

An Umpire's Self-Check List

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Any match arbiter is usually his or her own most severe critic, and this should be the case. An arbiter's performance should be self-analysed after every game so that corrective action can be instituted whenever an improvement is possible. These notes should assist hockey umpires in honest and constructive self-criticism and it is suggested that the following questions be asked in relation to the most recent performance:

DID I:

1. Enforce the Rules?
2. Apply the Rules correctly?
3. Deal with misconduct correctly and sensibly?
4. Interpret dangerous play correctly?
5. Recognise the difference between intentional and unintentional breaches of the Rules?
6. Deal properly with incidents of dissent from my decisions?
7. Talk to players other than in the course of my duties?
8. Place my hands on a player's person for any reason?
9. Wag my finger at players or in any manner suggest that I was belittling them?
10. When necessary, approach players rather than demand that they approach me?
11. Act too casually, suggesting I was not sufficiently interested in the game?
12. Concentrate on the game and my responsibilities at all times?
13. Properly establish and maintain general control of the game?
14. Maintain the maximum necessary activity throughout the game?
15. Move too slowly?
16. Slow up when play reached the Circle?
17. Anticipate play and move quickly to be near possible incidents?
18. Aim to keep a position where the play was generally between my location and my colleague?
19. Always face the area of penalties or restarts after indicating them, running backwards or sideways as necessary?
20. Move sufficiently in my half of the pitch?
21. Restrict my movements to the sideline so that I became remote from play?
22. Make full use of the Diagonal System of match control?
23. Apply the Advantage Rule sensibly, correctly and sympathetically?
24. Properly indicate Advantage applications and, where necessary, rebuke offenders?
25. Allow players to waste time?
26. Get the game restarted quickly after goals and stoppages?
27. Take too long to get into position before signalling for restarts?
28. Allow or condone the entry of Team Managers and other officials without my signalled permission?
29. Turn my back to the play and not keep all possibilities in full view?
30. Make the whistle "talk" for me with proper variation and emphasis?
31. Consider my whistle to be effective?
32. Give the proper standard signals on all occasions?
33. Determine in a pre-match discussion with my colleague how we would co-operate, and stick to what we agreed?
34. Develop and maintain genuine teamwork with my colleague?
35. Allow the players to talk me into decisions?
36. Look to my colleague for confirmation of decisions that were clearly my responsibility?
37. Where necessary, consult with my colleague quickly, briefly and privately?
38. Look smart, alert and confident both when I entered and when I left the field of play?
39. Approach the game calmly and fully prepared, or was I distracted in any way?
40. Become overconfident, too technical or pedantic or unnecessarily the "centre of attention"?

41. Keep clear of the immediate location of play and the players concerned without losing my full view of the game?
42. Allow players to surround me to appeal against or to question my decisions?
43. Control myself, using an effective whistle and calm demeanour to control the players?
44. Thank my colleague after the game and discuss relevant factors with him/her and other appropriate match officials?
45. Caution or suspend any players, record the necessary detail and, if necessary, make the proper report?
46. Have the courage and courtesy, in the clubhouse after the match, to acknowledge my errors and to seek advice?
47. Ensure that all substitutions would be from one side of the pitch, at the centreline, and maintain control of them?