the intentions of the participant and the potential danger associated with the offence.

Greater significance should be placed on the participant's intention than on the actual outcome, eg, the fact that a player swings a stick at another player is more critical to determining the extent of the penalty than whether or not it actually connects or causes significant injury. The consequences of any action may, however, influence the penalty to the extent that this is felt to be equitable. For example, a penalty might reflect the number of weeks a player is unable to play as a consequence of injury caused to him or her.

The past disciplinary record of the participant should also be considered. Repeat offenders should receive more severe penalties.

6.5.3 Provocation and Retaliation

In any case in which it is claimed that a participant was guilty of an offence by reason of provocative conduct on the part of another participant or person, such provocative conduct shall be no defence to the participant's actions but may be taken into account in determining the penalty.

The fact that a participant acted in retaliation shall be no defence but may be taken into account in determining the penalty.

6.5.4 Penalty Guidelines

Schedule 1 to this Code of Conduct specifies penalty guidelines for various offences. These guidelines should be followed in order to ensure consistency in the determination of penalties for similar offences.

These guidelines are not prescriptive and there may be extenuating circumstances that warrant a penalty less severe than the minimum specified in the guidelines.

A suspended penalty is an alternative that might be used in special circumstances.

Alternatively, the nature of an incident and/or the participant's past disciplinary record may justify a more severe penalty than the minimum in the guidelines. It should be noted, however, that a penalty in excess of the minimum guidelines is grounds for an appeal and particular care should therefore be taken in exercising this discretion.

6.5.5 Proceedings not to be Invalidated for Technical Reasons

No proceedings heard shall be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality provided there has been no miscarriage of justice.

Schedule 1 – Penalty Guidelines

<p>1. Disputing an umpire’s decision, serious reluctance to accept decisions, use of lewd gestures.</p>	<p>Minimum of 1 Match</p>
<p>2. Abuse of a participant or umpire (in the case of ugly abuse a further penalty).</p>	<p>Minimum of 2 Matches</p>
<p>3. Persistent and deliberate breach of the Rules of Hockey (generally considered dangerous and intimidating) following a warning from an umpire.</p>	<p>Minimum of 2 Matches</p>
<p>4. Acts detrimental to a fixture/competition e.g. misbehaviour at a centre – abuse of equipment.</p>	<p>Minimum of 2 Matches</p>
<p>5. Abusive conduct with a spectator.</p>	<p>Minimum of 4 Matches.</p>
<p>6. Striking a participant with or without a stick – first offence.</p>	<p>Minimum of 2 Matches to Life</p>
<p>7. Striking a participant with or without a stick – second offence.</p>	<p>Minimum of 20 Matches to Life</p>
<p>8. Assault or battery to a participant, spectator or umpire.</p>	<p>Minimum of 4 Matches to Life</p>