



# Umpires: Guide to Handling Dissent - Players or Spectators -

**All umpires follow these guidelines across all leagues**

**A) Consistency really matters:** Even if you're personally fine with a comment, please still address it. Players saying "Sharon didn't pull me up last week" makes life harder for everyone. We all need to be on the same page.

**B) Quiet Dissent still Counts:** Muttering or under-the-breath comments = still dissent.

**C) Spectator Comments:** Spectators must NOT comment on umpiring decisions.

**If they do, respond with:** *"Can I remind you that spectators must not comment on umpiring – thank you."*

**If it continues:** Pause play and ask the Team Organiser to speak to them.

## PHASE ONE - GENTLE BUT CLEAR

**First time a player questions or comments on a call:**

**Respond with:** *"GD Please keep your comments to yourself, and remember the code of conduct"* (note: there is a printed copy in your Kit Bag)

## PHASE TWO - FORMAL WARNING

**If commenting continues:**

**Respond with:** *"I've already asked for no comments – this is your formal warning."*

## PHASE THREE - FINAL ACTION

**Persistent commenting or aggressive behaviour:**

**Respond with:** *"If you'd like to leave the court until you can keep your comments to yourself, feel free to do so."* **or:** *"You've ignored my advice twice – this will now be reported to Head Office as a Code of Conduct breach."*

**You can pause the game, or call Team Organiser in and ask them to remove the player if needed.**

**Please report your incidents + if you need any further support**

**Use the Umpire Contact Form - click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2fp4e9>**