

## UMPIRING DEPARTMENT – CLARIFICATION – APRIL 2025

### ❖ ***Wearing of masks by defending field players at penalty corners***

- The USA Field Hockey Regulations were recently updated to provide as follows at paragraph A.9:

*“All field players must wear a face mask when defending a penalty corner. It must be a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise single coloured face mask or a metal grill face mask, which closely follows the contours of the face.”*

- To the extent that the FIH Umpire Briefing has not yet been updated or a clarification published regarding the management of this area of the game, we are providing the following guidance until such time as further directions may be forthcoming:
  - If a defensive field player wanting to defend a penalty corner does not have a face mask or refuses to wear one, they may not be included in the penalty corner defense and must go beyond the halfway line.
  - If a defensive field player does not have a face mask or refuses to wear one and their actions result in an unreasonable delay in the taking of the penalty corner they may be issued a green card and the defending team defends the penalty corner with one less player.
  - If a defending field player removes their face mask before the penalty corner is completed then play should be allowed to continue but at the next stoppage of play a green card may be issued to that player.
  - Common sense should be applied when encountering, assessing and addressing any of the above situations.

**Sean Rapaport**  
Director of Umpiring  
[srapaport@usafieldhockey.com](mailto:srapaport@usafieldhockey.com)

