



30 March 2023

Kia ora Canterbury Hockey Community,

Canterbury Hockey are proud to communicate to our community that as an association we are taking a zero-tolerance stance towards umpire abuse for the upcoming winter season.

For the betterment of our sport, CHA is constantly endeavouring to attract, recruit and retain more umpires, across all grades, to improve our overall hockey product and experience for everyone.

To do this, we are motivated to create competitions and environments that are positive and enjoyable for all participants – players, coaches, manager, umpires and officials.

Following a significant amount of feedback from our entire community (players and umpires) it is apparent we do in fact have an umpire abuse issue, and feel it is time to enforce some changes to address this unwanted problem within our sport and community.

To support this change, we are introducing two clear initiatives for the 2023 season:

1. Umpires will have the power and will be encouraged to award **10 minute Yellow Cards** to any players that demonstrate umpire abuse (defined below) at any stage of the match from on the field or on the sideline.
Although this isn't a new rule, CHA would like to see it officiated more often to help enforce the fact that this type of behaviour is not acceptable within the Canterbury Hockey community.
2. The introduction of a **one match suspension rule** for repeated umpire abuse. If a player receives two 10 minute Yellow Cards in a 4 week period for umpire abuse, the player will automatically receive a one match suspension.
CHA and the CHA Judicial Committee also hold the right to open a complete judicial investigation process following the one match suspension rule being activated.

To clarify – CHA deems umpire abuse to be:

- a) Excessive verbal outbursts or swearing towards an umpire or match official
- b) Use of language, swearing or body gestures to dispute or protest a decision in an aggressive manner toward an umpire or match official
- c) Threatening behaviour toward an umpire or match official

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to help deliver a better experience and higher level of enjoyment for all participants involved in our competitions.

If you have any questions around this initiative please do not hesitate to contact either Shane or Ethan to discuss further.

Ngā mihi nui,

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