

Oxton Hockey Club



Disciplinary Code

1. Our Commitment: The Spirit of Hockey

Oxton HC is proud to be part of the "Hockey Family" and fully adopts England Hockey's Spirit of Hockey - Code of Conduct. Hockey is a sport that should be enjoyed by everyone - players, officials, volunteers, and spectators.

Our Core Values:

- **Inclusivity:** We nurture a welcoming environment regardless of background, ability, or identity.
- **Integrity:** We uphold honesty, kindness, and sportsmanship both on and off the pitch.
- **Respect:** We respect the rights and dignity of others, accepting decisions from umpires and officials without question.
- **Fair Play:** We play within the rules and the "spirit" of the game, winning with grace and accepting defeat with dignity.

2. On-Pitch Discipline: The Card System

Because red and yellow cards carry wider implications for both the player and the club, the following supportive process applies:

A. Yellow Cards

- **Reporting:** Captains must report any yellow card to the Club Disciplinary Officer (CDO) by the Monday evening following the match.
- **Supportive Review:** Anyone receiving three yellow cards in a season may be invited to a meeting with the Disciplinary Panel to discuss the circumstances.
- **Club Action:** OHC reserves the right to impose further measures if a member's conduct is found to bring the club into disrepute.

B. Red Cards

- **Immediate Notification:** Captains must report Red Card incidents **immediately** to the CDO. The CDO will then inform the Secretary and Club Chair.
- **Member Support Session:** By the Monday following the incident, the CDO or their nominated deputy will hold an informal conversation (ideally in person) with the member.

- **Purpose of the Session:** This is a supportive check-in to ensure the member understands the England Hockey (EH) Red Card & Match Day Misconduct Regulations. The CDO will explain:
 - Mandatory minimum suspension periods and restricted activities.
 - That while the card itself cannot be appealed, extensions to the minimum suspension can be.
- **Club Disciplinary Panel:** The member will be invited to meet the Club Disciplinary Panel once the final decision is received from the County Disciplinary Administrator.

3. General Conduct & Complaints (Off-Pitch)

For any non-matchday disputes or grievances between members, social behaviour concerns, or digital conduct issues, Oxton HC follows a structured path under OHC Rule 7.

- **Initial Liaison:** While formal complaints are submitted in writing to the Secretary, the CDO will be notified immediately to act as the member's primary point of contact.
- **Supportive Outreach:** Much like the Red Card process, the CDO will offer an informal conversation with the member to explain the complaint, the club's procedures, and the timeline for resolution.
- **Committee Hearing:** The Disciplinary Panel will meet to hear the complaint within 14 days of it being lodged.
- **Welfare Integration:** If the conduct involves the safety or wellbeing of young people, the Club Welfare Officer will take the lead in accordance with England Hockey's safeguarding standards.

4. Your Rights During a Hearing

Oxton HC is committed to "Natural Justice." In any formal meeting:

- **The Right to be Heard:** You have the right to attend and state your case.
- **Representation:** You have the right to bring one fellow Oxton HC member to the meeting for support or to act as a representative.
- **Confidentiality:** All proceedings are handled with the utmost discretion.

5. The Disciplinary Panel & Appeals

- **The Panel:** Consists of three members: The Club Chair (or Vice Chair), the CDO, and a nominated Management Team member.
- **Appeals:** You have the right to appeal a Panel decision to the full Club Management Team.
- **Finality:** The decision of the full Management Team on appeal is final.

Disciplinary Code - Version Control

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