

SHUA CODE OF "CAGE" MANAGEMENT and PITCHSIDE CONDUCT - guidance notes to umpires

Definitions used below

The TEAM	: All the players (up to 16 in number as per rule book terminology) whether on or off the pitch
The BENCH	: All non playing team officials including the manager, the coach, the physio etc.

SHUA will always support members who exercise their common sense in applying these guidelines and very importantly abide by the principles set out herein. Not every situation can be, or is attempted to be covered in these notes. SHUA stresses that team work between umpires is vitally important to interpret unfamiliar situations not specifically covered herein. You are at the game to control the match i.e. the teams, the bench and any spectators who elect to position themselves inside the cage.

Under Rule 3.4 the captain is responsible for the conduct of his/her team and could receive a personal penalty if found not to be in control of them. **The captain is not responsible for either the bench or any spectators inside (or outside) the cage.**

As the SHUA appointed umpires we will:-

1. Endeavour to meet club officials BEFORE the game and whenever possible before the toss of the coin.
2. Set out the match and post match criteria as early as possible with **both** teams:-
 - a. By agreeing the rules of the competition (if a cup game).
 - b. Ask both captains if they have any young (U18) players in their squad today.
 - c. By agreeing the locations of:-
 - i. where the designated bench areas are.
 - ii. where substitutes may warm up.
 - iii. where substitutions should be made from.
 - iv. where the "sin bin" area is and ask the captains to inform their players. You should advise both captains that they may be asked to assist, where any confusion exists about the "sin bin" location, after the issue of a yellow card.
 - d. By reminding the team captains and the bench (referring to Cage Management and Pitchside Behaviour (Clubs)) that:-
 - i. we will not permit small children, including babies in pushchairs, inside the cage at any time, while the game is in progress.
 - ii. we will not speak to players or any other club officials during the 5 minute half time break because this is OUR time (and your time) to consider the play during the first half and to prepare for the remainder of the game.
 - iii. we will not speak to the team or the bench about specific contentious match details immediately after the game but will be happy to discuss any points later on in the clubhouse.
 - e. Set out where and when any post match discussion takes place. In the unlikely event of your having to leave early (i.e. to go to another game) explain this before the game starts. In the usual course of events you should accept home club hospitality and go back to the clubhouse. This is where you may have:-
 - i. discussion about the game generally
 - ii. discussion about the decisions made - your chance to have a say
 - iii. to complete any post match admin (team sheet/red card/MMO etc.)

In controlling the cage there are three groups of people in respect of whom you may have to consider disciplinary measures:-

1. **THE TEAM** - please refer to the Player Management Guidance Note issued March 2010.
2. **THE BENCH** – *you may use cards but remember the captain is NOT responsible for any bench misbehaviour*
Please remember that the captain is only responsible for his team and should NOT be considered for a personal penalty for any bench misconduct. When considering your actions following any misconduct from the bench you should always deliver your decisions and/or comments with the same style and calmness as would accompany any on field situations. You may use cards to administer the punishments that are associated with your *control ladder* progressions for the bench.
"Misbehaviour on the Bench
Umpires may temporarily suspend (**yellow card**) (minimum five minutes) or permanently suspend (**red card**) any player or official (manager, coach, doctor or physiotherapist) from the team-bench for in-discipline.
As a consequence the team concerned will be required to play with one less player for the duration of the suspension period. The choice of the player required to leave the field is at the discretion of the team captain"
3. **ANY SPECTATORS inside the cage** - you may NOT use any cards for any misconduct by spectators (inside or out of the cage). You should only address misconduct issues for people inside the cage and initially deliver a calm and polite request that the spectators modify their behaviour. For a second incident follow up with a warning. **NOTE the captains are not responsible for the conduct of any spectators** but you may consider it expedient to seek their assistance (or that of other club personnel) if the misbehaviour by spectators continues. Ultimately the only sanction is to remove the offending spectator from the cage and in this case you are required to report the incident to SHUA. However, please be mindful that the problem may not be caused by people involved with the game being played - perhaps they are with the game before or after your match?
REMEMBER YOU MAY NOT DISCIPLINE EITHER TEAM (INCLUDING THE CAPTAINS) FOR ANY SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT.

In the event of any serious contravention of these guidelines, you should ensure you have made precise notes about any incident and then advise SHUA (by telephoning the relevant Appointments Secretary within 24 hours of the end of the game) *who will advise you whether a written report may be appropriate*. Remember though that any Red Card/MMO Report is mandatory.