Ohio High School Athletic Association

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2014 Field Hockey Notes

DOD – Field Hockey

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The 2014-2015 OHSAA Field Hockey Season is well underway.
I hope that it is going well for you!

In this bulletin, I’d like to take some time to reiterate a few items from the rules (changes or otherwise), the NFHS Points of emphasis, and to look at just a few situations that make us think...

Thanks to those who contributed questions or scenarios for our conversation. Here are a couple of game situations that have taken place thus far (Note that all 3 relate to or are addressed during Penalty Corners). Answers will be discussed later in this document. (PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ANSWERS ARE INTENDED TO BE SPECIFIC AND NOT APPLICABLE TO ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF THE SCENARIOS AS PRESENTED.)

Situation 1:
During a Penalty Corner, the attack player receives the injected ball just outside the circle. She moves the ball inside the circle and immediately drives the ball which is on a path to cross the goal line above 18 inches. The umpire:

A. Immediately blows the whistle and awards a free hit to the defense.
B. Holds the whistle.
C. Blows the whistle and resets the corner.
D. Allows play to continue as there is no foul.

Situation 2:
During a penalty corner by the Red Team, Red Team player #6 is discovered wearing a white mouth protector. The official directs the player to leave the game and:

A. Permits a Red Team Player to enter from the player substitution area as a replacement for that player
B. Awards a free hit to the White Team
C. Issues a Green Card to Red Player #6 for not wearing required equipment
D. Play on; there is no violation
E. A & B
F. A, B, & C
Situation 3:
On a Penalty Corner, the inserter is appropriately positioned with one foot completely outside the field of play and all other players are positioned behind the end line/outside of the circle. As play begins, the inserter raises her back leg and sets it back down inside the field of play just prior to the ball being contacted. The official shall:

A. Award a 16 yard hit to the defense
B. Stop play and reset the penalty corner
C. Stop play and reset the penalty corner after directing the inserter to the center line
D. Play On; there is no violation

Did you know?

On Page 21 (Rule 2.1.5) of the rule book it now states that EITHER OFFICIAL may restart play following a timeout or other suspension of play. The tableside official is only REQUIRED to restart play to begin each half or extra session or after a goal.

On page 21 (Rule 2.1.4) of the rule book, it continues to emphasize the fact that ANY blood on a player’s uniform or equipment must be addressed. Remember, the key is ANY rather than EXCESSIVE blood! Our main concern with High School Athletics IS SAFETY!! If you haven’t read it in several years, please review page 93 (General Guidelines for Sports Hygiene, Skin Infections and Communicable Diseases).

On page 23 (Rule 2.2.4) of the rule book eliminates (as of 2013-2014) the requirement that “the timer shall follow the near official up and down the field counting down the final 10 seconds of the half to the official…” This is clarified on page 25 (2.2.4 Situation A) where it states “The timer shall sound an audible horn when time has expired.”

On page 37 (Rule 6.1.3) states that “Any goals scored by or when an ineligible player is on the field shall not count, provided this is discovered prior to the center pass…” The key to understanding this rule relies on understanding the definition of an Ineligible Player (Rule 3.1.7 on page 26). “Ineligible Player is one who has been disqualified or has not completed a suspension.” It is not a player without a mouth guard, a player with visible jewelry, or a player wearing lacrosse goggles.

On pages 30 & 31 (Rule 4.2.3) states that “Each team shall be permitted two 90 second time-outs per game.... The coach... any player on the field may request a time-out... The time-out is granted when her team has possession of the ball and play has stopped or a goal has been scored by either team.” Therefore, there is nothing prohibiting a time-out request by a team taking either a penalty corner or a penalty stroke! This is confirmed on page 33 (4.2.3 Situation A).
Preventative Officiating /Professionalism

Using preventative officiating will help limit the delays in the game! These practices include warning substitutes not to enter on penalty corners, informing coaches of remaining number of time-outs, making sure players are properly positioned prior to penalty corners or penalty strokes, etc. However, officials must remember that their job is to enforce the rules not to teach or to coach players.

Answers:

Situation 1:
During a Penalty Corner, the attack player receives the injected ball just outside the circle. She moves the ball inside the circle and immediately drives the ball which is on a path to cross the goal line above 18 inches.

Correct Ruling:  A: The umpire Immediately blows the whistle and awards a free hit to the defense.
In the case of a penalty corner, Rule 10.2.7 (p. 51) and 10.2.7 Situation B (p. 55) come into play. The rule indicates that the violation is immediately penalized. This is a violation because it is 1.) a penalty corner, 2.) a hit (not a push, scoop, or flick), 3.) the first shot on goal, and 4.) the ball is on a path that would have resulted in it crossing the goal line above the maximum height of 18 inches.

I’ve received questions about raised balls and, as you might imagine, the answers differ based on location, action, etc. This particular situation is very specific and we should be interpreting /calling this consistently.

Situation 2:
During a penalty corner by the Red Team, Red Team player #6 is discovered wearing a white mouth protector. The official directs the player to leave the game and:

Correct Ruling:  E. A & B. The official Permits a Red Team Player to enter from the player substitution area as a replacement for that player. In addition she, Awards a free hit to the White Team. In this situation, the player is wearing/using illegal equipment, a completely white mouth guard. This is illegal equipment as defined in Rule 1.6.1 (page 12). The penalty (on page 13), Penalty 1, states “For a field player wearing/using illegal equipment or removing or not wearing/using required equipment, the player shall be removed from the game at the first stoppage of play following the discovery of the violation. The removed player may re-enter if she has complied with the rules or she may be replaced. If the team of the offender has possession of the ball, there also shall be a change of possession.” Note the difference between that and Penalty 2 which addresses unsportsmanlike conduct as “deliberately removing or not wearing required equipment.” Had the player deliberately removed her mouth guard, goggles, etc. a card would have been appropriate and a substitute player would NOT be allowed.

We should be emphasizing the need for players to be properly and legally equipped an asking coaches to verify/confirm compliance. That is required (Rule 2.1.4.c.5), but it is also one way that we can provide preventative officiating. In addition, there is nothing that prohibits us from walking-the-line to check for legal equipment, visible jewelry, etc.
Situation 3:

On a Penalty Corner, the inserter is appropriately positioned with one foot completely outside the field of play and all other players are positioned behind the end line/outside of the circle. As play begins, the inserter raises her back leg and sets it back down inside the field of play just prior to the ball being contacted. The official shall:

**Correct Ruling: D. Play on; there is no violation.**

What??? Did he really say that? YEP!

There has been some excellent discussion on this one as just about everyone I spoke with missed this one before going back to the rule book. I went for outside help/clarification to make sure that we were reading what was there. That source, a well-respected official NFHS Rules Committee Member confirmed that there is no violation!

On page 50 (Rule 10.2.1) we read that the player taking the penalty corner shall have at least one foot completely outside the field of play until the ball is contacted. However, rule 10 does not address a penalty for violating this rule. On page 54 (10.2.3 Situation) indicates that if at all possible, we should be providing preventative officiating and resetting the corner before the ball is played rather than sending the player back to the center line. Remember, the line itself is considered to be inside the field of play (Rule 1.2.3).

**Keep up the good work!**

*Special thanks to Anne Anderson, Al Brauer, Linda Kochan, Marcus Lee, Todd Shapiro, and Vince Vidrick for your situations and feedback!*