

**THE DUTIES OF TECHNICAL/MATCH DELEGATES**  
**MATCHES PLAYED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF NHA**

Your attention is drawn to the following official guidance for Technical Delegates (**TDs**) and (**MDs**)

- The general bench area is the area between the two 22 metre lines alongside one of the touchlines. Each team's own bench area is that between the halfway line and the nearer 22 metre line.
- In addition to the TD, only players and team officials listed on the team sheet are allowed in the bench area during the game.
- Team officials may not leave their bench area during the game except for half time team talks, to deal with injuries, or to escort a player from the playing field.
- Ideally seating should be provided with a sensible distance separating the teams.
- Substitutes should remain within their bench area during the game except for half time team talks.
- Where possible, the bench area should be on the touchline that is furthest from the entrance to the playing area. Organised in this way, spectators are more likely to head for the nearer, unused touchline.
- Always refer to any more specific rules and regulations for individual competitions for instructions regarding **TDs/MDs**

**1. General**

Delegates are responsible for ensuring that the regulations of the NHA competitions are carried out. It is important that the delegates are conversant with the relevant rules and playing regulations for any matches that they are appointed to.

**2. Prior to the match**

- I. Delegates should arrive at the ground at least one hour before the scheduled start, or earlier if there is likely to be any doubt regarding the fitness of the pitch.
- II. Delegates should make themselves known to the umpires, team managers and captains.
- III. Delegates should check the playing area, the goals, nets, corner flags, team benches, pitch markings, technical table and sin bin chairs/area, and ensure that the home team carries out any repair work necessary. Ensure pitch surrounds/run-off are clear from obstruction.
- IV. If there is a doubt about the fitness of the pitch, the delegate, in consultation with the umpires and team officials, makes the final decision as to whether or not it is fit to play. (Once play has started it is the responsibility of the umpires to decide if a pitch is fit for play to continue.)
- V. Delegates should obtain teamsheets.

- VI. If one or both umpires fail to arrive, the delegate should take necessary action following the rules of the competition.
- VII. The delegate should confirm with the umpires who will be responsible for timing any suspensions and returning players to the pitch at the end of their suspension.

### **3. During the Match**

Delegates should remain in the vicinity of the team benches.

- I. It is the responsibility of the home club to steward any spectators, and delegates should ensure that this is done. It is beneficial if the team benches are on the other side of the pitch to spectators, unless there is a fence separating the spectators from the benches.
- II. Delegates should ensure that only those persons entered on the teamsheets occupy the team benches and stay in the vicinity of their bench. Warming up by players should take place between the team bench and the nearest corner flag.
- III. Delegates should record on the match sheet the starting XI of each side, with GK and Captain marked, the first time on to the pitch for each substitute, the goals, and cards given, and the full-time result.
- IV. Delegates should supervise the rolling substitutions in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- V. If a player is given a green card (2 minute suspension) or a yellow card (minimum 5 minute suspension), delegates must ensure that the player remains in the designated place (by the centre line) for the duration of the suspension. Team officials may not converse with the suspended player, who should remain quiet. The umpire, or delegate, as previously agreed, will signal when the player may go back on to the pitch.
- VI. The delegate should ensure that any player given a red card is escorted out of the playing area.

### **4. After the Match**

- I. The delegate should ensure that players do not approach the umpires in an aggressive manner.
- II. The delegate must ensure that all relevant personnel sign the match sheet immediately after the game.
- III. The delegate should enter any comments on the match report.
- IV. The complete match report and teamsheets should be returned to the home club's team representative without delay.

## **5. Delegates match pack**

Delegates are advised to take the following items with them to matches:

NHA Handbook

Current Rules of Hockey

Match Report Form

Stop Watch

Pens and Clipboard

Tape Measure

String

Scissors

Suitable Clothing and Footwear for the prevailing weather conditions