



IF YOU HAVE A BAD EXPERIENCE

Umpiring is a high-pressure business. Results matter - and sometimes things get heated, and the umpires get the blame, rightly or wrongly.

The first thing to remember is that, almost certainly, you are not the first to have been in this situation – and **KHUA is here to help**. So if you'd like to talk things through, or just want a shoulder to cry on, feel free to pick up the phone and chat with any member of the Committee, but I'm sure everyone will be happy to help. On the day itself, try to remain calm, whatever happens. It can be difficult, for sure, but just because others are sounding off and saying things they may regret later, do your best not to join in!

There are three remedies open to you if you feel that things have gone “beyond the pail”. The first, for an incident **during** the course of a match, is a red card. Any red card incidents must be reported on the match report and then a red card report form must be completed and returned to the National Discipline Officer at England Hockey **within 48 hours**. **Please contact Alan Sargent first. He is the Kent Discipline Officer, his details can be found on the contact page!!**

The red card report form can be obtained from the website.

Issuing a red card can be a difficult experience and members are strongly advised to also notify the **KHUA** Chairman as soon as possible after the game so that the Association can help you in the process.

For serious incidents that occur **before** or **after** the match, an umpire may invoke the Match Day Misconduct procedure against an individual or individuals – but not against a team or a Club. The process for a Match Day Misconduct Report is similar to that of a Red Card report. If you are thinking of submitting such a complaint, we suggest that you consult with a member of the KHUA Committee, who can help guide you through the process.

Finally, county matches fall under the influence of the EH Code of Conduct. This obliges Clubs and teams to uphold standards of behaviour, and has “teeth” if Clubs and players behave badly. If you have a bad experience, and believe that action should be taken against the team or Club, you must contact a member of the Committee so that the wheels can be set in motion.