



2019 FIH Rule Changes

These new rules and interpretations have come into effect as of 1 January 2019

RULES CHANGES

FIH has chosen to introduce the match format of four quarters as its standard. In international matches teams have been playing four quarters for some years and it is felt that more uniformity in match formats can be achieved when all match formats are based on a four quarter principle. Like in international matches time is stopped between the awarding of a penalty corner and the taking of that penalty corner. Other than in International matches where this is arranged in the FIH Tournament Regulations, time is not stopped to celebrate goals as this was introduced primarily for television coverage.

A mandatory experiment is introduced with effect from 1 January 2019 taking out the option for teams to play with a Field Player with Goalkeeping Privileges. Teams have now two options : they either play with a Goalkeeper who wears protective equipment comprising at least headgear, leg guards and kickers and who is also permitted to wear goalkeeping hand protectors and other protective equipment, or they play with Field Players only. Any change between these options should be treated as a substitution.

This mandatory experiment leads to changes in many other Rules as the option to play with a Field Player with Goalkeeping privileges is taken out.

The explanation how to treat free hits for the attacker close to the circle has been changed in Rules 13.2.f. It has now been made clear that players other than the attacker taking the free hit, must be at five metres distance, including when they are in their circle. If the attacker however chooses to take the free hit immediately, then defenders who are inside the circle and within five metres from the ball, may shadow around the inside of the circle as per the explanation of the Rule before 2019.

As in Indoor Hockey a defender may now take a free hit awarded in the circle anywhere inside the circle or up to 15 metres from

the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

Rule 13.6 that described the completion of a penalty corner for substitution purposes and for a penalty corner at the end of a period, was deleted. The option that a penalty corner is completed when the ball travels outside the circle for the second time, no longer exists.

The other Rules changes are essentially cosmetic. Otherwise, all other changes in this edition of the Rules are clarifications of existing Rules. To draw attention to all changes, even these minor points of clarification, a line appears in the margin of any text which has been changed in the 2019 FIH Rules Book.

APPLYING THE RULES

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

Rule 7.4.c: ball intentionally played over the back-line 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 9.10 : players must not approach within 5 metres of an opponent receiving a falling raised ball until it has been received, controlled and is on the ground : where the initial receiver is unclear the side which places the ball in the air must allow the opponent to play the ball.

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.

Rule Book Rules 2019

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

Mandatory Experiment from 1 January 2019 : the team no longer has the option to play with a player with goalkeeping privileges.

Each team may play with:

- a goalkeeper wearing a different colour shirt and protective equipment comprising at least headgear, leg guards and kickers; this player is referred to in these Rules as a goalkeeper; or

- only field players; no player has goalkeeping privileges or wears a different colour shirt ; no player may wear protective headgear except a face mask when defending a penalty corner or a penalty stroke; all team players wear the same colour shirt.

5.1 A match consists of four quarters of 15 minutes, an interval of 2 minutes between quarter 1 and 2 and between quarter 3 and 4 and a half- time interval of 5 minutes between quarter 2 and 3.

Other periods and interval may be agreed by both teams except as specified in Regulations for particular competitions.

If time expires just before an umpire would otherwise have made a decision, umpires are permitted to make that decision immediately after the end of the quarter.

If an incident arises immediately before the end of a quarter which requires review by the umpires, the review may be conducted even though time has subsequently been completed and signalled. The review should take place immediately and action taken to revert to and correct the situation as appropriate.

12.4 A penalty stroke is awarded :

- a - for an offence by a defender in the circle which prevents the probable scoring of a goal

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

b - for an intentional offence in the circle by a defender against an opponent who has possession of the ball or an opportunity to play the ball

13.1 Location of a free hit :

a- a free hit is taken close to where the offence occurred
'Close to' means within playing distance of where the offence occurred and with no significant advantage gained.

The location from which a free hit is taken must be more precise inside the 23 metres area.

b - a free hit awarded to the defence within 15 metres of the back-line is taken up to 15 metres from the backline in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line

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

(Remember Rule 7.4 stills applies for 15m hits when ball over backline off a attacker: 7.4 When the ball is played over the back-line and no goal is scored :

a - if played by an attacker, play is re-started with the ball up to 15 metres from and in line with where it crossed the back-line and the procedures for taking a free hit apply)

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

c - when a free hit is awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, all players other than the player taking the free hit must be at least 5 metres from the ball, except as specifically indicated below for attacking free hits awarded within 5 metres of the circle

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.

Other than as indicated above, any playing of the ball, attempting to play the ball or interference by a defender or an attacker who was not 5 metres from the ball, should be penalised accordingly.

13.3 Taking a penalty corner :

a - time and play is stopped after a penalty corner is awarded and re-started when the teams are ready (teams should take as little time as possible to take their positions for the taking of a penalty corner.)

13.4 The match is prolonged at the end of each quarter to allow completion of a penalty corner or any subsequent penalty corner or penalty stroke