



Rules of Hockey 2017 (Changes)

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has released new outdoor hockey rules, effective from 1st January 2017.

The FIH will not be printing rule books however the new rules can be downloaded from the Irish Hockey Umpires Association website as follows: -

Type in: www.irishhua.com

Click on: 'Information' and go to 'Information and Downloads'

Go to: 'Rules and Guidance' and click on FIH Rules of Hockey 2017

In summary, there are no material changes to the Rules of Hockey compared to the previous version. However, this document has been issued to all Hockey Ireland stakeholders to advise of a number of 'cosmetic' adjustments.

NOTE: The new wording is shown in **BLACK BOLD**

Rule 1.10 (Page 11) - Goals are positioned outside the field of play at the centre of and touching each back-line. **No equipment or items, such as helmets, face masks, hand protectors, towels, water bottles etc. may be placed inside the goals.**

Comment: This rule makes it clear that equipment cannot be in the goal at any time, including when discarded after defending a penalty corner.

Rule 2.1 (Page 12) - A maximum of eleven players from each team take part in play at any particular time during the match.

*If a team has more than the permitted number of players on the field, time should be stopped to correct the situation. A personal penalty may be awarded against the captain of the team involved, if inadvertently having too many players on the pitch occurs for a very short period of time and does not materially affect the match. In cases where this occurs and materially affects the match, a personal penalty must be awarded against the captain of the team involved. **Decisions taken prior to correcting the situation cannot be changed, if time and/or play has already been re-started.***

Play and time is restarted with a free hit to the opposing team unless another penalty had been awarded against the offending team immediately before time was stopped in which case that penalty is taken.

Comment: This rule would allow for a change of decision if the offending team had been given that decision while the incorrect number of players was on the pitch. Umpires should be cautious in changing decisions unless it is clear that the offending team has gained an advantage, and that play and/or time had not been restarted.

Rule 2.2 (Page 12) - Each team has either a goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges on the field or plays only with field players.

Each team may play with:

- a goalkeeper wearing a different colour shirt and full protective equipment comprising at least headgear, leg guards and kickers; this player is referred to in these Rules as a goalkeeper; or
- a field player with goalkeeping privileges wearing a different colour shirt and who may wear protective headgear (but not leg guards and kickers or other goalkeeping protective equipment) when inside their defending 23 metres area; they must wear protective headgear when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke; this player is referred to in these Rules as a player with goalkeeping privileges; 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.

Any change between these options or between field players with goalkeeping privileges who are either on or off the pitch, must take place as a substitution.

Comment: This rule clarifies that changes can only occur through the substitution procedure.

Rule 4.2 (Page 16) - Players must not wear anything which is dangerous to other players.

Field players:

- are permitted to wear hand protection which does not increase the natural size of the hands significantly; **any hand protection used, both for normal play and to defend penalty corners, must fit comfortably (without the need for compressing it) into an open-ended box of internal dimensions 290mm long x 180mm wide x 110mm high;**
- are recommended to wear shin, ankle and mouth protection;

– are permitted to wear any form of body protection (including leg protection, or knee pads, when defending a penalty corner) underneath normal playing clothing; knee pads, used for this purpose, may be worn outside the socks provided that their colour is exactly the same as the colour of the socks.

Comment: Please note the rest of this rule still applies as per the rule book and only the changes are listed above. If knee pads are worn of a different colour to the socks, the socks must be pulled over them. This helps in decisions as to which player's leg was struck by the ball.

Rule 4.3 (Page 18) - **Goalkeepers and players with goalkeeping privileges must wear a coloured shirt or garment which is different in colour from that of both teams.**

Goalkeepers (i.e. wearing full protective equipment) must wear this shirt or garment over any body protection.

Comment: This rule removes the need for the shirt to be a single colour.

Rule 9.8 (Page 24) - Players must not play the ball dangerously or in a way which leads to dangerous play.

*A ball is **also** considered dangerous when it causes legitimate evasive action by players.*

The penalty is awarded where the action causing the danger took place.

Comment: The word also has been added.

Rule 9.16 (Page 26) - Players must not throw any object or piece of equipment onto the field, at the ball, or at another player, umpire or person.

Following a penalty corner, if the ball hits any discarded equipment, such as a hand protector, knee pads or a face mask, a free hit should be awarded if this occurs outside the circle, and a penalty corner awarded if this occurs inside the circle.

Comment: This rule puts the responsibility onto the defenders to ensure their protective equipment is outside the field of play. Note: that if the equipment is in the goal but off the field of play this is **not** penalised by a penalty corner. Players should realise that protective equipment which is not clear of the field of play presents a potential hazard to them or other players should they inadvertently stand or fall on the equipment. Remember the rule regarding defenders play going outside the circle with their protective equipment still worn; only allowed to complete that playing action.

Rule 11.8 (Page 29) - If the ball strikes an umpire, unauthorised person or any loose object on the field, play continues **(except as specified in the guidance to Rule 9.16)**.

Comment: See rule 9.16 above.

Rule 13.2 (Page 31) - 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**

(f) from a free hit awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, the ball must not be played into the circle until it has travelled at least 5 metres, **not necessarily in a single direction**, or has been touched by a player of the defending team.

*If the player taking the free hit continues to play the ball (i.e. no **defending** player has yet **touched** it):*

- that player may play the ball any number of times, but
- the ball must travel at least 5 metres, before
- that player plays the ball into the circle by hitting or pushing the ball again.

Alternatively:

- after a defending player has touched the ball, it can be played into the circle by any other player including the player who took the free hit.

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. On this basis, defenders who are inside the circle within 5 metres of the free hit are therefore not interfering with play and may also 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.

Players inside or outside the circle who were 5 metres or more from the point of the free hit at its award are not allowed to move to and then remain in a stationary position within 5 metres of the ball as 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.

Following a time stoppage after the award of an attacking free hit inside the 23 metres area, upon the re-start all players other than the player taking the free hit must be at least 5 metres from the ball.

Comment: Please note the rest of this rule still applies as per the rule book and only the changes are listed above. This rule should speed up the flow of play however everyone needs to be aware of the limitations in a pressure situation. Also, remember that ALL players need to be 5 metres from the ball when a time stoppage has occurred inside the 23 metre area.

Rule 13.7 (Page 36) - For an offence during the taking of a penalty corner:

(d) a goalkeeper, or player with goalkeeping privileges, crosses the goal-line before permitted, the defending team defends the penalty corner with one fewer player: the penalty corner is taken again.

The defending team nominates which player is required to go beyond the centre-line, and they cannot be replaced by another defender

If a goalkeeper, or player with goalkeeping privileges, at this or any subsequently re-taken penalty corner crosses the goal-line before permitted, the defending team is required to nominate a further player to go beyond the centreline, and they cannot be replaced

A penalty corner is considered as re-taken until any of the conditions of Rules 13.5 (for penalty corners in normal time) and 13.6 (for penalty corners at half time and full time) for its completion are met

A subsequently awarded penalty corner, as opposed to a re-taken penalty corner, may be defended by up to five players

Comment: For clarification only.

Rule 13.8 (Page 38) - Taking a penalty stroke:

(e) the player defending the stroke must stand with both feet on the goal-line and, **once the whistle has been blown to start the penalty stroke**, must not leave the goal-line or move either foot until the ball has been played

Comment: This rule makes it clear that the goalkeeper has to be on the goal line and not moving their feet once the whistle is blown.

Rule 13.10 (Page 40) - For an offence during the taking of a penalty stroke:

(d) for any offence by the player defending the stroke including moving either foot before the ball has been played: the penalty stroke is taken again

If the player defending the stroke prevents a goal being scored but moves either foot before the ball has been played, this player may be **cautioned** and

for any subsequent offence must be suspended (**green card, and for further offences with a yellow card**).

Comment: This rule change is in keeping with green card which is an automatic two minute suspension.

Umpires ONLY

Umpiring signals 4.3 (Page 49)

(c) ball out of play over the back-line unintentionally by a defender : **using right or left arm as appropriate, with the arm well below shoulder level, draw an imaginary line from the point where the ball crossed the back-line to the point on the 23 metres line from which the restart should be taken**

Comment: This provides clarification regarding the 'new' long corner signal.

Note: There are a number of field marking changes which are only mandatory for Senior International matches.

End.

