GUIDANCE FOR CHUA UMPIRES ON THE USE OF MICROPHONES AND HEADSETS.

Hockey umpires have been using microphones as an additional tool for some time and indeed the CHA has mandated that clubs from Sep 2018 provide them for use for umpires., thus players should now to see them used. CHA has suggested that the preferred supplier uses the Biker ‘Interphone’ system. Available from <http://www.mci2.co.uk/>.

Here is some guidance on how to allow these devices to complement your umpiring.

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 most 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 or 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. “Sandra, free hit defence, number 8’s foot” .