

SEASON 2017-2018.

Welcome to the new season. As ever we are operating on a shoe string with the problem compounded in the Men's Divisions by all but 3 Prem Teams being in the West and all but 3 Div 1 Teams being in the East. On the Women's side, there simply are not enough umpires.

Your Panel Leads are as last year: Brian Linfield and Tom McCabe – Men's A and B Panels and Andy Eland and Jayne Smith – Women's A and B Panels respectively. They will be getting in contact with you shortly, if they have not already done so. However, unfortunately Andy will be unable to resume the role until after Xmas, so in the meantime I'll be looking after you.

This season we want to improve **consistency**, as this has been the major complaint from teams. The key to this is reading the **Pre - Season Briefing** carefully and then before each game conducting a thorough **Pre - Match chat** which unfortunately, on occasions, has not been happening.

1. The Pre - Match chat. This needs to focus on **how** you are going to interpret the rules, work with each other, manage and control the game, culminating in your game plan. To this end we have produced an aide memoir for you to print off, you could also print a pitch plan on the reverse. (See attached)

2. The use of radios still gives rise to concern. Please establish in detail **how, where and when** you would prefer to use the radios and ensure you are clear on the phrasing of requests/responses. Remember, radios are an addition not a substitute for communication with the players /bench: **ARENA UMPIRING!**

3. The use/misuse of Personal and Team penalties is one of the main areas of inconsistency.

a. Always take **the first opportunity** to set the standard and **educate**.

b. Consider the balance of **IMPACT and INTENT** on deciding the penalty as well as **frequency**.

c. Use the pre-match chat and radios during the game to be consistent.

4. Dissent /abuse from players, bench, spectators.

Sadly, this is an on- going problem and it is essential to 'nip it in the bud' whether through a word with an individual or a clear warning to the players followed up by the appropriate penalty.

It is the responsibility of the home team to steward any spectators and the help of the Match Official can be enlisted to do this.

Other than requesting that the spectator be removed from the ground if he/she continues the only thing you can do is to advise that any further abuse will lead to you issuing a **Disrepute charge** against the individual.

5. MMO. For an offence by a participant on the day before or after a game, which would have received a RED CARD during the game, a MATCH MISCONDUCT ORDER may be given. The offender must be clearly advised that an MMO has been issued.

Reminder -**Long Corner signal.** This is one flowing motion where the arm is brought up to shoulder height in the direction of where the ball has left the field and then points to the 23.

Two formats of the Pre- Season Briefing have been produced - one in the traditional form and one high tech, animated version. Choose to read which ever style suites you but, will you please give feedback on the content and presentation to your Panel Leads.

Finally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your Panel Lead, coach or myself if something has occurred in a game that it would be helpful to discuss. That is what we are here for.

Enjoy the season and good luck.

Annette K Badger. Chair NHUSP Sept 2017.