

WEARING OF KNEE PADS

EH are preparing guidance for the National League competitions on the wearing of knee pads whilst playing hockey but until that is received the following guidance is to be followed by DHUA umpires:

Wearing “fabric” knee pads during a match to protect the knees from abrasion is fine.

Wearing of “solid” knee pads during general play is not acceptable.

However, in the interests of safety, wearing knee pads whilst defending a penalty corner should be allowed - they are treated in exactly the same way as gloves and facemasks are for penalty corners and the rules relating to gloves and facemasks are applied. The specifics are reproduced below:

- *are permitted to wear gloves [knee pads] for protection which do not increase the natural size of the hands [knees] significantly;*
- *are permitted to wear a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise single coloured face mask or metal grill face mask, which follows the contours of the face,[kneepads] when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke for the duration of that penalty corner or penalty stroke and when they are inside the circle they are defending ; the primary objective of wearing a face mask [knee pads] to defend a penalty corner is safety; wearing of face masks [knee pads] which are consistent with the underlying spirit of this guidance should be allowed;*
- *are **not** permitted, when wearing face masks [knee pads], to conduct themselves in a manner which is dangerous to other players by taking advantage of the protective equipment they wear;*

Other matters to note:

Putting on equipment to defend a penalty corner should not cause undue delay to the taking of the penalty corner – stop time if it does and ask the players to hurry up!

“Solid” knee pads must fit underneath players’ socks and must be covered by players’ socks.

When a player wearing “solid” knee pads continues playing outside of the circle they are defending, a free hit should be awarded. NB if the player is in the clear and obviously about to pass the ball a couple of metres outside the circle having gained possession inside the circle, allow them to make the pass and then remove the gear. If they are about to come into potential contact with an opponent, blow the free hit immediately, do not wait for the players to come together. This offence is about preventing danger.

Pete Hammond (DHUA Chief Coach)

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