

3 May 2022

RE: Rule Changes for 2022

Dear Member Association (MA) Officiating Representatives

The FIH has release the following rule changes for the 2022 season:

Rule 4.2 was changed to allow for defending players using Penalty Corner protective equipment to continue to play the ball outside the circle after intercepting during the taking of a penalty corner. Players can now continue to run with the ball while keeping their protective equipment on, but they must remove that same equipment immediately after the first opportunity to do so and always inside the 23 m area. No player using PC protective equipment can play the ball outside the 23 m area at any time.

Hockey Australia guidelines:

Rule 4.2 – removal of PCD gear, the umpires are encouraged to keep communicating with the players to remove their gear at the earliest opportunity. A free hit is giving if a player plays the ball outside the 23m area with their gear still on. The free hit is taken outside the 23m area.

NO SELF PASS IS PERMITTED, only a quick pass to a team mate to restart play

Rule 9.10 was changed to allow for the playing of what is commonly designated as Aerial Balls. The previous text did cover for the possibility for players to safely intercept a falling ball, which is now seen as both legitimate and positive to the development of the game. Aerial Balls will continue to be closely monitored by all stakeholders so that player safety can be maintained.

Hockey Australia guidelines:

Rule 9.10 – danger remains the key element, again the level of skill in the game would determine the danger element, do not over think this and rather err on the side of caution. Timing is key.

The FIH Rules Committee continues to be concerned that some Rules are not applied consistently.

Rule 7.4.c: ball intentionally played over the backline by a defender and no goal is scored. If it is clear that the action is intentional, umpires should not hesitate to award a penalty corner.

Rule 9.12: obstruction. Umpires should penalise shielding the ball with the stick more strictly. They should also look out for a tackling player who by pushing or leaning on an opponent causes them to lose possession of the ball.

Rule 13.2.a: ball stationary at a free hit. Umpires are sometimes not strict enough on requiring the ball to be stationary, albeit very briefly, for a free hit especially if it is taken using a self-pass.

The 2022 Rules of Hockey are now in the FIH website [HERE](#).

Hockey Australia guidelines:

We strive for consistency throughout all MA's, Associations, Clubs and Schools, including all senior, junior and social programs, so please distribute to the relevant groups within your organisation, including the team coaches, managers, players, volunteers and parents.

It is vital that we maintain open dialogue with the hockey community.

Do not overthink the rules and use common sense for each level that we umpire. A Premier League game will be handled very differently to a lower level or social game.

If you have any questions in relation to the rule changes and/or the interpretations, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0447 186 477, or via email at blair.chalmers@hockey.org.au. I will then forward the query onto the most appropriate person within the HA Officiating Advisory Group.

Warm regards,

Blair Chalmers

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