



## **PLAYER MANAGEMENT (including CONTROL from the Whistle to use of Cards – the ‘Control Ladder’)**

An umpire needs an appreciation of various PLAYER control techniques but should remember that no single script will be the master plan for every game. You should use all the tools at your disposal. Add this note to your Pre Match Check List topics and set up teamwork criteria for the game with your colleague:

- Set your standard of acceptability and STICK to it.
- To achieve this, follow the LOGICAL progression of:
  - o Whistle.
  - o Voice.
  - o Cards.

Safety of and empathy towards players and the protection of skill are paramount considerations. Remember too that the delivery of accurate decisions (at the right time and with the correct style) will be very important but be especially mindful of when the players choose to use:

- Bad language, any breaking down play tactics, dissent and rough or dangerous play.

What else do you have in your armoury?

- Your positive body language indicated by assertiveness, calmness and unflappability.
- You have varying combinations of whistle (remember you can increase the length & strength), voice (by being proactive) and the colour of the card.
- You have the team captain (see Rule 3.4).

Points are set out in this order:

- To maintain a BASIC simplicity of control measures.
- To offer the opportunity not to issue cards too early in the game UNLESS a ONE OFF incident has occurred that warrants a yellow card.
- After a ONE OFF incident bear in mind your voice and the green card are still available and remain in your armoury.
- Each umpire has a different tolerance level and this determines the point at which he/she moves up the control ladder.
- Consistency at each end of the pitch is essential.

In summarising it is very important that no SURPRISE decisions are delivered as these aggravate the players' reactions and undermine your authority.

A few points to finish:

- Do not get dragged into immediate post match discussion; go and change or go back to the Clubhouse and then discuss.
- Always be prepared to talk to players and coaches in the bar and find out their views of your decision making and your control of the game.
- Humility will always score you plenty of points – you can admit you may have made mistakes.
- AND later on, self analyse the game to adjust techniques for your next match.