

VANCOUVER FIELD HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINE

1. GENERAL

a. These Regulations provide the framework to ensure the maintenance of discipline and to penalize any action or misconduct at any time which brings the league into disrepute.

b. They shall apply to all players, umpires and coaches participating in the league.

c. Responsibility for implementing these Regulations and for the general disciplining of players, umpires, officials and spectators is placed upon all clubs and the league. There should be no attempt to protect a player or any other individual from the consequences of any misconduct.

d. Written records of all offences committed under these Regulations and the action taken should be kept by the league for a period of three years and shall be available for inspection.

e. Regulations Part 2 (Offences During a Game) applies to all matches at which one or both umpires are rated Provincial A or higher, or any other recognized equivalent rating.

If in a game umpired by lower/non-rated umpires a card is issued, the league is recommended to discipline the player concerned using these Regulations as a guideline.

Only in exceptional circumstances should the league impose less than the prescribed mandatory period of suspension if a player is issued a card by a lower/non-rated umpire.

f. Regulations Part 3 (Offences Other Than Those Committed During a Game) applies to incidents and offences committed outside the game at any time, and to any misconduct prejudicial to the league.

2. OFFENCES COMMITTED DURING THE GAME (including the half time interval and any penalty stroke competition)

a. A Red Card offence is one for which a player is suspended from further participation in a game.

b. The award of a Red Card results in an immediate and mandatory period of suspension from playing, umpiring, or acting, either from the side of or on the pitch, as a team coach, during any match within the jurisdiction of the league. Notice of the suspension will be passed on, and acted upon as per each association's policy, to all provincial leagues, BCFHA, and FHC. The suspension prescribed in 2c below shall consist of consecutive days beginning immediately after the match in which the Red Card is awarded. The day on which the Red Card is awarded shall count as Day 1 of the suspension.

(A Red Carded player shall not remain on the bench and therefore part of the team. The intention is not to prevent a player/coach fulfilling coaching commitments both during the week and in pre/post - match preparation, but not pitch-side during an actual match.)

c. Penalties

1. For an offence in which physical violence is used to:

- i) an umpire or Technical Delegate - 180 days
- ii) a player - 60 days
- iii) any other person - 60 days

2. For an offence in which physical violence is offered or threatened to:

- i) an umpire or Technical Delegate - 90 days
- ii) a player - 30 days
- iii) any other person - 30 days

3. For an offence in which physical violence is not offered or threatened - 16 days

d. It shall be the responsibility of each club to ensure that each of its players is aware of the penalties prescribed in 2c. Alleged ignorance will not be accepted as a defense on any breach of these Regulations.

e. The award of the Red Card by an umpire shall be regarded as the notification to the player and the club that the player has been penalized in accordance with Regulation 2. This shall be confirmed in writing as soon as possible.

f. The league may impose any further suspension as it may deem fit. It shall notify the club of any further suspension as soon as possible, and within the period of mandatory suspension.

g. Repeated Offences: For second and subsequent Red Card offences in any period of 12 months, commencing on the date of the first offence, the minimum penalty imposed shall be double that prescribed in 2c.

h. Any player issued a yellow card following a 16-day suspension in the same league season (September-April) shall be suspended for 16 days. Any further yellow card offences within the same half of the league season will result in a 30 day suspension.

i. Any player issued 2 Yellow Cards within 5 matches in the same half of the league season shall be suspended for 16 days. A third Yellow Card offence for that same player within the same half of the league season will result in a suspension for that player of 16 days. A fourth and any subsequent yellow card offence within the same half of the league season will result in a suspension of 30 days.

j. At the close of the league season all unfinished suspensions (except 2k. below) will be held over and completed during the following season. The league may request the BCFHA and FHC to continue any suspensions under 2c1 or 2c2 between seasons.

k. For any suspension greater than 180 days the time between seasons will be included as time served for that suspension.

3. OFFENCES OTHER THAN THOSE COMMITTED DURING A GAME

a. Any player, umpire, official or member of any league-affiliated club, BCFHA or FHC may report to the league any conduct which is considered prejudicial to the interests of the league. Any such report shall be confirmed as soon as possible in writing.

b. The league shall decide how to deal with such a report, acting as quickly as possible to determine such action and penalty as may be appropriate.

4. APPEALS

i) Offences During a Game (Regulation 2)

a. THERE SHALL BE NO RIGHT OF APPEAL OTHER THAN AGAINST THAT PART OF A PENALTY IN EXCESS OF THIRTY (30) DAYS.

b. Any appeal against a suspension (Regulation 2c) shall be made in writing within 14 days after the issue of a Red Card, or within 7 days after receipt of the umpires written report, whichever is the sooner. An appeal against an Additional Penalty (Regulation 2f) shall similarly be made in writing within 7 days of the notification of such penalty.

ii) Offences Other Than Those Committed During a Game.

Any appeal against a penalty imposed for conduct considered to be prejudicial to the interests of the league shall be made in writing within 7 days of the receipt by the individual or club concerned of notification of the penalty imposed.

iii) Any individual or club seeking to appeal shall be required to deposit a financial sum of \$50.00 with the league. An unsuccessful appellant shall be responsible for any expenses incurred in a disciplinary hearing including those costs that are over and above the \$50.00 deposit. In any unsuccessful appeal the deposit is forfeit. In the case of a successful appeal, the league may return, at its discretion, all or part of the deposit.

5. UMPIRES REPORTS

Umpires must note on the game card all Yellow and Red cards issued. In addition, the umpire involved must verbally report to the League Coordinator, on the day the offence occurred, any Red or Yellow Cards issued. In the case of all red or yellow card offences, the umpire must also submit a written report within 1 day of issuing the card.

Umpires must report all games by e-mail or phone within 24 hours of the completion of the match. Game cards are delivered to the League Coordinator as soon as possible by fax, scanned attachment, postal service or in person.

(August 8, 1995 A. Waterman)

(Revised 1999 VFHL Exec)

(Revised August 27 2008 VFHL AGM)

(Revised September 3, 2009 VFHL AGM)