

HOCKEY UMPIRING TIPS 4
by
Chris Todd, EHB Level Three Umpire Coach

Pre MATCH PREPARATION for HOCKEY UMPIRES

Proper and thorough preparation is vital if success is to be achieved. If the preparation is poor, then the umpiring performance is almost certain to be equally poor.

FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL!!

Preparation for a particular match or tournament event may begin several days or even weeks before that event. It continues, changing emphasis and intensity, right up to the whistle that begins the match.

Each individual umpire will have his / her own routine in the days leading up to the match and indeed also during those last few hours and minutes before the match starts.

In their match preparation both umpires will need to consider the following :

01. Physical fitness (training)
02. Kit, including appropriate footwear for the surface, shirts, pullovers, whistles, coloured cards, etc.
03. Contact with colleague and any Match Officials, Assessors, Coaches, etc. in plenty of time prior to the match. As soon as you receive your particular appointment(s), contact your colleague(s) and have a brief discussion about when and where you will meet prior to the match. Also discuss shirt colours but remember to bring alternatives just in case one or both of the teams decide to change their shirt colours. It has happened and you certainly do not want to be taken by surprise and embarrassed!
04. Contact with the home team's representative.
05. Directions to the match venue and post match refreshments venue if different. Always allow sufficient time for travel.
06. The relevance of the particular match and any necessary information about the two teams.
07. Anything else which is sensible, appropriate and helpful.

Both umpires will need to have an organised routine.