

Guidance on the changes incorporated into the 2017 rules of hockey

1.10 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.

Simply advising that there should be nothing in the goals – items should be outside (and preferably behind) the goal.

2.1 note - Decisions taken prior to correcting the situation cannot be changed, if time and/or play has already been re-started.

This rule relates to having too many players on the field and is self-explanatory

2.2 note - 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.

This rule simply explains that all changes between the differing goalkeeping options take place as substitutions.

4.2 note - 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 ;

This rule clarifies the maximum permitted size of a players hand protection.

4.2 note - 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 ;

This rule clarifies that knee protectors worn outside the socks must be the same colour as the socks or have the socks pulled up over them so there is no doubt whose leg the ball may have hit.

4.3 Goalkeepers and players with goalkeeping privileges must wear a coloured shirt or garment which is different in colour from that of both teams. Goalkeepers (ie wearing full protective equipment) must wear this shirt or garment over any upper body protection. Elbow protection does not need to be covered by the shirt or garment.

The requirement for the shirt to be of a single colour has been removed.

9.8 note - A ball is also considered dangerous when it causes legitimate evasive action by players.

The word 'also' has been added to make it clear that legitimate evasive action is not the only reason for a ball to be considered dangerous.

9.16 note - 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.

Plus an amendment to allow for the change to 9.16 - 11.8 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).

This aligns the indoor and outdoor rules and encourages the players to ensure their discarded equipment is off of the field of play!

13.2 c, f and note – All bring the rules and advice relating to free hits in the 23m area and around the circle formally into the rule book.

13.7 note - 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

This simply clarifies the difference between a re-taken and a subsequently awarded penalty corner.

13.8 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

This simply clarifies that the need for the player defending a penalty stroke to have both feet stationary on the line extends from when the umpire blows the whistle until the ball is played.

13.10 d note - 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).

This simply clarifies that a player breaking rule 13.8 e may be cautioned and then must be suspended for a repeat offence as the green card is now a 2 minute suspension [formerly there was no suspension for a Green Card].

UMPIRING SIGNALS 4.4 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

The new signal for the 23m restart [formerly the 'corner' commonly referred to as a 'Long Corner'].