

19th October 2018

The guidelines for Sonning Hockey club's procedure for dissent towards umpires

This document outlines the disciplinary procedure for a Sonning hockey player receiving a yellow card for dissent. This has become necessary in order to address poor behaviour on the pitch in recent seasons and by playing for Sonning hockey club, each member agrees to abide by this procedure.

Dissent constitutes open, loud and clear use of word or gestures intended to question, contest, undermine or call the umpires' decision-making or management of the game into question.

All other offences that result in a player receiving a green, yellow or red card are not covered by these guidelines and will be dealt with by the clubs disciplinary committee as appropriate. Note red cards are viewed upon very dimly by the club disciplinary committee.

Yellow cards for dissent

Any player receiving a yellow card for dissent at any level during the season will have their case automatically reviewed by a disciplinary panel consisting of the relevant team captain or vice captain and two of the Sonning Hockey Club committee, preferably including the relevant sections' club captain and/or vice captain.

The review panel will determine by majority decision whether or not to apply this policy to the player in question. They will only disagree with the umpires' decision in exceptional circumstances. If the review panel agrees that this policy should be administered, then the following series of penalties will apply:

After one yellow card: The first award will result in a formal warning from the club to the player that their conduct is contrary to the spirit of Sonning hockey club.

After two yellow cards: The offending player will be required to umpire a Sonning hockey club fixture within three weeks in order to gain a greater appreciation for this side of the game. Should the player be unable to do so, then a suitable alternative will be suggested – this might include assisting with Colts hockey at Sonning for example. If no effort is made by the player then the offence is automatically upgraded to the penalty for three yellow cards.

After three yellow cards: The player will receive a one game club ban from Sonning Hockey Club for the next league fixture.

These penalties are cumulative through a league season. At the end of each season, all accumulated yellow cards will be removed. Any player receiving more than 3 yellow cards within one season will automatically incur a one game club ban for each additional yellow card.