

Player Behaviour Policy - Guidance

During a game we all come across challenging individuals who seem to think it necessary to question every decision we, as umpires, make. There are a number of steps you can take to ensure that you can deal with these individuals effectively.

1. Pre-Game Day

Find out who your umpiring colleague will be and try and get in touch with them, arrange a time to meet prior to the game and confirm colours to be worn. Remember the umpires are the third team on the pitch and if we look the part on the pitch it goes a long way to selling decisions on the pitch and making yourselves credible.

2. Pre-Match chat – Umpires

Ensure that you arrive at the pitch in plenty of time for your game to meet your colleague and have a thorough pre-match chat. Decide what you and your colleague are going to do to combat any dissent you receive from the players. Decide what is acceptable and what is not acceptable, decide how you are going to sanction the unacceptable behaviour. **WHATEVER YOU DECIDE MAKE SURE YOU STICK TO THE PLAN DURING THE GAME.**

3. Pre-Match chat – Captains

When you call the captains together make sure you tell them that dissent is not acceptable and will be dealt with. Inform them how you are going to deal with any dissent – **IMPORTANT – WHATEVER YOU TELL THEM MAKE SURE YOU CARRY IT OUT DURING THE GAME – DO NOT TELL THEM ONE THING AND THEN DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT.** Tell the captains that they are responsible for their players and you will be looking at them for their help, if they cannot deal with it then you will step in and deal with it accordingly.

4. During the game

Use the control loop and tool box of measures that you have at your disposal. Use your voice, talk to the players tell the player(s) to stop questioning your decisions, if this doesn't work ask the captain to get them to stop. If they carry on 'having a go' then start using your cards – Green (2 mins), Yellow (5 mins) and Red. Any red cards awarded should be reported your regional disciplinary officer; in South Wales its either Jane Price or John Taylor. Note you can not award a technical red for verbal abuse – a technical red still needs to be reported. Note: a technical red card is one awarded for two IDENTICAL MINOR yellow card offences – Verbal abuse is not a minor offence.

5. Outside of the game time

Should a player wish to carry on the 'debate' outside of the game time then you have an MMO which you can issue – this is a Matchday Misconduct Offence. It is the equivalent of a red card with similar sanctions awarded to the players. To award one of these you only need to tell the player that you are awarding them one and then complete an MMO form (part of the red card form in the downloads section of www.whua.org.uk). These should be sent to your regional disciplinary officer; in South Wales it is either Jane Price or John Taylor.