

## **Misconduct Complaints**

The overriding purpose of the Disciplinary Regulations is to maintain and promote fair play, protect the welfare of Participants, and ensure that on-field and off-field misconduct is dealt with expeditiously, fairly, and through consistent and uniform processes. Accordingly, the Disciplinary process is intended to apply only to cases of serious misconduct, and not to general dissatisfaction, complaints, grievances, or disputes, which should be resolved “club to club” or for which alternative procedures exist and are available on England Hockey’s website.

The Misconduct process in the South East is administered by a Disciplinary Panel (“the Panel”), which, in carrying out its functions, has regard to the Spirit of Hockey. This states that “everyone contributes to an environment that is safe, respectable and enjoyable.” For incidents during games the Panel must be satisfied that the conduct in question involves either particularly reckless or dangerous physicality during a match, or egregious conduct that is contrary to the standards of behaviour expected of participants. Such conduct may properly fall within the Misconduct process whether or not it was identified or sanctioned by the umpires at the time, recognising that participants must be able to rely on the protection afforded by England Hockey’s disciplinary framework. The Panel therefore accepts that instances of particularly egregious physicality may engage the Misconduct process irrespective of any contemporaneous umpiring decision.

However, the Disciplinary Committee emphasises that the Misconduct regime is not designed to operate as an appellate mechanism against umpiring decisions, nor to address routine instances of unsportsmanlike conduct occurring during a match. A clear distinction must be maintained between conduct that is truly exceptional and warrants disciplinary intervention, and behaviour that, while falling below expected standards, does not meet the higher threshold required for action under the Disciplinary Regulations.

Matters that fall short of misconduct offences are more appropriately addressed through existing channels, including club-to-club discussions, umpiring feedback reports, or league management procedures. The Misconduct process must remain reserved for conduct that is genuinely serious, exceptional, and properly characterised as egregious.

For more information on the Misconduct Complaint process visit [Misconduct Complaints | England Hockey](#)

Signed  
Martin Lewis.

ADA SE Area