

## **RULE CHANGES 2007-2008**

There is now a two year cycle for the production and publication of the rules of the game, hence the current rules apply 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

The following interpretations have been taken from:

FIH Rules of Hockey 2007 – 2008  
2007 FIH Outdoor Umpires' Briefing  
2007/8 FIH Rules of Hockey and Guidance for Umpires.

The main changes apply to the composition of the team (regarding goalkeepers) and in the way goalkeepers are permitted to play the ball. A note has been published regarding Rule 9.11 as the Rules Board felt that there was some misunderstanding regarding the Rule.

In 2006 there was an alteration made to Field and Equipment Specifications Rule 2.3 setting in place the maximum rake or bow of a stick. This Rule will apply in New Zealand from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

Word changes have been made in some rules to make the intention clearer, the changes are not included in these notes.

### **Rule 2 Composition of Teams**

2.2 Each team has a goalkeeper on the field or plays only with field players.

A team may play with a fully kitted goalkeeper as previous **or** a goalkeeper with goalkeeping privileges wearing only protective headgear and a different coloured shirt **or** only field players and therefore no player wearing protective headgear or different coloured shirt or with goal keeping privileges.

A team may change between these options by making a substitution.

If a team has a fully kitted goalkeeper and any substituted goalkeeper is also fully kitted substitutes can be made near the goal that the keepers are defending.

Time is stopped to make a substitute of a fully kitted goalkeeper.

At Penalty Corners an injured or suspended goalkeeper may only be replaced by a similarly attired goal keeper, for example a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear may not be replaced by a fully kitted goalkeeper. Note that at a penalty stroke a goalkeeper wearing only protective head gear may be replaced by a fully kitted goalkeeper or vice versa.

In order to prevent problems associated with a fully equipped goalkeeper stepping out of the goal and being replaced (by a field player or a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear) at the centre line, time should not be restarted until the substitution has been completed.

Substitution onto or off the pitch by field players who replace goalkeepers should take place near the centre line.

Play should not be delayed while a goalkeeper, not yet on the pitch, changes into or puts on protective equipment. Common sense dictates that this would not apply when replacing an injured or suspended goalkeeper at a penalty corner.

A fully kitted goalkeeper is not permitted to take part in the game outside the 23 metre area the goalkeeper is defending.

If a team has a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear and a different coloured shirt to both teams that goalkeeper must not take part in the match outside the 23 metre area the

goalkeeper is defending when wearing the headgear but may remove the headgear and take part in the match anywhere on the field.

The protective headgear must be worn when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke.

**Most important:** Designated goalkeepers that wear only protective headgear may take part in the match outside their own 23 metre area provided they have **SAFELY** removed their headgear and continue to wear the shirt of a different colour to both teams.

Safely here means the headgear must be off the pitch and must not be thrown etc in any manner that is dangerous to any player, official or spectator.

If a team has only field players, no player has goalkeeper privileges – following the award of a penalty corner it is not permitted for one of the field players to assume goalkeeper's privileges by putting on a different coloured shirt and/or protective head gear.

Substitutes are allowed at a penalty stroke; but if a team choose to defend a penalty stroke with a player who is taking part in the game as a field player this will not be considered a sub so they may wear only a face mask, that is not protective headgear and may use only their stick to make a save.

#### **Rule 4.2**

Describes the face masks allowed to be worn by field players when defending a penalty corner.

If a player defending a penalty corner continues to wear a face mask after the penalty corner has been completed a free hit should be awarded. Repetition means another free hit and the appropriate card.

Players should, however, be allowed to complete a defending action even if it means that they play the ball just outside the circle when wearing a face mask. Common sense should prevail.

#### **Rule 4.4**

Gives a definition of Protective Headgear.

#### **Rule 4.6c**

Defines allowable bow in stick.

#### **Rule 9.6**

Players are forbidden to use the edge of the stick when striking the ball hard on the forehand side. Note, however, that subject to danger the edge of the stick is allowed when striking the ball hard on the backhand side.

#### **Rule 9.7**

FIH have added this note to clarify the Rule:

When saving a shot at goal a defender must not be penalised if their stick is not motionless or is travelling toward the ball while attempting to stop or deflect a shot. Only if the ball is genuinely hit while above shoulder height and a goal is prevented should a penalty stroke be awarded.

If a defender attempts to stop or deflect a ball travelling towards the goal which will actually miss the goal, any use of the stick above the shoulder must be penalised by a penalty corner, not a penalty stroke.

It appears that FIH think that umpires have become too technical when deciding a breach has occurred in this situation.

#### **Rule 9.11**

FIH have circulated this note to clarify the Rule:

The 2005/6 Rules indicated that it was not an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand or body of a field player "unless that player or their team benefits from this". However, as with other rules, this continues to be an offence if benefit is gained. Rule 9.11 should therefore continue to be applied taking into account any benefit gained by the player or their team.

#### **Rule 9.14**

Players must not intentionally enter the goal their opponents are defending or run behind either goal.

Self explanatory.

#### **Rule 10.1**

This Rule was discussed under Rule 2 at the beginning of these notes.

#### **Rule 10.2**

This Rule now permits goalkeepers to use any part of their body, including hands, to push the ball away, deflect the ball in any direction or stop the ball but only as part of a goal saving action.

This action is permitted in all situations where attackers have an opportunity to score or attempt to score a goal, so it can also be used to deny attackers the possibility of possession of the ball or another shot at goal.

There is no requirement that the ball is going towards the goal when using this action, so the goalkeeper may intercept a pass across the face of the goal or sweep the ball away from in front of an attacker's stick with say his hand – there only needs to be the threat of an attacker being able to play the ball.

Note that goalkeepers must have their stick in their hand to use this action.

Be aware that goalkeepers who intentionally propel the ball long distances with their hand should be penalised with a penalty corner.

#### **Rule 13.5**

Penalty Stroke.

Note if the player defending the stroke is a field player he can only wear a face mask as protective equipment. However I believe common sense dictates that he should be able to wear a box.

For an offence during a stroke:

By the attacker:

**A free hit is awarded to the defence.**

By the defender:

When the defender prevents a goal being scored but leaves the goal line or moves either foot before the ball has been played:

**The penalty stroke is taken again.**

For any other offence by the defender which prevents a goal being scored:

**A goal is awarded.**

For an offence by the defender that does not prevent a goal being scored:

**The penalty stroke is taken again.**

For an offence by a member of the defending team and a goal is not scored:

**The penalty stroke is taken again.**

For an offence by any member of the attacking team (other than the striker) and a goal is scored:

**The stroke is taken again.**

### **Equipment Rule 2.3**

The maximum rake or bow of a stick is 25mm.

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20<sup>th</sup> February 2007