

2015 Outdoor Rules Briefing

for application at all
USA Field Hockey Events

Beginning 1 January 2015

Changes from 2013 to 2015 Rules

MAIN RULES CHANGES

The following Rules have been amended:

- Attacking Free Hits, awarded within 5 meters of the edge of the circle, now taken from the point of the offence.
- Re-start after ball has unintentionally been played or deflected over the back-line by a member of the defending team, and no goal is scored, is now taken on the 23 meter line and in line with where the ball crossed the back-line.
- Lifting of ban of certain types of face masks for defending Penalty Corners

MAIN RULES CHANGES

The following FIH Tournament Regulations, which were variations of the Rules of Hockey, are now adopted as full Rules:

- Breaking at Penalty Corners.
- Green Card – now a two minute suspension.
- Use of Stick above the Shoulder allowed.

A Attacking Free Hits around the Circle

Rule 13.1b (*a free hit awarded within 5 meters of the circle to the attack is taken at the nearest point 5 meters from the circle*) has been deleted.

An attacker can now take the Free Hit from where the offence took place. The same conditions apply as before regarding playing the ball into the circle:

- At a 'self-pass' the ball must travel at least 5 meters from the point of the free hit (not necessarily in a single direction) before the taker himself can play the ball into the circle.
- Alternatively the ball must be touched, deflected, hit or pushed by any other player before either it enters or can be played into the circle
- **All other players must start 5m from the Free Hit.**

Attacking Restart after ball has been unintentionally played over the backline by a defender (a long corner)

Rule 7.4: When the ball is played over the back-line and no goal is scored

(b) if played unintentionally by a defender or deflected by a goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges, play is re-started with the ball on the 23 meters line and in line with where it crossed the back-line and the procedures for taking a free hit apply.

With the ball being placed on the line, the re-start is effectively within the 23 meters area and the provisions for taking a free hit are applicable. The signal for this restart has not changed from the Long Corner signal

Playing the Ball above Shoulder

Rule 9.7: Players may stop, receive and deflect or play the ball in a **controlled** manner in any part of the field when the ball is at any height including above the shoulder unless this is dangerous or leads to danger.

Safety is still paramount, and this action must be **controlled** and not be dangerous or lead to danger in any way.

Offences during a Penalty Corner

Rule 13.7 has been updated regarding breaking the line and other offences at a Penalty Corner:

Remember that the Penalty Corner is taken again if:

- The injector feints at playing the ball – the offending player goes beyond the center line and is replaced.
- A defender, other than the goalkeeper, crosses the back line before permitted - the **offending player** goes beyond the center line and is not replaced.
- A goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges, crosses the back line before permitted - the defending team **nominates** which defender goes beyond the center line and they cannot be replaced.
 - An attacker enters the circle before permitted - the **offending player** goes beyond the center line and may be replaced.

Offences during a Penalty Corner

For any similar offences by an attacker, defender or goalkeeper at this or any subsequently re-taken penalty corner, the same conditions apply.

The players beyond the center line **may not** return for re-taken penalty corners, but may do so for a subsequently awarded penalty corner.

A penalty corner is **considered as re-taken until** any of the conditions of Rules 13.5 & 13.6 for its completion are met, these are:

1. a goal is scored 2. a free hit is awarded to the defending team 3. the ball travels more than 5m outside the circle 4. the ball is played over the backline and a penalty corner is not awarded 5. a defender commits an offence which **does not** result in a penalty corner 6. a penalty stroke is awarded 7. a bully is awarded

(Only at the end of a half/game) The ball leaves the circle for a second time
If none of these conditions are met, any players who have been sent to the half way line, must not come back

Breaking on a Penalty Corner

The players beyond the center line may not return for ***re-taken*** penalty corners, but may do so for a ***subsequently*** awarded penalty corner.

A penalty corner is considered as re-taken until any of the conditions of Rules 13.5 & 13.6 for its completion are met.

This means....if another PC is called before the PC is officially over, the players that were sent to the midway line originally must go back to the midway line. A PC is considered re-taken until the PC is completed. For any totally new PC, the players may return.

Breaking on a Penalty Corner

Breaking at a Penalty Corner is now a Rule with no modifications by USA Field Hockey.

Penalty Stroke award for persistent breaking at Penalty Corners has been deleted.

Ball Hitting the Foot or the Hand

9.11 Field players must not stop, kick, propel, pick up, throw or carry the ball with any part of their body.

It is not always an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand or body of a field player. *The player only commits an offence if they gain an advantage.*

Keep in mind that a team gains an advantage if their action disadvantages the opponent. Example: the ball hits the foot of a defender that would have gone to an attacker had the ball not hit the foot. The attacking team is disadvantaged therefore a foul on the defender.

Deleted Rule

Rules deletion is that of the ability to progress a free push by up to 10 meters. This has become redundant with the new free hit rules and the ability to self-pass, while any other misconduct can be managed using other Rules or personal penalties.

No more 10 meter bump up on free hits!

DANGEROUS PLAY

Reckless play, such as sliding tackles and other overly physical challenges by field players, including those which take an opponent to ground and which have the potential to cause injury should attract appropriate match and personal penalties.

Umpire should be more strict on these types of actions to help eliminate the attempts which can cause serious injury.

Personal Penalties (carding) is appropriate in such cases. Usually Yellow 10 minute minimum.

APPLYING THE RULES...Remember

- If the ball is ***intentionally*** played over the back-line by a defender and no goal is scored, play is re-started with a penalty corner
- If it is clear that a player is ***shielding*** the ball with their stick they should be penalized.
- Watch also for tackling players who by ***pushing or leaning*** on an opponent cause them to lose possession of the ball.
- The requirement for the ball to be stationary, ***albeit very briefly***, at free pushes, especially if it is taken using a 'self-pass', should be more strictly (***but sensibly***) applied.

Keys to a Successful Event

GOOD COMMUNICATION between players and umpires with umpires being clear and understandable in decisions.

ACCEPTANCE that everyone has a different perspective of decisions being made on the pitch. But, in the end, the umpire must make the best decision possible at the time.

SPORTSMANSHIP between all participants that promotes not only the game but the values expected by USA Field Hockey.

**GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE FOR
A SUCCESSFUL SEASON!**