



LONDON AREA DISCIPLINE REPORT - 2022/2023

1. For this season, we have recruited two Assistant Area Disciplinary Administrators - Alistair Clift and Marilyn Walker - who have helped manage the increased workload this year. I am very grateful for their assistance with running London Area discipline. We still have vacancies for additional Assistant Area Disciplinary Administrators. Anyone who is interested should contact me directly at discipline@london.hockey.
2. This season there were 13 red cards / MMOs issued to players of London clubs that resulted in suspensions of 16 days or more (plus one 'technical red', i.e. a red card shown for two yellow cards for two separate, but the same, minor offences, which does not result in any suspension beyond the match in which the red card was shown). There was also one disrepute offence by a player that led to a lengthy playing suspension.
3. One disrepute complaint against an individual was not upheld.
4. To put those statistics in context, there have been a total of 234 red card, MMO or disrepute offences nationwide since the end of last season.
5. Disrepute complaints have also been upheld against two London clubs relating to their players' conduct during matches, in particular towards umpires. One of those clubs has had two disrepute complaints against it upheld this season. A further disrepute complaint against another club was rejected. A fifth similar disrepute complaint against another club is outstanding (with the parties presently engaged in informal mediation).
6. Several of these disrepute complaints have been raised by the London Area Officiating team. Clubs should be aware that, where appropriate, the London Area Officiating Team will continue to raise such complaints.
7. Clubs are also reminded that the automatic mandatory minimum suspension for a red card or MMO offence is 16 days. However, the nationally agreed starting point for abuse towards umpires is 30 days, unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the specific case.
8. There have been no appeals to the London Area Disciplinary Appeal Panel. The current Chair of the Appeal Panel is Mark Bennett, who is also the Governance Director for the London Area. We would ideally like to recruit a new Chair who plays no role on the London Management Committee. There are also vacancies for Appeal Panel members. Anyone who is interested in taking on either role should again contact me.



9. I would like to take this opportunity to repeat a request that I made last year and to ask that all London clubs to pass on a reminder to their club umpires in relation to red card/MMO report forms. It is important that forms are submitted to me as soon as possible and in any event within 72 hours of the match and that they contain as much information as possible about the offence and surrounding circumstances. We have sometimes been hampered by red card/MMO report forms that are submitted late or do not contain enough information to help us decide how to categorise the offence or what sanction to impose without making further enquiries. This is obviously time-consuming and delays our decision-making. It is also helpful to receive comments from the supporting umpire - and there is a box form this on the standard template red card/MMO report form - and video footage if it is available.

Rupert Allen
London Area Disciplinary Administrator