

FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019



**ENGLAND
HOCKEY**

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The following are key changes from the 2017 version:

- **Rule 2.1 - Field Player with Goalkeeping Privileges**

This is a Mandatory Experiment and they have removed PwGKP. We only have 10 outfielders and a GK or 11 Outfielders.

What does this mean to me as the Umpire?

- Makes our lives easier when the ball hits a defenders foot in the circle, we are just then looking at intent or whether it is preventing a goalscoring opportunity
- Teams with 5 x outfielders at PC's allow all to wear gloves / knee protection / masks, etc



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT....

- **Rule 9.12 – Players must not obstruct another to play the ball**

In the guidance: A player who runs in front of or blocks an opponent to stop them legitimately playing or attempting to play the ball is obstructing (this is third party or shadow obstruction). This also applies if an attacker runs across or blocks defenders (including the Goalkeeper) when a penalty corner is being taken.

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- If an attacker blocks the goalkeeper at a Penalty Corner, this is now clearly in the guidance a Free Hit to the Defence.
- The challenge is that the “block” has a material effect on the game. For example, the block may come but the ball isn’t in the circle....let’s manage the situation on it’s merits.



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT....

- **Rule 12.4a – a Penalty Stroke is awarded:**

If the ball hits a piece of equipment lying in the circle and a probable goal is prevented, a penalty stroke may be awarded.

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- For the past 2 seasons, we've been asked to award a Penalty Corner in these situations. The rule change allows the umpire to award a Penalty Stroke IF the umpire believes that the piece of protective equipment has prevented a probably goal scoring opportunity.



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT.....

- **13.1 Location of a Free Hit**

b – A free hit to the defence awarded in the circle may be taken anywhere in the circle

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- We have to be clear that this rule takes effect when the umpire has given a Free Hit, NOT a Hit Out (or "16").
- The ball can be moved from one side of the circle to the other before the free hit is taken and this can happen using the back of the stick, foot or "thrown".
 - In all cases, this has to be done safely and not in a way that can be interpreted as the FH being taken



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT.....

- **13.2 Procedures for taking a free hit, centre pass and putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field:**

At an attacking free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle, the ball cannot be played into the circle until it has travelled at least 5 metres or it has been touched by a defending player. If the free hit is taken immediately the defenders who are inside the circle within 5 metres of the free hit may shadow around the inside of the circle a player who takes a self-pass, provided that they do not play or attempt to play the ball or influence play until it has either travelled at least 5 metres or alternatively been touched by a defending player who can legitimately play the ball. If the attacker chooses not to take the free hit immediately, all other players must be at least 5 metres from the ball before the free hit is taken.

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- Not much has changed really, we are still managing the 5m around the circle. We are now interpreting a quickly taken Free Hit to be taken before the umpire has the chance to say “Everyone 5 please”.



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT...

- **13.5 – The penalty corner is completed when:**

The ball travels more than 5 meters outside of the circle applies even at the end of time

Also – 13.5g:

If play is stopped because of an injury or for any other reason during the taking of a penalty corner at the end of a half and a bully would otherwise be awarded, the penalty corner must be taken again.

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- Instead of managing PC's last year with 2 x different interpretations, it's simpler now when the corner is at the end of time for quarter / half or full time.
- This is also 5m or more OUTSIDE the circle, manage using the hash marks around the circle.



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT...

- **13.6 – For an offence during the taking of a Penalty Corner**

d : If the action of breaking the line too early is repeated during the same penalty corner, the defending team is required to nominate a further player to go beyond the centre-line, and they cannot be replaced

e : An attacker enters the circle before permitted, the player taking the push or hit from the backline is required to go beyond the centre-line : the penalty corner is taken again

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- If an attacker breaks early, then the injector is the one penalised. This makes a difference now if an attacker does stray into the circle early.
- TEAMWORK is essential here between the umpires as it is almost impossible for the engaged umpire to see all of the attackers. Either Radio's or an agreed method of communicating is required to get this right using the umpire at halfway.



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT.....

- **13.7 e – Taking of a Penalty Stroke**

If the player defending the stroke is otherwise taking part in the game as a field player, they may wear only a face mask as protective equipment

If the team defending a penalty stroke has chosen to play only with field players and not to use a substitute goalkeeper to defend the penalty stroke, the defender may only use their stick to make a save

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- The key to this is remembering who is on the teamsheet, as if a team does have a Goalkeeper, then the team can substitute them onto the pitch for the Penalty Stroke. They can then substitute them back off immediately after the PS.



FIH RULES OF HOCKEY 2019 CONT.....

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13.8 – The penalty stroke is completed when:

b : the ball comes to rest inside the circle, lodges in the goalkeeper's equipment, is caught by the goalkeeper, or goes outside the circle

What does this mean to me as an Umpire?

- This is clarifying what to do if the attacker scoops or flicks the ball up and the ball is saved from the GK chest and is trapped between the leg and the inside of the leg guard.

TIMINGS OF MATCH

- In English Hockey League matches and EH Tier 1 Cup Matches:
 - 4 x quarters of 17.5 minutes will be played
 - The clock is only stopped for reasons that would stop the game from the 2017 Rules
 - The time between Quarter 1-2 and 3-4 is 2 minutes, 5 x minutes at Half Time
 - Teams defend the same “end” for the first 2 quarters and then swap
 - Centre Pass is to the same team for the first 2 quarters and then swap.

- For matches played outside of this format in English Leagues and Tier 2 or Below of the EH Cup Competitions:
 - 2 x halves of 35 minutes
 - The clock is only stopped for reasons that would stop the game from the 2017 Rules



***GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR
UMPIRING***



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