



Umpire Duties and Responsibilities

General

It is vital that the two umpires controlling a match work together as a team. They have responsibilities before, during and after the match, and it is therefore important that they co-operate in all these matters.

Ground Inspection

Arrive at the ground early enough to enable adequate time to make an appropriate inspection of the ground. Umpires should either make the inspection together, or one umpire check one half, and the other umpire the other half.

The check-list should include:

1. Ground markings.
2. Position of goals.
3. Position of flag posts
4. Inspection of goal nets, back-boards and side-boards
 - Check that goal-posts and cross-bars are painted white.
 - Check that back-boards/side-boards are painted in a dark colour.
 - Check that there are no holes or bad tears in the goal netting. Club officials should be advised if the goals do not comply - request they be corrected as a matter of urgency.
5. Inspect circle, especially near the penalty corner battery area for undulations that may make the ball rise unexpectedly.

Any ground markings that are either incorrect or non-existent, or equipment faulty or wrongly positioned, should be rectified prior to the commencement of the game. However, do not scrape new markings on the ground.

Inspection of Players' Dress and Equipment

Prior to the commencement of the game, the umpires must ensure that players are not wearing or using equipment that may be dangerous to other players.

Umpires must also ensure that all players are wearing their appropriate uniform. Goalkeepers should wear a different coloured shirt from that of their own team, or that of their opposition. The shirt must be worn over any protective equipment a goalkeeper may be wearing. Goalkeepers are permitted to use the following equipment: Body Protectors, Pads, Kickers, Gauntlet Gloves, Headgear, Face masks and elbow pads. It is strongly recommended that goalkeepers wear protective equipment at all times.

The use of masks other than the recommended moulded plastic masks may be permitted provided that in the opinion of the umpire they do not constitute a danger to other players. Headgear incorporating a complete skull guard is permitted provided that it meets the requirement. However, masks that incorporate wire cages with protruding visors are considered dangerous and must not be permitted. Umpires should particularly check that there are not exposed buckles, etc. protruding from the mask or headgear.

After the Game

Check the score with your co-umpire. Fill out the necessary details on the match card. Sign the match-card and hand it to one of the team captains, or do whatever your local Association requires. Do not become involved in arguments with players, coaches or spectators after the game about particular decisions you may not have awarded.



Administrative Duties continued:

TEAM EFFORT

Good hockey umpiring is a team effort. Only two umpires together can achieve perfect control and full flow of the game. It is of paramount importance that two umpires who are going to be involved together contact each other to discuss their plan of cooperation and mutual assistance.

Before the Match

Pre-match agreements

The pre-match discussion should cover areas of control, interpretations, signals to each other, side, advantage signal, timing, simultaneous whistle and general assistance.

Pre-match inspection

To show (and make you aware) that you operate as a team you are advised to do the pre-match inspection of the pitch **together**. Pay special attention to the following items:

- **Goals** (right place, right construction)
- **Nets** (no holes, firmly attached)
- **Markings** (goal-line, circle, stroke spot)
- **Team colours** (clashing? numbers?)
- **Goalkeepers' shirts** (clashing?)
- **Captains' armbands.**

Make sure that you do the inspection well in time in order to enable grounds staff or coaches to make the required adjustments.

Warm-up

Once again to show (and make you aware of) a team effort, try to do a joint warm-up.

- **Loosen muscles (jog and stretch)**
- **Get mentally ready**
- **“Show” (that you prepare)**

During the Match

Once on the field, the full value of team-work comes into effect. Each umpire should watch his colleague and the two of them have to stick to their pre-match agreements. At no time in a match is the umpire off duty, because when play is in the other half an umpire must be alert to assist his partner and watch for those occasions when he is unsighted or for incidents “off the ball” when his colleague is concentrating on the area around the ball.

Halftime

At half time the umpires should stick together and review the first half. If necessary they should adapt their strategy for control, but **NEVER CHANGE THEIR INTERPRETATION.**

After the Match

Teamwork should continue to exist after the game. The most important aspect in this respect is **not to criticise** or comment on your colleague’s decisions in public.

Do not start discussions immediately after the game with your colleague on decisions made during the game. First, allow a little time for relaxing.

But after a cool down and a shower you should:

1. Analyse the game
2. Get feedback
3. Give feedback
4. Consider all this information