

Following is a press release on changes in high school field hockey rules made by the NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee.

### Field Hockey Rules Committee Focuses on Reducing Risk on Penalty Corners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Treva Dayton  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN (February 21, 2003) - Shots on goal during penalty corners was a major emphasis during the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Field Hockey Rules Committee meeting February 8-9 in Indianapolis.

"The committee felt that it was important to reduce the potential risk of uncontrolled shots in a crowded situation and also concentrated on providing enough clarification so that officiating would be consistent," said NFHS Assistant Director Treva Dayton.

Rule 10-1-6 was revised to state that no shot on goal shall be made by an attacker from the penalty corner hit or from a pass deflected by a teammate unless the ball is controlled by the attack - not the defense - prior to the shot.

Additionally, Rule 10-1-7 clarifies that the 18-inch height restriction remains on an initial shot on goal that is a drive or a hit unless the ball is deflected by a defender as it travels toward the goal, or the ball travels more than five yards from the circle prior to the shot. This 18-inch height restriction is further explained in Rule 10-1-8, as it states that the rule only applies to initial shots on the goal that are hits or drives. For flicks, deflections, scoops and subsequent hits on the goal, the ball may be raised to any height as long as danger is not created.

As the rules were previously written, as soon as a defender touched the ball, a shot could occur without the need to control the ball or limit the height of the shot, which could be dangerous to onrushing defenders. The revisions to the rule reduce this risk.

In other changes, Rule 4-2-3 previously limited the right to request a time-out to the coach and captain of a team. A revision allows any player on the field to request a time-out.

The committee also revised part of the suggestions for tie-breaking procedures to state that if at any time during regulation play a player is disqualified, causing the team to play short, that team must play short throughout the overtime. If a player is suspended, then the team shall play short until the suspension time is complete.

"The advantage was being gained by the carded team in overtime play," Dayton said. "This reduces the chance of reckless play at the end of the game."

The committee also discussed the definition of misconduct in Rule 8-1-2c and specifically listed intimidating behavior as a form of misconduct, along with taunting and baiting.

Additional rules changes deal with officials' pre- and post-game requirements, as well as signals. Rule 2-1-1 adds that the officials' jurisdiction begins when one official arrives at the field and ends (and the final score is approved) when the officials leave the field at the game's conclusion. This eliminates the requirement for officials to sign the scorebook at the end of a game; rather, they are allowed to leave the field immediately.

In conjunction, Rule 2-1-4e-4 makes signing the scorebook part of the

pre-game routine, and Rule 2-2-1 eliminates the requirement that officials go to the table after the game if no problem exists; they shall only review and approve the score at the end of each half.

Changes in officials' signals were made to be consistent with those currently being used at other levels. Signal 11, Obstruction, will now be illustrated by crossing the arms in front of the chest with palms facing inward. Another change exists with Signal 7, Add Ten; officials raise one arm vertically with the first clenched. The signal for Play On was replaced with the signal for Advantage, which consists of the official extending an arm high from the shoulder in the direction in which the benefiting team is playing.

In addition to these changes and clarifications, several definitions were added to Rule 3 to provide clarification of terms used. The committee also made an effort to include procedures for restarting play in all new situations.

Field hockey remains a growing sport that appeals to both female and male athletes, as there are 60,931 participants nationwide, according to the 2001-02 High School Athletics Participation Survey. Although the vast majority of participants are girls, making up 60,737 of the total, boys are also joining teams, as 194 boys currently play field hockey.

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