

2015 Field Hockey Preseason Bulletin

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

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2015 NFHS FIELD HOCKEY RULE CHANGES

Rule 1-5-6 PEN: Clarified the coach's responsibility for players being properly and legally equipped.

Rule 1-6-5: Clarified that all eye protection shall be permanently labeled by January 1, 2019.

Rule 1-6-11 PEN: Clarified that the coach is responsible for players being properly and legally equipped, and if not compliant, the coach will receive a misconduct penalty.

Rule 1-7-7: Clarified that the coach is responsible for the goalkeeper's compliant equipment and uniform.

Rule 2-2-4: Clarified how the umpire signals the end of each half.

Rule 3-2-11: Modified how a player is allowed to play the ball at any height, including above their shoulders under certain circumstances.

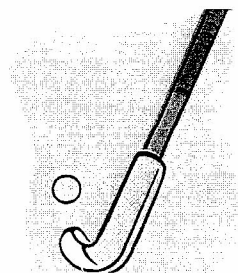
Rule 5-2-1#5 Exception: Clarified how coaches are to avoid gamesmanship during a penalty corner.

Rule 8-1-1a: Clarified how players may play the ball at any height, including above their shoulders under certain criteria.

Rule 10-3-2g: Clarified how to restart play when a stoppage occurs during a penalty corner at the end of a prolonged first or second half.

Officials' Guide x. B. 4: Clarified the role of the lead umpire during the administering of a penalty stroke.

Officials' Guide V. A. 7: Clarified how a receiving player interacts with an opposing player during an aerial ball.



C.COMMENTS ON THE 2015 RULES

The Comments on the Rules section is provided to add a rational and/or further explanation of a rule change or modification. It is our hope that the new and modified rules will add to the ease of officiating, support coaching skill development and increase the popularity of the game across the United States. Due to space limitation, only the main rules changes will be addressed.

COACHES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THEIR PLAYERS ARE PROPERLY AND LEGALLY UNIFORMED (1-5-6 PAGE 11)

The rule was modified to not penalize the offender's team by changing possession, but by requiring that the head coach is aware and responsible for the team's uniforms being in compliance with NFHS field hockey playing rules.

ALL PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR MUST BE PERMANENTLY LABELED BY 2019 (1-6-5 PAGE 12)

Currently all protective eyewear must meet the ASTM standard and several products are not labeled on the eyewear but on the eyewear packaging. Coaches are not able to ensure that their players are using current ASTM standard eyewear unless they have the eyewear packaging in their possession. The rules committee felt that it was in the best interest of all involved to have the eyewear permanently labeled that it meets the current ASTM 2713 field hockey standard. The committee also felt that the manufacturers needed time to comply with the new requirement.

COACHES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THEIR PLAYERS ARE PROPERLY AND LEGALLY EQUIPPED. (1-6-11 PENALTY PAGE 13)

The penalty was modified to support the above-mentioned rule change (1-5-6) to hold the head coach responsible for the team's equipment being in compliance with NFHS field hockey rules.

COACHES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THEIR GOALKEEPERS ARE PROPERLY AND LEGALLY UNIFORMED AND EQUIPPED (1-7-7 PAGE 14)

The similar rule was modified to reflect the change of the field players' equipment and uniform and not penalize the offender's team by changing possession, but by requiring that the head coach is aware and responsible for the goalkeeper's uniforms and equipment being in compliance with NFHS field hockey playing rules.

CLARIFICATION THAT THE UMPIRE'S WHISTLE SIGNALS THE END OF EACH HALF (2-2-4 PAGE 23)

At the end of each half, either the timer sounding an audible device or the visible scoreboard's signal device may indicate that the half is completed, but it is the umpire's whistle that officially ends each half.

MODIFYING HOW THE FIELD PLAYER MAY STOP, DEFLECT OR MOVE THE BALL WITH HER STICK EVEN ABOVE HER SHOULDERS (3-2-11 PAGE 27)

Players have well coached and have grasped and concept of playing the ball in any part of the field at any height, including above their shoulders as long as certain criteria exists.

PREVENTING GAMESMANSHIP FROM COACHES DURING A PENALTY CORNER AT THE END OF A PROLONGED HALF (5-2-1 # 5 EXCEPTION) Pg. 36

This rule was added to prevent coaches from having a field player take an injury during a penalty corner near the end of the first or second half.

MODIFICATION OF THE DEFINITION OF A FOUL (8-1-1a -PAGE 41)

Rule 8-1 defines fouls and their penalties if the stick is raised above the shoulders when players are approaching or are within playing distance or in an intimidating or dangerous manner.

MODIFICATION ON HOW TO RESTART A PLAY WHEN STOPPAGE OCCURS DURING THE TAKING OF A PENALTY CORNER AT THE END OF A PROLONGED HALF (10-3-2g PAGE 52)

There are different procedures on how to restart play when a stoppage occurs during the taking of a penalty corner at the end of a prolonged first or second half that is different than taking a regular penalty corner.

IDENTIFICATION OF DUTIES BY THE LEAD UMPIRE AS HE/SHE ADMINISTERS THE PENALTY STROKE (OFFICIALS GUIDE, X.B.4 (PAGE 85)

Provides additional direction and explains the duties of the lead umpire when he/she is administering the penalty stroke.

B.2015 NFHS FIELD HOCKEY RULES POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believe there are areas of the game of interscholastic field hockey that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as "Points of Emphasis." For the 2015-16 high school field hockey season, attention is being called to: properly marked protective eyewear, rough and dangerous play and good sporting behavior. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce and/or they are not being given the proper attention.

1. PROPERLY MARKED PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

With the ASTM standards 2713-09, 2713-2014 being in place since 2009 and 2014, respectively, the standardization of the performance of protective eyewear is more important now than ever before. It is incumbent upon the coaches and players to use the properly marked protective eyewear as it was manufactured. Combining various protective devices is potentially harmful and immediately voids any manufacturer's warranty. By rule, required equipment shall not be modified and shall be worn as intended by the manufacturer. Manufacturers spend hundreds of hours researching and testing products before they are released to the public. They ensure that their products will perform at the highest level possible if it is worn properly. The NFHS makes a significant investment in time and resources to identify appropriate equipment for field hockey, for the sole purpose of minimizing risk. That is why there is a new rule requiring that all protective eyewear that meets the current ASTM standard be permanently labeled effective January 1, 2019.

2. ROUGH AND DANGEROUS PLAY

Overly aggressive play and lack of regard for everyone's safety is unacceptable in the sport of field hockey. In both practice and game play, coaches need to teach the safe use of the stick and good body control. Players need to accept the possibility they could inflict serious injury. Officials must be able to recognize dangerous play and penalize it appropriately. Although it is recognized that the possibility of injury is inherent in field hockey, all participants have the obligation to minimize risk whenever possible.

3. GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR

Officials and coaches need to work together. Each contest is another opportunity for coaches and officials to teach not only field hockey, but also model good sporting behavior. The positive values that are learned will serve the players long after their field hockey experience has concluded. Game situations typically provide a coach the opportunity to identify a teachable moment to reinforce good sporting behavior.