

# Outdoor Rules Interpretation January 2015

With effect from 1st January 2015, hockey in Scotland will be played in line with the FIH 2015 Rules of Hockey AND Tournament Regulations.

These guidance notes are to ensure a consistent application of the Rules and Regulations is met.



# Main rule changes

The following Rules have been amended:

- Attacking Free Hits, awarded within 5 metres of the edge of the circle, now taken from the point of the offence
- Re-start after ball has unintentionally been played or deflected over the back-line by a member of the defending team, and no goal is scored, is now taken on the 23 metres line and in line with where the ball crossed the back-line
- Lifting of ban of certain types of face masks for defending Penalty Corners

# Main rule changes

The following FIH Tournament Regulations, which vary the Rules of Hockey, are adopted as full Rules:

- Breaking at Penalty Corners
- Green Card – now a two minute suspension (Already used in Scottish hockey)
- Use of Stick above the Shoulder allowed

# Attacking Free Hits around the Circle

Rule 13.1b (*a free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle to the attack is taken at the nearest point 5 metres from the circle*) has been deleted.

An attacker can now take the Free Hit from where the offence took place. The same conditions apply as before regarding playing the ball into the circle:

- At a 'self-pass' the ball must travel at least 5 metres from the point of the free hit (not necessarily in a single direction) before the taker himself can play the ball into the circle
- Alternatively the ball must be touched, deflected, hit or pushed by any other player before either it enters or can be played into the circle
- All other players must start 5m from the Free Hit.

# Attacking Restart after ball has been unintentionally played over the backline by a defender (a long corner)

Rule 7.4: When the ball is played over the back-line and no goal is scored

(b) if played unintentionally by a defender or deflected by a goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges, play is re-started with the ball on the 23 metres line and in line with where it crossed the back-line and the procedures for taking a free hit apply

*With the ball being placed on the line, the re-start is effectively within the 23 metres area and the provisions for taking a free hit are applicable. The signal for this restart has not changed from the Long Corner signal*

# Playing the Ball above Shoulder

Rule 9.7: Players may stop, receive and deflect or play the ball in a controlled manner in any part of the field when the ball is at any height including above the shoulder unless this is dangerous or leads to danger

This rule has been in effect in National and Regional leagues for the past few seasons with great success

There is no difference to the receiving player having 5m to bring the ball down, however it can be more challenging to determine who is the initial receiver

Safety is still paramount, and this action must be controlled and not be dangerous or lead to danger



# Offences during a Penalty Corner

Rule 13.7 has been updated with the Tournament Regulations regarding breaking the line and other offences at a Penalty Corner:

Remember that the Penalty Corner is taken again if:

- The injector does not have at least one foot outside the pitch
- The injector feints at playing the ball – **the offending player goes beyond the centre line and is replaced**
- A defender, other than the goalkeeper, crosses the back line before permitted - **the offending player goes beyond the centre line and is not replaced**
- A goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges, crosses the back line before permitted - **the defending team nominates which defender goes beyond the centre line and they cannot be replaced**
- An attacker enters the circle before permitted - **the offending player goes beyond the centre line and may be replaced**



# Offences during a Penalty Corner

For any similar offences by an attacker, defender or goalkeeper at this or any subsequently re-taken penalty corner, the same conditions apply.

The players beyond the centre line may not return for re-taken penalty corners, but may do so for a subsequently awarded penalty corner. A penalty corner is considered as re-taken until any of the conditions of Rules 13.5 & 13.6 for its completion are met, these are:

- a goal is scored
- a free hit is awarded to the defending team
- the ball travels more than 5m outside the circle
- the ball is played over the backline and a penalty corner is not awarded
- a defender commits an offence which does not result in a penalty corner
- a penalty stroke is awarded
- a bully is awarded
- **(Only at the end of a half/game)** The ball leaves the circle for a second time

If none of these conditions are met, any players who have been sent to the half way line, must not come back

# Other Rule and Guidance changes

- Having more than 11 players on the pitch:
  - Time is stopped and the situation is corrected. If it has occurred for a very short amount of time and has not been material to the match, a personal penalty **may** be awarded to the captain of the team involved. In cases where this occurs and materially affects the match, a personal penalty **must** be awarded to the captain of the team involved. Decisions taken prior to correcting the situation cannot be changed.
- Interpretation of ball hitting the foot/body:
  - This has not changed, the guidance notes just reinforce what the interpretation is (*It is not always an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand or body of a field player. The player only commits an offence if they gain an advantage or if they position themselves with the intention of stopping the ball in this way.*)

# Other Rule and Guidance changes

- Reckless Play:

- Again this has not changed, the guidance notes just reinforce what the interpretation is: (*Reckless play, such as sliding tackles and other overly physical challenges by field players, which take an opponent to ground and which have the potential to cause injury should attract appropriate match and personal penalties.*) In this situation, a longer Yellow Card suspension is usually used (10 minutes).

- Up 10 metres no longer exists:

- This has been made obsolete by the self pass at free hits. It now slows the game down. Any offence that could merit this, can now be dealt with by warning the player, or by using a personal penalty.