



USE OF MICROPHONES AND HEADSETS BY DHUA UMPIRES

1st January 2018

Hockey umpires have been using microphones as an additional tool for some time and players now expect to see them used. DHUA supply umpires on the neutral panel with a single set and expect them to be used when appointed with a neutral panel colleague – many umpires have a pair and offer to use them with their non-appointed colleagues – please do take the opportunity when it arises.

DHUA use the Biker 'Interphone' system from our preferred supplier at <http://www.mci2.co.uk/>

DHUA are currently in the process of setting up a scheme to offer reduced price radios to clubs for their umpires' use – please watch this space for further information.

Below are some thoughts to enable you to get the most out of the radios:

WHAT THEY ARE: Microphones are an additional tool which can help you to clarify issues that you would not usually be able to discuss during the game.

WHAT THEY ARE NOT: They are not a replacement for the existing communication skills you use to manage the players and liaise with your colleague.

When using microphones –

DO:

- *Allow sufficient time to prepare properly – discuss your use of the microphones in your pre match chat;*
- *Work to achieve a balance between talking too much and not making use of the tool;*
- *Ensure the majority of your vocal communication is directed to the players*
- *Maintain eye contact with the players and your colleague and give clear signals*
- *Concentrate on the game, not on using the microphones;*
- *Still take time to come together to discuss major game changing decisions.*
- *Discuss your use of the microphones in your debrief and how you could use them better next time*

DON'T:

- *Distract the players and/or your colleague with too much chat;*
- *Allow the microphones to get in the way of communicating with the players/your colleague;*
- *Debate every decision;*
- *Try and umpire for your colleague – only intervene if you are certain and the game needs it;*
- *Run a commentary on everything happening in the game.*

SOME EXAMPLES OF WHEN TO USE THE MICROPHONE:

- *To support/consult/clarify decisions if required;*
- *To discuss things like tightening up the whistle in response to a rise in tempo, use of cards;*
- *To clarify what a card was given for/obtain the number of the offending player more easily;*
- *To be aware of low level control comments between your colleague and the players;*
- *To give praise for a good call maybe.*

Finally, I suggest when you do need to use the radio, give the communication in the form of 'Name', 'Decision', 'reason' – e.g. "Pete, free hit defence, number 8's foot"