

## **SHUA CODE OF “CAGE” MANAGEMENT and PITCHSIDE CONDUCT**

For some time we have been concerned about unacceptable behaviour coming from the players, non players on the bench and, spectators. Indeed there is evidence to suggest that off field conduct is often worse than the conduct we see from on field players. Examples of such behaviour would be abuse of umpires/players, persistent questioning of decisions, dissent, bad language etc. We are keen to set out what is club responsibility.

SHUA will assume that

- Home clubs have adequate and relevant insurance cover in place for the game.
- Home clubs are aware of local health and safety legislation regarding the pitch and the facilities and have advised us and their opposition of anything specifically pertinent to the match venue.
- Home clubs have satisfied themselves as to the quality and safety of the pitch and its facilities.
- Home clubs will relocate any pitchside furniture to a safer location at our request.
- Home clubs have an emergency telephone and first aid available at the match venue.

It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that good manners and courtesy prevail towards the opposition, umpires and other officials at ALL times. Much of this responsibility falls on the captain on match days. Once the pitch is available, the home Captain shall assume authority for the pitch and its surrounding area (referred to as “the cage”).

Captains (under Rule 3.4) shall be responsible for the conduct of their players at all times. SHUA also expects that non-playing bench personnel (primarily managers and coaches) act in a responsible manner consistent with the conduct of the players and in particular the captain. Vocal communication by team officials (managers, coaches et al.) and players on the bench must not, in any way, be directed at the umpires or players of the opposing team.

Any inquests into match incidents shall be held away from the pitch. SHUA umpires are instructed not to become engaged in any pitch-side inquests either at half time or immediately after the game. However they are encouraged to return to the clubhouse where specific match incidents may be openly discussed.

SHUA also expects club officials to exercise their best endeavours to control spectators at all times before, during and after the match. SHUA will agree with home team officials the location and allowed proximity of spectators. Small children shall not be allowed to remain within the cage whilst the game is in progress. Older children shall remain under the control of the parent/guardian at all times. Babies in pushchairs shall not be left parked on the side of the pitch. Additionally team officials need to use their best endeavours to control the conduct of spectators.

SHUA will agree, before the game, the location of managers and coaches who must remain in their designated area, substitutes (including warming up and the attire of) and from where substitutions will take place.

SHUA will also agree the location of the “sin bin” but remember that in accordance with the EHB Code of Ethics and Behaviour, it is the clubs who must provide an area where junior players, when suspended, can be supervised. (*“Young players must not be left alone on the side-line without guidance or supervision, and they must wear adequate clothing in accordance with the weather conditions.”*)

**Players not taking part in the game, or those in subsequent or previous matches, must not knock up or cool down on or near the pitch while the match is in progress.**

This document is issued in support of the spirit of the game and Clubs are asked to follow and abide by these guidelines.