



# ENGLAND ROLLER HOCKEY MATCH OFFICIALS

## ***Guidance for writing misconduct reports***

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If a red card is issued in a game, both referees should submit a report as soon as possible after the game, within seven days, and before the team's next game or tournament.

There are a number of things that should be taken into account when writing misconduct reports and statements.

### Role

Referees or officials should clearly state the role they were fulfilling e.g. main referee or Observer.

### Location

The physical position they were in should be stated, ie on the rink (and where), at the desk or in the crowd. The report should also state where the players involved were and accurately say where people were moving to during the incident.

### Timing/Context

The timing and context should be stated ie whether the match was in play, the whistle had gone or it was after the match. The time of the match should also be stated, and the general feeling of the match as well.

### Content

Reports should be approached in a professional manner. Evidence within them will either be factual ie this is what I actually saw or heard or professional opinion ie I gave this because of. Hearsay (3rd party) evidence should be avoided unless it is very relevant and if so should be stated as such, ie player x told me or I was told after the match. If what you are saying is based on video evidence after the game clearly state this and any differences to what you did in live time. If verbal language was involved the content of this language should be stated. If there is aggressive behaviour is involved the nature of that behaviour should be stated, ie who it was directed to and how far away were they from the subject referee, crowd member or player. Physical aggression should state what was used ie stick and at what part of the body.

### Clarity

When writing reports referees or officials should not try and justify their decision by dramatizing or expanding the facts to justify the decision. Be careful with the use of words and make sure they properly give the reader the right opinion of the incident. Simple, clear language is needed so that the facts of the incident can be easily read. Statements should not



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be vague or open to interpretation. Spelling and grammar should be checked to make sure they are correct. This makes the report easier to read and a better decision to be made.

## Truth

Above all be truthful. Reports should only state what happened during the incident, and should not try to embellish or guess.

## Bad example:

In the game I gave a red card to Team A number 2. He hit a player from Team B.

## Good example:

I was one of the main referees during the game. At 2.36 in the second half, I issued a red card to Team A number 2. Play was moving towards the Team B half and I was moving up the rink, just before the top of the penalty area, on the opposite side of the rink to the team benches. A2 and B4 came together a few metres in front of me. The ball was on the bench side of the rink. Neither player was looking at the other and the coming together looked like an accidental collision. A2 was knocked down. I did not call a foul as I believed they both just hit each other and that there was no foul. As A2 stood up, he had both hands on the top of his stick and swung out horizontally at B4. The stick was swung with a lot of force and connected with the arm of B4, who then skated straight to his bench holding his arm. A2 tried following but a few players from each team blocked him. I had blown my whistle just after the stick connected, and after a few more blows he looked at me. He slowly came over while being guided by a few other players on his team. I issued the card and he went straight off. B4 took no more part in the game.

The game had been fairly quiet up until this point, with only a few team fouls being called, and no cards. There had not been an incident involving the two players, and I'm not aware of any previous issues.