

New Rules 2015 – interim advice for umpires and players in the summer leagues

All the changes are outlined on pages 5-7 of the **FIH Rules Book**. Amendments are also “sidelined” in the text of the rules.

Please remember to umpire all the rules – don’t get so fixed on the new ones that you forget to blow the others!

Accept that umpires will make mistakes – admit them, learn from them – discuss the rules openly with colleagues, players, coaches before and after the match – umpires, help players to understand them during the match.

No one has the right to abuse the umpire [whether a mistake has been made or not] – this is unacceptable and should be dealt with on every occasion using all the tools at the umpires disposal.

Basically, keep it simple – communicate clearly.

- Breaking at a Penalty Corner:** if a player [attacker or defender] breaks early – send them to the half way line and re-take. If it is the keeper – the defence nominates a player to go to half way. If the “injector” feints at playing the ball in order to try and induce an early break from the defence – the “injector” should be sent to the half way line [not any defender who broke because of the feint]. If player does not have one foot off pitch – tell them before they take the corner – avoid “messy retakes” [they do not get sent to half way]. In general, blow the whistle immediately, tell the player concerned to go to half way and the reason why. Retake the Corner. [until PC is over, any retakes are taken without any players sent to half way]
N.B. You can no longer award a Penalty Stroke for persistent breaking at a Penalty Corner.
- Green Card:** This is a 2 minute suspension – send the player to the sin-bin [or other place agreed prior to the match] – I would suggest we let them “self-police” this suspension during the summer league. Remember, they cannot return during a PC until it is complete – suggest assisting umpire watches out for this!
- Playing the ball above the shoulder:** Safety first. 5m to the initial receiver is still relevant. Blow on danger. For aerial balls – do what you have always done – simply bear in mind a player may stop a safe aerial on the way up with a periscope stick or run 5m in front of the receiver and pluck the ball out of the air!
- Long Corner:** Taken on 23m line in line with where it went off the back line. The signal is the same as always – I would suggest this is accompanied by a vocal “Re-start on the 23 please” – or “23m restart”.
N.B. On the line counts as “inside” the 23m area and the appropriate rules apply.
N.B. Don’t be too picky about the ball being exactly on the line – although it must be stopped and played as though it is [even if placed 3 inches outside 23]. I would suggest umpires divide the pitch in half – the lead umpire controlling 23m restarts on their side of the pitch [given with the left arm], and the supporting umpire controlling 23m restarts on their side [given with the right arm]. Get the ball where you want it early using whistle and voice – avoid the need for “messy retakes”.
- Free hit within 5m of the circle:** This area, as with the rest of the pitch, can now benefit from a quick whistle rather than always looking for advantage.
Insist on a “stop and go” – don’t let them simply carry on dribbling a moving ball. The rules for free hits within the 23m area apply – simply apply them right up to the edge of the circle now.
If a defender outside of the “D” commits an offence – treat them exactly as you would anywhere else in the 23m area – if they deliberately break down play this should always result in a Penalty Corner and a personal penalty.
If a defender is inside the “D” and remains inside the “D” they cannot initially commit any offence as the taker must carry the ball 5m before they can enter the “D”. Any tackle made by a player inside the “D” after the ball has been carried 5m is judged purely on the quality of the tackle – it is not a 5m issue. An issue may arise where the taker 1m from edge of “D” moves the ball a few inches and runs off – another attacker who is 5m away runs up and plays the ball into the “D” [this is allowed] – the player who was standing just inside the “D” 1m away not interfering could now interfere by playing the ball never having been 5m away – this IS an offence – the same as it would have been anywhere in the 23m area. Penalty Corner and a personal penalty.
At this time, I would not expect to see a Penalty Stroke awarded for any infringement under this rule. [current advice from NPUA]
Discuss likely scenarios before the game and actual scenarios after the game – learn together.
- The “Up 10” has been removed:** Use your voice, whistle and cards.

Any questions that arise, feel free to discuss and feed back to me at any point.

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