

Lausanne, Wednesday 17 July 2013

**To: Continental Federations  
National Associations**

## Rules of Indoor Hockey

Based on recommendations from the FIH Rules Committee, the FIH Executive Board has agreed changes to the Rules of Indoor Hockey. These changes formally take effect from 1 September 2013. However, advance notice of the main changes is provided here so that Continental Federations and National Associations may, if they wish, implement the changes sooner for matches within their jurisdiction.

**Changes to the Rules of Indoor Hockey** (with reference to the numbered Rules in the 2011 edition) are as follows: -

### Rules 2.3f & g

- Adjustments to the substitution rules, whereby time will not be stopped for any goalkeeper substitution; these will be able to take place across the side-boards near the goal that they are defending

### Rule 5.1

- Guidance to be added, to bring into line with the Rules of Hockey 2013, that *If a time-out is called or time expires just before an umpire would otherwise have made a decision, umpires are permitted to make that decision immediately after the time-out is called or after the end of the first period or the match*

### Rule 5.2

- Removal of the requirement that a time out cannot be called in the last two minutes of each half

### Rule 6.5a

- Adjustment to where a bully may be taken, such that 'A bully is taken close to the location of the ball when play was stopped but not within 9 metres of the back-line *and not within 3 metres of the circle*'

### Rule 8

- The Method of Scoring will remain unchanged i.e. the Mandatory Experimental 'own goal' Rule **will not** be included in the Rules of Indoor Hockey 2013.  
NB. *Feedback on the Rules of Outdoor Hockey 2013 'own goal' has been requested from all National Associations. A review of the 'own goal' Mandatory Experimental Rule will take place at the 3 October 2013 meeting of the Rules Committee*

### Rule 9.12

- The originally proposed Rule for 2013 whereby 'Field players must not play the ball while lying on the pitch or with a knee, arm or hand on the pitch, *including the hand which is holding the stick*' **will not** be included in the 2013 Rules  
NB. *The Rule will remain as 'Field players must not play the ball while lying on the pitch or with a knee, arm or hand on the pitch other than the hand holding the stick'*

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- Regarding the issues that the original ‘hand on the floor’ proposal was intended to address, the following further Rules changes, amendments, additional guidance and/or Umpire Briefing updates will be included: -
  - Umpires should recognise and interrupt play, with a bully re-start, when the ball is either trapped between players’ sticks or it becomes unintentionally trapped against the side-boards
  - Deliberately trapping the ball against side-boards should be viewed as an offence, and penalised accordingly
  - ‘Drilling’ (the act of playing the ball deliberately and hard into an opponent’s stick, feet or hands with associated risk of injury when a player is in a ‘set’ position) and ‘spinning’ (whereby a player collects, turns and tries to play the ball deliberately through a defending player who is either close to the attacker or is trying to play the ball) should be more specifically dealt with either by a new Rule or reinforcement of the existing dangerous play Rule, including the provision of possible personal penalties for offending players
  - Umpires should be reminded that obstruction still exists, with particular emphasis on limiting time spent in situations where the ball becomes ‘trapped’ in the corners of the pitch (particularly towards the end of matches), with the player in possession effectively shielding the ball such that an opponent is prevented from being able to play it. Interventions by the Umpires will make teams aware that this type of play or tactic is of no benefit to them

#### **Rule 11.6h**

- In line with changes to Rules 2.3f & g, the requirement for Umpires to stop the match for goalkeeper substitutions will be removed

#### **Rule 13.2e & f**

- In line with the Rules of Outdoor Hockey 2013 free hit changes, the following requirements will be removed: -
  - ‘if the player taking the free push is the next player to play the ball, the actions of taking the free push and of next playing the ball must be two separate actions’
  - ‘before another player of the team which took the free push is allowed to play the ball, the ball must move at least 1 metre’

#### **Pitch and Equipment Specifications**

The stick specification will be brought into line with those in the Rules of Outdoor Hockey 2013 in terms of the allowed bow, i.e. the specifications that were notified to all of the stick manufacturers well in advance of the proposed changes, so new sticks on the market should be fully compliant. However, we are aware that some players will still be using older sticks. We therefore recommend that National Associations introduce this new specification sympathetically at lower levels.

#### **Points of clarification**

Other than as described above, any further changes in the 2013 edition of the Rules of Indoor Hockey are clarifications of existing Rules. To draw attention to all changes, even to minor points of clarification, a line will appear in the margin of any text which has been changed when the full set of Rules is published.

#### **Playing Rules in International Matches**

Variations to the playing Rules are sometimes applied in international matches. An example is a green card which indicates a temporary suspension in international matches whereas in all other matches it is a warning. These variations take account of the fact that these matches are played under the control of a technical table, with experienced players and officials. It must be understood, however, that they only apply in these matches; all other matches (i.e. those played at national and local level) must be played in accordance with the Rules of Indoor Hockey. If a National Association wishes to adopt any of the international variations for their domestic competitions, a request to do so must be submitted to the FIH Rules Committee.

**Publication of Rules books**

It is anticipated that Rules books incorporating the changes referred to in this notice will be printed and made available on the FIH website in September 2013.

Any questions about the information in this document should be referred to the FIH Head of Sport and Development: [david.luckes@fih.ch](mailto:david.luckes@fih.ch)

**FIH Rules Committee**  
**July 2013**