

NHA Guidance Notes for Pitchside Conduct

It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that good manner and courtesy prevails towards the opposition, umpires and other officials before, during and after the game.

Once the pitch is available, the Match Delegate (if appointed) or Home Captain shall assume authority for the pitch and its surrounding area.

Clubs are advised to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover and that they are aware of local health and safety regulations regarding the pitch and facilities.

Captains and/or Match Delegate (if appointed) should:

- Agree with the umpires the location of managers, coaches, substitutes and suspended players during their suspension and from where substitutions will take place.
- Satisfy themselves and the umpires as to the quality and safety of the pitch and its facilities and ensure that other pitch side furniture is removed to its safest location.
- Check the availability and location of an emergency telephone and first aid.
- Agree the location and allowed proximity of spectators.
- Ensure that substitutes should warm up in clothing in a colour other than the participating teams in the agreed area of the pitch side.
- Ensure that coaches and managers remain in their designated area.
- Ensure that vocal communication by team officials and players on the bench is not, in any way, directed at the umpires or players of the opposing team.
- Ensure that players not taking part in the game, or those in subsequent or previous matches, do not knock up or cool down on or near the pitch whilst the match is in progress.
- Ensure that post match inquests are held away from the pitch.
- Spectators should be advised, if necessary, of matters relating to their conduct, especially insofar as this affects the game in progress. Spectators should be kept away from the bench areas at all times and, where possible, should watch from the opposite side of the pitch. The onus is on the home club to take responsibility for spectators and their behavior.
- Ensure that small children are not allowed to wander freely around the perimeter of the pitch whilst a game is in progress. Children should remain under the control of their parent/guardian at all times.
- Ensure that babies in push chairs are not left parked on the side of the pitch.
- Captains, coaches and managers should be responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their players at all times.

Contravention of these Guidance Notes should be included in any match report and umpires are urged to report any abuse of them to County League/Tournament officials.