



Competition Misconduct and Umpire Abuse Policy

Policy Rationale

Waikato Hockey Association is carrying forward its zero-tolerance approach towards misconduct and umpire abuse for the coming 2024 season.

Waikato Hockey endeavours to recruit, support, and retain umpires across all grades, to improve our overall Hockey product and experience for all participants. To do this, we are motivated to create competitions that are positive and enjoyable for all.

Policy Purpose

To give clarity to all Waikato Hockey community participants (players, umpires, officials, coaches and spectators) on what is considered misconduct and umpire abuse; and provide clear guidelines as to the appropriate penalties.

Competitions Definition

All competitions that are owned and delivered by Waikato Hockey on behalf of its community.

Misconduct and Umpire Abuse Definitions

Players, Coaches, Managers or Team Officials who display the following conduct:

- Excessive verbal outbursts at self, other players, umpire, official, or spectator;
- Swearing at, or use of language or body gestures to dispute, protest or react in a provocative, disapproving or aggressive manner toward an umpire official, participant, spectator;
- Verbal abuse, physical abuse, or threatening behaviour toward an umpire, official, participant or spectator;

from the field of play, dugout or side-line will be temporarily or permanently suspended, and points awarded in respect to cards issued for offences.

Cumulative Points for

Points will be recorded and individuals who consistently offend may be required to appear before the Judicial Committee who may impose further penalties/suspension as deemed appropriate. Points received for misconduct and/or umpire abuse are included in the overall accumulation of personal penalty points and will also be monitored separately with the appropriate penalties applied.




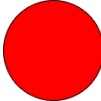
Waikato Hockey and Hockey New Zealand Standards of Conduct

All Participants shall, at all times, conduct themselves fairly and in a proper manner, including maintaining a high standard of personal conduct.

The following shall be regarded as conduct which is improper, unfair and unacceptable (direct wording from HNZ Code of Conduct):

- Verbal or physical abuse, or hostility, towards any other Participant, person or any other member of the public.
- Disputing, protesting or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner, in an inappropriate way, toward any decision made by an umpire or official.
- Charging or advancing towards an umpire or technical official in an aggressive manner while appealing.
- Using rude or abusive language or hand signals
- Abuse of any hockey equipment, or closing, or venue equipment
- Making any detrimental public statements (including electronic media)

Penalties for Misconduct and Umpire Abuse

				
Conduct	Excessive verbal outbursts at self, other players, umpire, official, or spectator	Swearing at, or use of language or body gestures to dispute, protest or react in a provocative, disapproving or aggressive manner toward an umpire, official, participant, spectator	2 nd or continuous 2min or 5min criteria.	Verbal abuse, physical abuse, or threatening behaviour toward an umpire, official, participant or spectator
Players	2 minute player suspension 2 player misconduct points	5 minute player suspension 4 player misconduct points	10 minute player suspension 6 player misconduct points	Permanent player suspension 12 player misconduct points
Coach, Manager, Team Official	2 minute captain suspension 2 misconduct points to coach, manager or team official	5 minute captain suspension 4 misconduct points to coach, manager or team official	10 minute captains suspension 6 misconduct points to coach, manager or team official	Permanent participant suspension 12 misconduct points to coach, manager or team official

Penalties for Accumulative Misconduct Points

Participants	Teams
<p>Misconduct points gained from cards specifically for misconduct and/or umpire abuse will be recorded.</p> <p>Individual participants who reach 6 points specifically for misconduct and/or umpire abuse will be advised by WHA in writing that they have been automatically <u>suspended for at least one match</u> to be approved by the WHA.</p> <p>Following the suspension, three misconduct points will remain credited to the Participant, and shall remain on the record of the Participant for a <u>duration of 12 months</u>.</p> <p>Any further 3 misconduct points awarded will result in a judicial hearing and further penalties being awarded.</p>	<p>Total team misconduct points gained from cards specifically for misconduct and/or umpire abuse will be recorded.</p> <p>Teams who reach 18 points misconduct points including coaches, managers and team officials, will be advised by the WHA in writing that they have been automatically deducted <u>4 competition points</u>.</p> <p>If a team reaches 24 misconduct points, an additional <u>8 points</u> will be deducted.</p> <p>If a team reaches 30 misconduct points, the club will be requested in writing to front the Judicial committee who will decide any further penalty, points deduction, game forfeiture, finals cancellation, monetary fine or other penalties deemed appropriate.</p>

Note: Team captains are responsible for their players on field behaviour. Team Managers are responsible for the behaviour of any persons associated with team inside the dugouts.

Review Clause: A full review of this Policy will be undertaken ahead of the 2025 season start (Feb 2025).