

# **IHA GAMES DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

## **PRINCIPLES BEING APPLIED**

In dealing with discipline relating to Irish Competition matches, the following principles apply:

### **Club Competitions - Outdoor (Cups and Irish Hockey League):**

- Yellow cards accumulated in all Irish competitions will be counted in totality across the season
- The accumulation of yellow cards is reset to zero at the beginning of each season
- The Games Disciplinary Panel will seek to ensure that sanctions are served in the following order:
  - In the next Irish Club Competition match for the player in the current season
  - In another Irish Competition within the current season (e.g. Interpros)
  - If it is the end of the season, sanctions will be carried forward to the next season/s
- When a sanction is applied, it will apply to all hockey – including Branch hockey

### **Tournament Competitions (Interpros, Colleges, Schools, Indoor Wildcard Playoffs):**

- The Tournament Director has responsibility and authority for discipline issues arising at the Tournament.
- The TD will seek to ensure sanctions are served within the tournament.
- If the player's team is taking no further part in the Tournament, sanctions will be carried forward to other Irish Competitions and seasons, if required.

### **Red Card Definition**

- Red Card means a straight Red Card as opposed to 2 yellows making a Red Card. A Red Card for a 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow – will count as 2 yellows towards an accumulation of 3.

### **Definition of Sanctions**

The following decisions, while not exhaustive, are available to the Disciplinary Panel and may be applied to an individual or Club

- dismiss the case
- no further action required
- issue warning as to future conduct
- suspension for a number of matches
- suspension for a period of time
- suspension "sine die"

- suspension imposed but "deferred" for a period of time
- fine imposed on Club

When deliberating on a decision, the Disciplinary Panel may consider the following:

- any sanction imposed on an individual by the Club in respect of the offence
- the individual/Club's previous record

Where a suspension is imposed, the suspension bars the player from participating in any capacity, ie. playing, coaching, managing or umpiring, during the period of the suspension.

## **DOCUMENT LAYOUT**

Section 1 applies to all Irish Cup Competitions and to the Irish Hockey League excluding the Wildcard Play-offs, which are governed by the IHA Disciplinary Procedure for Tournaments (Section 2).

Section 2 applies to all Irish Tournament Format Competitions.

## **TRACKING SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS**

A central database will be maintained by the IHA Office to track the accumulation of Red and Yellow Cards issued to players while playing in IHA Competitions. The database will also be used to track the serving of sanctions and suspensions. The database will record the following information:

- Player's name
- Colour, date and competition of each card earned
- Card accumulation totals
- Nominated Date and competition for each sanction/suspension (current or following season)
- Actual date and competition that the sanction/suspension was served

## **SECTION I**

### **I.1 GAMES DISCIPLINARY PANEL**

- I.1.1 The Chair of the Games Disciplinary Panel shall be appointed annually by the IHA Board.
- I.1.2 The Games Disciplinary Panel shall contain up to 6 personnel appointed annually by the IHA CE.
- I.1.3 For the purposes of any hearing or decision to be made by the Games Disciplinary Panel, the Chair will request any two of the Panel members to act with him/her as the Games Disciplinary Tribunal.

- I.1.4 No person who has previously been involved in the incident or is in any way connected to the person or body involved in the incident may sit on the Games Disciplinary Tribunal relating to the matter.
- I.1.5 The Chair will invoke a Games Disciplinary Tribunal on being notified by the IHA Office that a Red Card Report has been received or an accumulation of 3 yellow cards.
- I.1.6 The Games Disciplinary Tribunal will be entitled, if required, to call upon and accept legal advice from a legal assessor in the event that legal issues are raised in the context of a Disciplinary matter.

## **I.2 RED CARD**

- I.2.1 The Umpire who issued the Red Card shall submit a Red Card Report which should arrive at the IHA Office within 72 hours of the completion of the match. The Umpire shall not engage in any communications with the player concerned or representatives of the player's club prior to, or subsequent to, completing the Red Card Report.
- I.2.2 Where a Technical Officer has been appointed to a match, the Match Report shall be submitted to the IHA Office, and should arrive within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

## **I.3 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

- I.3.1 The Games Disciplinary Tribunal will review the contents of the Red Card Report to decide whether the mandatory minimum suspension (refer I.4.1) should be increased.
- I.3.2 The Games Disciplinary Tribunal shall decide when the minimum suspension shall be applied and, if applicable, when any further suspension shall be applied.
- I.3.3 The decision of the Games Disciplinary Tribunal shall be communicated within 24 hours to the following:
  - The Club Secretary of the player concerned;
  - The Competitions Working Group and competition Sub Working Group, as appropriate
  - The Branch Secretary of the player concerned;
  - The IHA Office

## **I.4 SANCTIONS**

- I.4.1 The **mandatory minimum period** of suspension for a ( Straight ) Red Card is one match, to be applied in the competition under which the Red Card was issued.
- I.4.2 If the player's team will be playing no further part in the current season in the Irish Competition in which the Red Card was issued, then the sanction will be served by the player in the following order:
  - In the player's next Irish Competition match, within the current season

- In the first match of the following season/s in an Irish Competition

#### **1.4.3 Additional Sanctions**

- In addition to the mandatory minimum suspension, the Games Disciplinary Tribunal may impose any additional sanction, including further suspension, if it deems fit.
- An additional sanction is likely, but not limited to, incidents where physical violence is used, attempted or threatened to another player, umpire or appointed Technical Official.

#### **1.4.4 Yellow Cards**

An accumulation by a player of 3 yellow cards in one season in all IHA run competitions, will lead in all cases to a Disciplinary Panel being convened and a decision on what action, if any, will be taken.

#### **1.4.5 Unfulfilled Matches**

Where the match in which a suspension was due to apply, but for whatever reason the game was not played or completed, the suspension must still be served as per 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 above.

In the event that a player is suspended as a result of an incident in a match which is then abandoned, the suspension shall take effect immediately i.e. the next match in the competition will be the first match for which the suspension takes effect.

### **1.5 APPEALS**

**1.5.1** Where a sanction or an additional sanction over and above the mandatory minimum suspension is applied by the Disciplinary Panel, the player or the player's club may appeal the sanction to an Appeals Board to be appointed by the IHA Management Board as outlined in the IHA Constitution, such appeal to be treated as if it were an appeal from a decision of the Games Disciplinary Panel under the IHA Constitution.

**1.5.2** Any sanction applied will stand until the appeal has been heard and finalised.

### **1.6 ABANDONED MATCHES**

Any disciplinary issues that occur prior to a match being abandoned or suspended will be dealt with under this Procedure. Conduct during an abandoned match still falls subject to the IHA Disciplinary Procedure, notwithstanding that the match may be abandoned or suspended.

## **SECTION 2**

### **2. DISCIPLINE – TOURNAMENTS**

#### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

**Section 2** applies to all Irish Competitions played under tournament conditions, including: Interprovincials, All Ireland Schools and Colleges Competitions, IHL Wildcards and Indoor.

#### **2.2 TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

**2.2.1** A Tournament Director will be appointed by the competition organising committee to run the tournament. The Tournament Director has full power and authority in matters concerning the conduct of the tournament in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the particular competition.

**2.2.2** The Tournament Director has the authority to suspend players, team officials or other officials, who, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, are guilty of misconduct. In deciding the length of any suspension, the Tournament Director is limited to the remaining matches of the tournament but may at his discretion, report the matter to the Chief Executive of the IHA for consideration as a disciplinary matter to be considered by the Games Disciplinary Panel, in which case further suspension and penalties may be considered and further to that impose a suspension that has effect beyond the conclusion of the tournament.

#### **2.3 RED CARD**

**2.3.1** The Umpire who issued the Red Card should submit a Red Card Report to the Tournament Director within 45 minutes of the completion of the match. The Umpire shall not engage in any communication with the player concerned or representatives of the player's club, school or branch prior to, or subsequent to, completing the Red Card Report.

**2.3.2** Where a Technical Officer has been appointed to a match, the Match Report should be submitted to the Tournament Director within 10 minutes of the completion of the match.

**2.3.3** The Tournament Director shall decide, based on the content of the Reports, whether to impose a further sanction beyond the **mandatory minimum suspension of one match and shall have the discretion to report the matter to the Chief Executive of the IHA as outlined in 2.2.2 above.**

**2.3.4** The Tournament Director shall communicate his/her decision to the player's Team Manager in writing within three hours of receiving the Umpire's Red Card Report.

#### **2.4 SANCTIONS**

**2.4.1** The **mandatory minimum period** of suspension is one match, to be applied in the next match of the tournament after which the Red Card was issued.

**2.4.2** If the player's team will be playing no further part in the tournament in which the Red Card was issued, then the sanction will be served in the following order

- In the player's next Irish Competition match, within the current season
- In the first match of the following season/s in an Irish Competition

#### **2.4.3 Additional Sanctions**

- In addition to the mandatory minimum suspension, the Tournament Director may impose any additional sanction, including further suspension, if he/she deems fit.
- An additional sanction is likely, but not limited to, where physical violence is used, attempted or threatened to another player, umpire or appointed Technical Official

#### **2.4.4 Yellow Cards**

- An accumulation by a player of 3 yellow cards in one season in all IHA run competitions will lead in all cases to the Tournament Director dealing with the accumulation as per 2.2.2 and making a decision on what action, if any, will be taken.
- Note: Yellow cards issued in the earlier rounds of the IHL and Irish Cup competitions carry forward and are included in the accumulated total of the IHL Finals and Wildcard Playoff Weekends.

### **2.5 APPEALS**

**2.5.1** Where a sanction or additional sanction over and above the mandatory minimum suspension has been applied by the Tournament Director, the player or the player's club, school or branch may appeal the further sanction or suspension within 30 minutes of receiving the decision from the Tournament Director, to the Tournament Appeal Panel. Such an appeal is to be treated as if it were an appeal from a decision of the Games Disciplinary Panel under the IHA Constitution.

**2.5.2** The Tournament Director will appoint a panel of 3 members to consider the appeal, which must be completed 1 hour before the player's next match.

**2.5.3** A Tournament Appeal Panel (including a Chairman) must be appointed in advance of all Tournaments by the Tournament Director to ensure that there is transparency in such appointments, and the Tournament Appeal Panel will be drawn from this Appeal Panel and consist of three members of the Appeal Panel.

**2.5.4** The decision of the Tournament Appeal Panel shall be final in respect of participation in the particular Tournament but does not preclude the Tournament Director from reporting conduct to the Chief Executive for further investigation under section 2.2.2.