

Ben Rhydding Hockey Club



Code Of Conduct – September 2016

The following Code of Conduct has been written to uphold the aims of Ben Rhydding Hockey Club and to help and protect all players, umpires and spectators involved in the playing of hockey regardless of whether it is in league games, friendly matches or training sessions. It should be read in conjunction with the rules of England Hockey Code of Discipline.

Each individual is accountable for his or her own actions. Whether you are playing, watching, coaching or umpiring any match, it is your personal responsibility to treat your own team, opposition players, coaches, spectators and the umpires with respect before, during and after the match.

There are additional responsibilities placed on individuals and these are detailed below.

Interaction With Umpires

- It is important to recognise that a game of hockey cannot take place without the presence of two umpires.
- Abuse of an umpire whether verbal or physical will not be tolerated. Anyone receiving more than one yellow card for verbal abuse will be considered for suspension by the club.
- Never argue with an umpire. If you have a query, ask your captain to approach the umpire at half time or after the game in a calm and courteous manner to get clarification. Do not pursue discussions in the changing rooms. Positive discussion between the players and the umpires is actively encouraged during the post match refreshment.

Pre Game

- On match days please arrive at the place stipulated at the correct time - ring the team captain or coach if you think you are going to be late. Make sure you have mobile numbers to contact your team captain or other members of your team and let them know yours so you can be contacted.
- Anyone who turns up obviously the worse for wear from the previous night socialising should not be surprised to find themselves in a lower team the following week.
- Do not knock balls up on the side of the pitch when another game is in progress. It is good policy not to go to the pitch until the previous game has finished. Warm up properly before the game and warm down after the game, it prevents injury and contributes to the team's success.

Kit

The club colours are maroon shirts, white shorts and maroon/white topped socks with a change of kit of white shirts, white shorts and maroon socks. Please bring both sets of kit to all games - the club can be fined for not wearing the right kit in league games. All players must have numbered shirts with no duplicate. Yorkshire leagues have recommended that all players must have a shirt with their unique club number; please consider this when ordering new kit.

During the Game

The Captain/Coach is responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators for the duration of the game. Do not put him/her under pressure by poor behaviour.

- A team can consist of 16 players; hence rolling substitutes should be expected. Whilst off the pitch wear a different colour top from your playing strip.
- Only warm up on your side of the team/bench area, not in front of any opposition bench or that half of the pitch.
- Coaches/managers should stay in designated areas close to the half way line and not cross over into the other half.
- Substituted players are expected to act with dignity and to contribute to the teams efforts by supporting their team mates.
- If you need a rest to recover from injury or for any other reason just ask to be substituted, it may help the team and your own performance.

During the Captain/Coach's team talks have the courtesy to listen to what is being said, they only have a few minutes to put their point across. Please do not interrupt or start rival conversations. Don't criticise or remonstrate with your team mates - every player has off days. It could be you next week, therefore encourage and support.

Keep hold of your stick, throwing it away in a rage will not help you tackle the opposition nor will it help your own team build the next attack.

Discipline

- The club want to achieve an exemplary record, and it should go without saying that those who undermine our efforts are risking their future with the club.
- We will not tolerate players getting booked or sent off. It gets the club a bad name and contrary to what some might believe, it does not help us to win matches.
- We expect umpires to be treated with respect before, during and after the game.

If for any reason a player is sent off with a yellow card they should leave the pitch quickly and under control so that the game can be restarted without undue delay. You are required to stay in the designated area and sit quietly - take time to reflect on your actions, take your punishment and learn from it.

The penalty for a red card will be at least the cost of the club's administration fees as well as the actions taken as detailed in the disciplinary procedures (see page 35 of the YHA handbook). Our club's disciplinary committee will review what additional actions should be taken. The fine for a yellow card and additional penalties will be considered by the club's disciplinary committee. Excessive numbers of cards mean our reputation will be severely tarnished.

Unprovoked aggression, intimidation and verbal abuse are not acceptable at this club.

Racist abuse will not be tolerated.

Spectators

Parents, ex-players, friends and others are always welcome to attend matches. It is a requirement of the North Hockey League that all spectators stay at the opposite side of the ground from the team area. Please comply with this request, regardless of the weather.

Show respect for your team's opponents and the umpires - without them there would be no game. Respect the umpires' decisions and positively support your own team and remember nobody makes mistakes on purpose; positive, encouraging comments can be motivational.

Post Game

- Warm down and stay together as a team regardless of the result. It helps with any following matches if you do this off the playing area.
- Do not approach the umpires and opponents on the pitch immediately after the game in an aggressive or abusive manner.
- At the end of the game always thank the umpires and shake hands with the opposition.
- Weekly subs should be paid to the team captain or nominees without them having to come looking for the money. You can catch them either before the game or after in the changing room or the club house. It is your responsibility to seek him/her out and pay, not for him/her to chase you; it should not be considered a game to avoid late payment.
- Try to get back to the club house or pub for a drink and encourage the opposition to come back also. This is the best time to seek clarification with umpires as mentioned earlier. Try speaking to members of the other teams; you make good friends that way.

Alcohol Policy

Ben Rhydding Sports Club confirms its policy that under no circumstances will the serving of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age be allowed.

Training

Serious contenders for places in any team are expected to attend training regularly. We go to training to get fit, to develop team spirit and to practice set pieces. It follows that if you are not training regularly you can't be as fit as you need to be and cannot be part of a team.

Regularly attend and work hard during training sessions "a player who fails to train is training to fail". If you can't attend training let your captain or coach know.

Communication

If you do not attend training, ring your Captain/Coach to find out which team you are in at the weekend. It is far less hassle for many to make one phone call than one to make many! Keep captains informed of your availability.

If you have a point to make to your captain, coach or a committee member about team selection or other matters, that is your right, but please don't rant at him/her in a crowded bar or on the touchline. Ring him/her, see him/her at training or talk to him/her in the club; let's not wash our dirty linen in public.

General

If you think there is a lot of responsibility spread around a small number of people, you're right! If anyone would like to volunteer for any job within the club, your offer would be gratefully received.

Please make new members welcome.

Finally, enjoy yourself, that's why we play. We want to win but we also want to win fairly and squarely.

Disciplinary Code

Ben Rhydding Hockey Club has established a good disciplinary record over a long period of time and is rightly proud of that fact. Despite ever increasing pressure in hockey the Club is committed to maintaining that record.

The disciplinary code provides formal action to be taken for a failure to meet the standards expected in respect of etiquette, behaviour and conduct. This applies both during matches and at all other times when representing the club or being seen to represent the club.

The award of a red card or three yellow cards in a season will require a player to appear before the Disciplinary Committee which comprises 2 senior committee members and the Chairman of Selectors (or their nominated substitutes). Ben Rhydding Ladies Hockey Club will convene their own Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee meeting will be convened within 10 days of the card being issued. In the case of a red card the procedures and sanctions laid down by England Hockey and approved by Yorkshire Hockey will apply.

Captains are reminded that they are responsible for the behaviour of all team players. Captains are required to report the awarding of cards and the details of the offence committed. The Chairman of Selectors will forward the information to the Disciplinary Committee as required.

The procedures of the Disciplinary Committee are:

- The members concerned will be advised of the matter of allegations in writing prior to the meeting
- If a player is asked appear they may bring along another member to speak on their behalf or to put any facts before the Disciplinary Chairman
- Minutes of meetings held will be recorded and these will be available for inspection by the members, on written request, where these relate to discussions concerning the member
- The decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be final, subject to the right of appeal laid out in the England Hockey Disciplinary Code.
- The Disciplinary Committee can impose any penalty that it considers appropriate including a recommendation of the Management Committee that the member be expelled from the Club. Such penalties may include:
 - Verbal warning (formal or informal)
 - Written warning
 - Suspension from playing
 - Suspension of membership of the Club for a period to be defined
 - Recommendation to the Management Committee of expulsion from the club
 - No further action

All penalties may have conditions attached at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

The Club will keep general behaviour under review as necessary. All players when representing the Club on and off the pitch shall act and dress accordingly. Hockey is a social sport to be enjoyed by all so please use your common sense.