Ohio High School Athletic Association

Rick Pollak

2016 Field Hockey Notes

DOD – Field Hockey

September 23, 2016 ~ Bulletin 2016-06

diamondumpire@gmail.com

Organizational Restructuring:  Let me begin this bulletin by announcing that a staffing reorganization has taken place at OHSAA. Assistant Commissioner Jerry Snodgrass is now the Sport Administrator for Field Hockey. Under this new structure, Jerry will be the Sport Administrator for the majority of the OHSAA Team Sports. The Individual Sports are now under a variety of Administrators. As far as Field Hockey, his right hand person will be Jenn Close (an OHSAA certified Field Hockey Official). Please see the press release at http://ohsaa.org/news/misc/20160912sportassignments.pdf

Here in my third season as Director of Development, I’m pleased to have had the opportunity to work closely with Associate Commissioner Deborah Moore. My sincere thanks to Dr. Moore for all of her support for my efforts and for all of her years of service to the sport of Field Hockey. She and I have developed an excellent, trusting, working relationship which has grown into somewhat of a mutual admiration society. I’ll still see her and I know that her heart is still with us. She will be in attendance at our state tournament games and will still be working hard at her duties in the OHSAA Office.

I will remain as the point person for Field Hockey rules interpretations and situations that relate to the game while Jenn and Jerry will become the school administrator’s contact on compliance, sport regulations, eligibility, etc. I look forward to working closely with Assistant Commissioner Jerry Snodgrass and Jenn Close. Jerry and I have worked together in other sports, but our working relationship will become much closer very soon. (I met with Jerry in his office last Friday and he looks forward to learning our game and to getting involved at a high level.)

Jerry’s bio is available at http://www.ohsaa.org/general/biographies/admin_bios.htm

As the season moves forward, many of the tournament assignments have gone out to officials and my inbox has been filled with emailed game questions and a variety of updates. Please continue to send me real game situations that have arisen as those continue to generate some excellent discussion about our game. Below are 5 of those; enjoy!
SUSPENDED PLAYERS

Field Hockey Question #1: In most other sports, a player serving a penalty cannot be coached. Does this apply to hockey while a player is at the scorer's table? I couldn't find anything definitive in the book...

Ruling: Actually, Rule 3.1.7 (page 31) is explicit on this. When I teach a class of new umpires, we always start with Rule 3, Definitions. Every rule and situation eventually leads back to the definitions, so knowing those is essential to officiating the game. To answer your question, the rule states that a “Suspended player is one who has received a green or yellow card and shall serve her suspension at the scorer’s table on the same side as her team bench. Suspended players may be coached during their suspension period.” Remember though, the coach must remain in the team area (which is 5-yards from the sideline and between the suspension area and the 25-yard line.) In most cases, the penalty chair is located roughly 5-6 feet from the team area.

OVERTIME:

Field Hockey Question #2: Hi- There was an issue with a game in the [state] that I want to make sure you know about. It was brought to me since I am the Ohio President [of the Coaches Association]. [Team A] beat [Team B] 1-0 in double overtime. Obviously, they should only have played 1 overtime period so it would have been a tie. I don't know who officiated, and the coaches should have been aware of the rule. Anyway, I wanted to pass it along so that you were aware.

Ruling: This is an Ohio Adoption to the Rule Book Rule 2.1.4.b (which permits a state to create a state tie-breaking procedure). Ohio’s Adoption is located on page 11 of the Field Hockey Preseason Manual (found on the OHSAA website). It states that there shall be one overtime period (7 vs. 7) during regular season varsity contests! There is no overtime period permitted for regular season contests between sub varsity teams (with one minor exception for junior varsity tournaments). The exact verbiage (for regular season games) is:

“Varsity high school teams shall play one 10-minute sudden victory tiebreaker during the regular season. Play shall utilize the seven player “reduced play” procedure that is part of the OHSAA tournament Overtime procedure. If the game is still tied at the end of the overtime period, the game is recorded as a tie. No non-varsity contests (junior varsity, reserve, freshmen or grades 7-8) are authorized to use a tie-break procedure. EXCEPTION: If playing a regular season high school tournament at the non-varsity level, a SINGLE Sudden Victory Penalty Stroke Procedure as described below shall be used to break the tie. Note: This tiebreak provision is not approved for 7-8th grade competition.”

Field Hockey Question #3: The other day, we played to a zero-to-zero tie after regulation in our regular season varsity game. It was the same situation after our junior varsity game... After completion of the second half of the varsity game, we had the captains meeting to toss the coin for possession. When it was time to take the field, I had a brain freeze and asked the official if I should place 7 field players or 7 total players on the field.

Ruling 1: Seven vs. seven is exactly that. Seven players per team!

Ruling 2: There is no overtime permitted for the junior varsity contest during regular season play.
AERIAL BALLS ~ RESTART

Field Hockey Question #4: In my game the other day, the ball was raised safely but while well above the field, the umpire blew the whistle based on his judgement that the ball would not have the opportunity to land safely (there were two opposing players located where it would land). Clearly this is a judgement call and there was no argument. The question is: Where should the restart take place?

**Ruling:** First of all, the call was correct as “The raised ball must be judged for actual or potential danger” Officials Guide V.A.3 (page 70). That section of the Officials Guide goes on to explain “Judging for danger could occur in one of three areas: * where the ball is lifted; * during flight; * where the ball lands. A raised ball falling into a crowd of players, or two opposing players, should be called for danger as early as possible.” So in this case, that the raised ball was judged based on potential danger.

So, these fouls for dangerous aerial balls must be penalized with a restart where the ball was originally lifted or where the danger occurs. “When the danger occurs on the initial lift or in flight the will be awarded where the ball was originally lifted. When the danger occurs where the ball lands the penalty must be taken there…” So in this particular instance, the restart should NOT have been taken where the ball was lifted. Based on the judgement of potential danger with two opposing players in the vicinity where the ball would have landed, the defense should have been awarded a free hit at the spot where the ball would have landed.

LEGAL SUBSTITUTIONS

Field Hockey Question #5: Rick: In my last game, the official, who works under other codes (NCAA and USA Field Hockey) as well as NFHS, prohibited my girls from entering the field after a goal was scored. She indicated that a substitute could not enter the field until her teammate had left the playing field. What’s with that?

**Ruling:** Great question! The rule book is not specific on this so a rule interpretation based on intent is advised here. Rule 4, on page 35, defines eligible substitutes (4.1), the number of substitutes at any given time (4.2), the prohibition of substitutions prior to the taking of a penalty corner (4.3), the number of times an eligible substitute may re-enter the game (4.4), regulations on substitutions during play (4.5), requirements for a suspended player returning to the game (4.6), and the fact that time is not stopped for a substitution (4.7). These sections are clear! However, we can logically add the fact that the game clock is to be stopped by the official’s signal for a goal (Rule 4.2.2.e on page 34). The key in this scenario is in Rule 4.4.5 which states “If a substitution takes place during play…”

The bottom line is that 1) the clock stops after goals in high school field hockey and 2) the clock runs after goals under international rules. Under the latter, we would be prohibited from allowing open substitution. However, since the clock is already stopped in our game, let’s do what we can to get play started as quickly as possible and not hold up the game waiting for players to exit before exchange places. That puts the onus on officials to count players! Please be vigilant to ensure that the players coming onto or going off of the field have completed their trek before we restart the clock. Let’s not have to penalize a coach for our own mistakes.
Thanks for All that you do!

Rick

RESPECT THE GAME!