



USE OF HEADSETS

Hockey umpires have been using headsets as an additional tool for some time and players increasingly now expect to see them used.

WHAT THEY ARE: Headsets 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 headsets:-

DO:

- . Allow sufficient time to prepare properly - discuss your use of the headsets 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 headset;
- . Still take time to come together to discuss major game changing decisions.
- . Discuss your use of the headsets 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 headset 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, it is suggested suggest when you do need to use the headset, give the communication in the form of 'Name', 'Decision', 'reason' - e.g. "Pete, free hit defence, number 8's foot"

