

# Hockey Umpiring Top Tips and Guidance 3

by

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World Cup and Olympic Games Panel, 1975 to 1995

## COMMUNICATION (04-01-11)

(including stopping time and working with tables and Technical officials)

There In recent years it has become common place for a third official to be appointed to hockey matches. This third official has been given various names including Technical Delegate (now out of date), Tournament Director (TD), Technical Officer (TO), Match Delegate (MD) and most recently Match Official (MO). The duties of the MO vary depending on the seniority of the particular match. At higher levels the MO has the responsibility of “controlling” the respective team “bench personnel”. At lower levels the MO may simply be someone who records the goals as they are scored and any coloured cards.

In all cases the MO will also keep the time and both umpires need to be aware of this. Both umpires need to keep in constant communication with the MO. The MO may be able to help the umpires on occasions and at the very least the MO should be a reliable witness to anything that occurs on or off the pitch relating to the particular match.

Whenever there is a stoppage in play during a hockey match, as well as communicating to each other that they are stopping the time, the umpires must indicate that clearly and concisely to the MO so that the MO knows precisely how much stoppage time to add on at the end of each half. Umpires must be really positive about doing this so that there is absolutely no doubt.

It has been known for the MO to be distracted or even doze off!! Consequently it is essential that the umpires have eye contact with the MO as well as with each other when stopping and re-starting the match at any point. It is vital that the umpires use a clear loud whistle so that there is no confusion. It is also important that the umpires make the correct signal clearly and demonstratively for stopping and re-starting the match.

When the umpires issue any coloured card, they make it clear to the table the colour and ensure that the relevant player turns to the MO as well as the other umpire to show the shirt number. It also helps if the umpire indicates to the MO just how long a player is suspended for as they or their coach invariably ask how long!

At higher levels the MO has the power to issue yellow cards to team members on the bench or remove them from the playing area altogether. The MO may have “control” over all those on the bench listed on the Team Sheet.

At the conclusion of the match, the last thing the umpires have to do is to check the match sheet carefully before they sign to make absolutely certain that all cards recorded have been recorded accurately and that the score correct. Mistakes have been made and that is most embarrassing!!