

Field Hockey BC



New Rules Implementation

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Opportunity Statement

Field Hockey BC has the opportunity to implement the new free hit rules prior to the May 1, 2009 implementation date.

Background Information

FIH released a revised set of rules revolving around the taking of a free hit that will take effect on May 1, 2009. The full set of rules will be published prior to the May 1 implementation date. For a complete text of the revised set of rules please refer to **Appendix A**. Officials in British Columbia received the rule wording from FIH on February 5, 2009.

In late January, Louis Mendonca, Head Coach, Canadian Women's National Team, questioned if the Vancouver Women's League was playing the proposed rules cycle, and if not the reasons why. The email message, received through Robin D'Abreo, appeared as a request to implement the new rules. Please refer to **Appendix B** for the email chain and subsequent documentation received through the National Coach from Eric Donegani.

During January and February, leading up to the past Field Hockey BC Executive meeting, many local coaches, local officials and local players were approached for their feedback of when to implement the new rules. The resounding response was to implement these rules right away and to get a running start on training them and interpreting them. The Vancouver Men's and Vancouver Women's leagues did not implement these new rules as the two leagues were in mid-season, as it did not make practical sense to introduce these rules mid-season.

Gene Muller, Head Coach, Irish Women's National team, was queried, as the Irish league has implemented the new rules in their competition. Gene advised the self-pass rule has dramatically increased the time the ball is in play, and increased the decision making and vision of the attacking and defending players. The new rule change within the 23m area has caused coaches to become more creative and prepare set pieces as opposed to using a low percentage, potentially dangerous play. The summary of the conversation is provided in **Appendix C**. This summary has been provided to the FHBC Board and Umpiring Committee as supporting documentation to the recommendation provided at the February Board Meeting.

As a result of discussion with these individuals, it was recommended to implement these rules as soon as possible. **Appendix D** outlines the rationale used to recommend the following motion at the February Board Meeting:

Motion: For the High Performance U16 and U18 categories, the Junior U16 and U18 categories, and all Seniors to adopt the new self-pass and free-hit rules effective April 1st. For the U14 and U12 categories, implement just the free-hit rule effective April 1st. This is subject to feedback from High Performance coaches and umpire feedback from the umpiring seminars. Carried.

Jane Nockolds, FIH Umpires Manager and National Development Manager, England Hockey was approached for her feedback. Jane advised the new rules cycle will not be used in England until the start of their hockey season in September. England Hockey is currently filming a collection of scenarios to support the new rules and have offered to provide a copy. The text of the response is provided in **Appendix E**. This information was not received until after the February Board Meeting.

The Field Hockey BC Women's High Performance Sub-Committee met on February 25, and after a lengthy discussion requested the new rules not be used in the upcoming High Performance exhibition matches and High Performance tournaments for the U14, U16, and U18 age groups. Please refer to **Appendix F** for rationale received from the committee.

Discussions with the Greater Vancouver Junior Field Hockey League (GVJFHL) President, Brian Lewis took place. Brian would like to see the new rules implemented for the junior league which starts in early April. Brian will garner feedback from GVJHL stakeholders and provide their feedback as soon as he has it. Feedback will be provided to the sub-committee as soon as it has been received.

The GVJHL is the largest affected stakeholder group, if they choose to implement the new rules immediately FHBC should recommend the new rules be implemented as per the motion passed above in all aspects of programming.

Field Hockey Canada has advised that the new rules will be used at the Junior and Senior National tournaments this summer. The new rules will also be used in the BC Invitational and in Team BC summer programming. FHC will support whichever solution we decide on using. FHC will also approach FIH for any educational resources they have available to assist in teaching the new rules.

Field Hockey BC must take advantage of using the new FIH rules in upcoming play in the province. Many leagues throughout the world have become early adapters of the new rules cycle, clearly creating a competitive advantage for their nations on the world stage. By adapting the new rules cycle for the upcoming junior leagues, and subsequent tournaments allows BC athletes, coaches and officials extra time to adapt to the new rules, and evolve their development for ensuing tournaments.

External (Environmental) Analysis

A quick environmental scan was done; the following nations have progressed with early implementation or discussion around implementation:

- South Africa (March 1, 2009)
- Ireland (January, 2009)
 - Senior Interprovincial Tournament (March 13-15, 2009)
 - ESB and Men's Irish Hockey League
- New Zealand (early February, 2009)
- Scotland (February 2009)

The New Zealand Hockey federation has provided a comprehensive interpretation to their officials. Please refer to **Appendix G and Appendix H**.

Scottish Hockey provided an interpretation slideshow that is consistent with what New Zealand has provided their officials. Please refer to **Appendix I**.

Ireland has recommended the use of the new self pass rule at the upcoming Senior Interprovincial Tournament in March, and has successfully trialed the rules on the Men's IHL. Below is an excerpt from the Scottish Hockey website describing the impact the rule change has had in their domestic competition:

Commenting on the change David Passmore, High Performance Director said, "The inclusion of the auto pass rule in the Irish Hockey League has been very well received by coaches, players and spectators alike. It was of no surprise that the FIH have now introduced the rule at international level from May. The inclusion of this rule at both IHL and now interpro level has been an innovative

venture that will help give our players an added edge moving forward, whilst making the game faster, easier to watch and more entertaining."

Three of the nations listed above are close to the same ranking as Canada on both the men's and women's side. Field Hockey BC provides approximately 70% of national team athletes (senior and junior), who as a by-product, benefit from using the new rules as soon as possible.

Potential Solutions

1. Implement the new rules on April 1, 2009 as approved in the February Field Hockey BC Board Meeting.

PROS

- New skill sets for players to learn in junior leagues and in the final preparation for High Performance
- Faster, quicker game, with enhanced decision making
- Early mover advantage – proactive response to change

CONS

- Short time frame to educate officials, coaches and players – in the High Performance program and in the junior leagues
- Lack of educational resources for coaches, and officials.

2. Implement the new rules at the start of the Team BC Summer program (juniors) and in September 2009 for all age groups.

PROS

- Additional time to provide educational opportunities and resources for coaches, officials and players
- Potentially more educational resources available for coaches, and officials.

CONS

- Late mover disadvantage – reactive response to change
- Possible negative impact to stakeholders

3. Implement the new rules on April 1, 2009 as approved in the February Field Hockey BC Board Meeting, but not at the High Performance tournaments or Masters Tournament.

PROS

- New skill sets for players to learn in junior leagues
- Faster, quicker game, with enhanced decision making
- Early mover advantage – proactive response to change

CONS

- Short time frame to educate officials, coaches and players – in the High Performance program and in the junior leagues
- Lack of educational resources for coaches, and officials.
- High Performance athletes will be using separate rules in the league and HP tournament.

Recommended Solution – Implement the new rules on April 1, 2009 as approved in the February FHBC Board meeting, but not at the High Performance tournaments or Masters Tournament.

Implementation Plan

Priority 1:

Objectives: Discuss new rules and come to a clear, concise interpretation utilizing the available interpretation from New Zealand and FIH

Target: Core group of Senior Umpires (Paul Chohan, Jon Stoller, Sumesh Putra, Rob McBeth, Narinder Sangha, Alison Sweeten, Denise McGeachy, Chris Wilson, Mark Saunders – staff perspective)

Timing: Immediately – meeting was held on Sunday, March 18

Resolution: Different interpretation issues were discussed, for the self-pass and free hit, it was decided the interpretation will be based on documentation received from New Zealand and from FIH. All Senior Umpires involved were confident we could move forward within the next month to provide clinics based on these interpretations. **Appendix H**, and **Appendix J** will be used as the documentation to provide interpretation to the greater community. As resources (DVD's, etc) come available from England and New Zealand they will be provided to whoever requests them.

Priority 2:

Objectives: Outline potential clinic dates, clinic locations and clinic leads

Target: Core group of Senior Umpires (Paul Chohan, Jon Stoller, Sumesh Putra, Rob McBeth, Narinder Sangha, Alison Sweeten, Denise McGeachy, Chris Wilson, Mark Saunders – staff perspective)

Timing: Immediately

Resolution: Date bookings as follows, clinic leads in brackets:

- March 12, Burnaby Lake (Jon Stoller)
- March 18, TBA (Narinder Sangha)
- March 19, Burnaby Lake (Rob McBeth, Jon Stoller backup)
- March 24, TBA (Paul Chohan)

- TBA, Victoria
- TBA, Duncan

Note: The dates and clinic leads on the Island will be provided by Chris Wilson, Denise McGeachy and Alison Sweeten as soon as they are known.

Note: The TBA locations on the Mainland will be one session in the Fraser Valley and one session on the North Shore. Tentative locations are Hugo Ray Club House in West Van and the Coast Hotel in Delta.

There will be two (2), one (1) hour sessions running on each day from 6:30 – 8:30.

Note: Narinder Sangha and Paul Chohan volunteered to answer any questions brought forward from any stakeholder who has a question.

Priority 3:

Objectives: Feedback from Mainland and/or Island clinics

Target: Senior Umpires

Timing: March 29

Priority 4:

Objectives: Provide support to leagues and mentor umpires, schedule any additional clinics as required

Target: Senior Umpires

Timing: Ongoing

Appendix A – Rules of Hockey 2009: Free Hit

Source: <http://www.worldhockey.org/vsite/vcontent/page/custom/0,8510,1181-194838-212061-46396-293491-custom-item,00.html>

The text of the free hit rules which will apply in international hockey from 1 May 2009 is provided below.

One of the objectives of the FIH and therefore of the Hockey Rules Board (HRB) is to decrease the number and duration of interruptions to the flow of play and to increase the length of time the ball is in active play. A “self-pass” from a free hit has therefore been introduced. It enables the player taking the free hit to play the ball again after taking the free hit which will encourage free-flowing hockey.

As with other actions on the hockey pitch, this must take place safely. Other aspects of the free hit rules have therefore been reviewed. The HRB is concerned that the ball is often played hard, indiscriminately and therefore potentially dangerously into the circle from free hits in the attacking 23 metres area. In future, these free hits must not be played directly into the circle.

FIH believes these are indications of the way it wishes to see hockey develop. Exciting innovations will take place but there will also always be a concern that the game should be as safe as reasonably possible.

These Rules changes above are referred to as Mandatory Experimental Rules. They are mandatory because they must be played throughout hockey; they are experimental to show that they will be reviewed after experience before deciding if they become permanent Rules. When the full set of the Rules of Hockey is published, small changes to some wording and various additional notes will also be added to clarify certain current rules. It is anticipated that the full set of Rules will be published in the next month or so.

The text of the relevant free hit Rules will be as follows:

13.1 Location of a free hit:

- a a free hit is taken close to where the offence occurred

‘Close to’ means within playing distance of where the offence occurred and with no significant advantage gained.

The location from which a free hit is taken must be more precise inside the 23 metres area.

- b a free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle to the attack is taken at the nearest point 5 metres from the circle
- c a free hit awarded outside the circle to the defence within 15 metres of the back-line is taken up to 15 metres from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line
- d a free hit awarded inside the circle to the defence is taken anywhere inside the circle or up to 15 metres from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

13.2 Procedures for taking a free hit, centre pass and putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field:

- a the ball must be stationary
- b opponents must be at least 5 metres from the ball

If an opponent is within 5 metres of the ball, they must not interfere with the taking of the free hit or must not play or attempt to play the ball. If this

player is not playing the ball, attempting to play the ball or influencing play, the free hit need not be delayed.

- c when a free hit is awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, all players other than the player taking the free hit must be at least 5 metres from the ball
- d the ball is moved using a push or hit
- e the ball must not be raised intentionally directly from the free hit
- f if the player taking the free hit is the next player to play the ball, the actions of taking the free hit and of next playing the ball must be two separate actions before another player of the team which took the free hit is allowed to play the ball, the ball must move at least 1 metre
- g

The ball does not have to move 1 metre before the player taking the free hit may play the ball again.

- h from a free hit awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, the ball must not be played into the circle until it has travelled at least 5 metres or has been touched by a player of either team other than the player taking the free hit.

Appendix B – Email from Canadian Women’s National Team Coach and Attachments

Hey Paul,

As umpiring chair for BC can you please advise on the question below on behalf of both the men’s and women’s leagues.

Thanks a lot,

Robin

From: LOUIS MENDONCA [mailto:lmendonca@rogers.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:07 AM

To: Dallas Plensky; Robin D'Abreo

Cc: John De Souza

Subject: Rules

Just a quick couple of questions

Do you know if the league is playing with these new rules?

How do we get them to playing with it?

Louis

Attachment 1: Rules Board Report – Eric Donegani

Hockey Rules Board Meeting November 25, 2008 Los Angeles

Recommended Rule Changes

The Rules Board recommended to the FIH Executive Board that the following two rule changes become “mandatory experimental rules” in 2009:

1. Attacking Free Hits Entering the Circle

The rule will require that the ball must not enter the circle directly from a free hit taken by the attacking team in the 23 metres area (ie it must be touched by another player of either team before entering the circle). All players must be five metres from the ball. The rule applies to free hits and to putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field.

2. Free Hits – “Auto-Pass”

The Euro Hockey League has trialed this and it was very popular. The EHL regulations specify that a team may opt for an “auto-pass” play when taking a free hit from a dead ball situation (including a free hit, 15m hit, sideline hit-in, (long) corner, hit-off from the centre-line). All players of both teams, other than the person taking the hit, shall be 5m from the ball.

The ball is completely stationary and the taker moves the ball before continuing with it in their possession in open play (in effect a “self-pass”). This variation applies anywhere on the pitch, but, for a free hit by the attacking team for an offence which occurred within 5m of their opponent’s circle, the free hit must be taken from a spot 5m outside the circle line.

My understanding is that the FIH Executive Board did approve that these two changes become mandatory experimental rules in 2009, however, I am not sure when it will start.

The Rules Board was going to recommend to the Executive Board that substitution be allowed at penalty corners but decided, in the end, to not put this forward at this time, to give the first two recommended changes a better chance of being approved.

Euro Hockey League – Variations to the Rules and Regulations

For a full explanation of these variations, I have attached three reports (to my covering email) which are very interesting.

The Rules Board encourages hockey leagues to experiment and report on variations to the rules.

Eric Donegani

Attachment 2: Euro Self-Pass Report

HRB Paper 08 4.4 Appendix C

Self-Pass: Reports from First Rounds of EHL 2007-8 Matches

The following report has been provided by Martin Gotheridge

Self-pass (auto-pass) Variation used in Euro Hockey League

I have been asked by Roger Webb to submit this preliminary report for the information of HRB on the use in Euro Hockey League (starting in October 2008) of the self-pass rule. In terms of our experience of the rule, it will be appreciated that to date only 24 matches have been played in Round 1 of Euro Hockey League 2008/09. Whilst the players are still learning how to use the variation to their best advantage, the impression from watching the matches and from talking to players and coaches, spectators and TV personnel, have been entirely positive – so much so that many people have suggested that the HRB might want to consider an amendment to Rules of Hockey. I have yet to hear a single negative comment.

What is the self-pass rule?

For any dead-ball situation (including free hits, sideline hit-ins, hit off from half-way, 15m hits, long corners, but *not* PC injections)

1. all players of both sides (apart from the player taking the hit) must be 5m from the ball (and if they have not been able to go 5m. when a quick self-pass is taken then they will have to accept that they are out of the game and not permitted to play the ball or tackle the player, even though that means letting them go past – in other words it is not an excuse to say that they did not have time to get 5m. Rather like the Rugby rule where players in an offside position put their hands on their heads, to indicate that they are ineligible to take part in the play).
2. the hitter has the option of hitting a traditional pass.
3. in the alternative the hitter may, with the ball stationary, hit or push the ball at least 1m, and then play it again himself – so that the ball does not have to be played by another player.
4. in initially taking a self pass the player may not lift or throw the ball, though once the ball has travelled 1m. (out of contact with the stick) then any stroke allowed by the rules of hockey may be used.

What are the advantages?

1. The game flows more quickly – some have estimated by as much as 20% more quickly.
2. It opens up the game - not least by having all players, of both sides, 5m from the hit
3. It means that dead-ball hits are taken quickly instead of being treated as a “set-piece” once all the players have moved into position

4. It eliminates the defensive move of playing the ball 1m onto the flat stick of another defender and then hoisting a big aerial ball.
5. It encourages players not to drill the ball into a crowded circle - they can pass the ball sideways or move forward with the ball looking for a gap in the defence.

Are there any disadvantages?

Hardly any that I have discerned or had reported to me.

The only points raised have the inevitable ones in relating to umpires' interpretation/enforcement – “that was never 5m!”, “that player was never a full 5m away!” etc. The attacker who is fouled 1m outside of the circle has to take the ball back 5m, but to allow him to take a quick free hit (to himself) and proceed (with any defenders having to be 5m away), would allow the attacker too great an advantage. The “variation” does not totally eliminate the ball drilled into a crowded circle from 5m out – but on experience to date it makes that far less likely to happen. EHL Technical Panel will continue to monitor this “variation” closely, at the future EHL rounds at Easter and Whitsun 2009. Any members of HRB or FIH EB are welcome to join us at that time to observe the self-pass in action for themselves.

A review of this, and all the Variations applied in EHL in 2008/9, will be produced at the end of May, and, as last year, a copy will immediately be sent to Roger.

Martin Gotheridge, 3 November 2008

The following is extracted from the Umpires Manager's EHL Report

5m clear for free hit taker and self pass: this worked well and particularly as we briefed the umpires and the teams that the taking of all free hits had to be demonstrated with control of the ball and the taker's body. Other players had to show that they were definitely not influencing the taking of the free hit or would incur a personal penalty. his made real space for the free hit taker. Players of the team defending the free hit who were within 5m at the initiation of the free hit were required to stay out of playing distance until the ball had travelled 5m but could follow the taker rather than be required to be completely out of the game. The umpires also were sensible in the application of the need to move the ball 1m, penalising when the movement was less than 10cm, but not being over technical unnecessarily.

Tony Kelleher & Richard Kendrick, November 2008

Appendix C – Summary of Conversation with Gene Muller

All,

I had a nice chat with Gene Muller, Irish WNT coach, this evening, he has said the new self-pass rule has increased the time the ball is in play. The rule change within the 23m area has caused the coaches to become more creative, instead of using a low percentage play. From what he has seen in the EHL and Irish league, teams must make a decision of when and how to operate the press, a fouled player must make a decision of continuing to break the play or disengage and allow another defender to pick up the attacker when the self pass has been used.

From what he has said, confirms the decision to use these new rules **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

Regards,

Paul

Appendix D – New Rules Referral to Field Hockey BC Board

To: Mark Saunders, Executive Director, Field Hockey BC

**CC: Field Hockey BC Board of Directors
Field Hockey BC Umpiring Committee
Chris Wilson, FIH Umpire**

From: Paul Chohan, Director of Umpiring, Field Hockey BC

RE: New Rules

FIH has advised the new rules cycle will start on May 1, 2009. The additions to the rules are a self-pass rule and a rule to not allow the direct play of the ball into the circle within the 23m area. FIH and FHC have both recommended use of these rules as early as December, 2008.

I have discussed these rules with umpires, and coaches, all are supportive of implementing these rules as soon as possible. It is recommended that communication session be held with umpires, coaches, junior leagues and club administrators in Greater Vancouver, and Greater Victoria as soon as possible. The Interior region begins their activity in the summer; it is recommended we target communication for that area closer to when their activity starts. I will recommend we implement these rules for use in High Performance events, Regional events, Junior Leagues, and Club Championships that occur prior to the May 1, 2009 implementation date, subject to sufficient information sessions held in the affected regions by our Senior Officials. The target group will be umpires and coaches in the affected regions.

The main concern of the new rules is the interpretation of 5m breach and additional personal penalty with the self-pass rule. I believe this risk can be mitigated with the appropriate information sessions with coaches and officials outlining a common sense approach with personal penalty. These new rules can be tested in scheduled exhibition matches with senior umpires assigned to watch and outline any potential conflicts in interpretation of the rule or escalation of personal penalty.

It has come to my attention that Gene Muller, Head Coach; Ireland Women's National Team will be in Vancouver. I have scheduled time to discuss the interpretations with him and will provide feedback after the meeting. Scott Sandison, current Canadian National Team member, playing in the Spanish League has firsthand experience playing with these rules, I will be in contact with Scott when he returns from tour with the Canadian team to discuss these new rules. The new rules are being used in the Irish and Spanish Leagues.

Note: The text of the new rules was provided for those who did not receive them.

Appendix E – Email Correspondence from Jane Nockolds

Hello Paul

I will release a press statement to the England hockey website next Monday confirming that other than 3 identified events we will not formally (mandatorily) introduce the new rules until the start of our hockey season. This will be 1st September. I can confirm that there has been substantial confusion and hundreds of questions sent to FIH from around the world and that until they publish the 09-10 Hockey Rules Book we have decided to leave poor Roger Webb alone!

We are currently filming a collection of scenarios to support the experiment and will produce an instructional DVD for our clubs and umpires. If you want me to send you a copy I will be happy but suggest that it will need you to write and ask me in about 2 months time. If that's helpful...

Good luck with them anyway. I have to say I think it will be confusing at first. I watched it at European level (international) and it made a very significant difference to the play – moreso in defensive tactics rather than innovation from the attack...

Best Wishes

JANE

From: Chohan, Paul [mailto:paul.chohan@vancouver.ca]

Sent: 17 February 2009 22:39

To: Jane Nockolds

Subject: FW: Rules

Hi Jane,

Do you have any insight on the new rules? When is England Hockey planning on starting their use?

Our High Performance and junior seasons are scheduled to start in April and will overlap the start of the rules cycle, and since I am the Umpiring Director for Field Hockey BC, I would like to get an early start as recommended by FIH and FHC, as do most of the umpires and coaches I have talked to. Any information you can provide would help us come to an educated decision.

I have attached all the information I have received, besides the note our FIH Umpires received and forwarded.

Cheers,

Paul

Appendix F – FHBC Women’s High Performance Committee Rationale

Implications of the proposed April 1, 2009 FIH Rule Implementation on the 2009 High Performance Regional and Zone Programs, *High Performance Women’s Committee*

Members in attendance:

Sue Demuyneck, Chair and Board Director

Voting Members:

Okanagan Regional Centre Coach: Carolyn Gillespie

Island Regional Centre Coach: Krista Thompson

North West Regional Representative: Jane Kozniuk

South East regional Representative: Cindy Sacre

Island Regional Representative: Sarah Angus

Staff:

Robin D’Abreo, Provincial Development Coach

Dallas Plensky, High Performance Program Director

Background: We met on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 as a High Performance Committee. We discussed the implications of the new FIH rules in both club and HP programs. After a lengthy discussion, we unanimously voted in favour of the following motion for the FHBC High Performance Program:

HP Committee Motion: To delay the implementation of the new FIH rules until after the completion of the 2009 FHBC Regional & Zone Program's High Performance U14, U16 and U18 Tournaments.

The Regional and Zone High Performance Program is a major part of FHBC’s core business. We aim to continue to deliver a professional and high quality program. We take an athlete-centered approach in our decision-making. We believe the above motion to be in the best interest of our athletes. Our High Performance athletes are expected to peak and perform at their very best at the High Performance Championships in order to be considered for selection to 2009 Team BC at all age levels. We do not feel that within a 1 month period, we will be able to effectively manage the education of the 400 athletes in the High Performance Program. We believe the new rules will have a detrimental affect on the performance of our athletes at the HP events in 2009.

Committee Communication:

- We are in support of the new rules, as well as the umpire and coach education initiative for a pilot project in the Junior League.
- Implementation of the technician clinics is a great idea, and we will encourage all members of our program to participate in the education phase of the implementation program.
- We do not feel that 4-5 weeks is sufficient time to complete all components of the new rule implementation, and anticipate significant negative effects of this new rule implementation, specifically in the High Performance Program.
- We believe there to be much confusion in the interpretation of the new rules, specifically in the free hit outside of the circle rule. We feel that this will be a major factor at each High Performance Tournament, and may impact game flow, results, as well as umpire and athlete performance.

High Performance Program Structure, Human Resources and Events:

60 High Performance Coaches and Managers

418 High Performance Athletes

U16 High Performance Tournament: April 17-19, 2009

U14 High Performance Tournament: April 24-26, 2009

U18 High Performance Tournament, May 8-10, 2009

Additional Information:

- We aim to make decisions which represent our athlete and coach population.
- Coaches have been preparing their high performance squads since October 2008 with a periodized skill, tactical and physical preparation plan prepared by staff.
- 3-6 practices and 2 exhibition games remain prior to the Championships, which represents 6 to 8 hours of time in the periodized plan.
- We are concerned about the integration of the new rules into the 6-8 hours of practice:
 - How long will it take to teach athletes the new rules?
 - What part of the program will need to be compromised to implement the new concepts into on-field practices?
- We do not feel that ½ hour or 1 hour of instruction of the new rules will be sufficient to educate these young people in order for them to feel comfortable and apply the new rules under pressure in a competition environment.
- Exhibition games in our HP Program start March 1, 2009 –which may represent only 1 of 2 exhibition games prior to the HP Event, and the only real learning opportunity to integrate the new rules in the HP Program.
- U14 and U16 athletes will have only played 1-2 Junior league games prior to the HP tournament. This will minimize the confusion of the mixed implementation.
- March Spring Break is time off for our Athlete program, resulting in fewer practices in the month of March to teach the new rules to both athletes and coaches.
- We would like to propose the integration of the new rules learning modules for our HP athletes in the Team BC phase of our program.
- We would also like to see the education and implementation plan for the next 6 months, so that we can incorporate the education of the HP athletes across the province.

Please contact Sue Demuynck, Committee Chair and Board Director if you should require additional information.

Email: kookykeck@hotmail.com

Appendix G – New Zealand Correspondence to Associations

Source: <http://www.hockeynz.co.nz/umpiring/rulesandinterpretations/>

To: Associations

From: Craig Gribble

2 February 2009

The 2009 Rule Book

The FIH Hockey Rules Board has announced that it is anticipated that the next Rules of Hockey will take effect from 1 May 2009.

Introduction into NZ domestic competition

The proposed new rules will be introduced into NZ domestic tournaments for the U21 tournament in May. However, the new Black Sticks coach, Mark Hagar, also wants the new rules to be applied for his trial games in early February.

The Umpire Council will discuss the new rules at their meeting on February 7th. A guide to umpires will also be produced. We are still awaiting the official wording from FIH. This is one of the reasons why the new rulebook has been delayed (normal release would have been January 2009).

The new rules will be adopted for all NZ tournaments on the domestic calendar starting 1st May (including the NHL). It is therefore recommended that Associations introduce the new rules into their club competitions immediately so that players attending NZ tournaments (and FIH tournaments) will not be disadvantaged.

In the meantime, I offer you and your umpires the following guidelines:

Mandatory Experimental Rules 2009

There are two new rules outlined in the new rule book for 2009:

Attacking Free Hits Entering the Circle

The ball must not enter the circle directly from a free hit taken by the attacking team in the 23m area, i.e., it must be touched by another player of either team before entering the circle. All players must be 5m from the ball. The rule applies to free hits and to putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field (side-line hit ins and long corners).

Free Hits – “Auto or Self Pass”

A team may opt for an “auto-pass” play when taking a free hit from a free hit, 16 yard hit, sideline hit-in, (long) corner, or hit-off from the centre-line. All players of both teams, other than the person taking the hit, shall be 5m from the ball.

The ball should be stationary and the taker moves the ball before continuing with it in their possession in open play (in effect a “self-pass”). This variation applies anywhere on the pitch, but, for a free hit by the attacking team for an offence which occurred within 5m of their opponent’s circle, the free hit must be taken from a spot 5m outside the circle line.

Good luck!

Regards

Craig Gribble
February 2009

Appendix H – New Zealand Rule Interpretation Memo

Source: <http://www.hockeynz.co.nz/umpiring/rulesandinterpretations/>

To: Associations
From: Craig Gribble
Date: 17th February 2009
Subject: New free hit rule 2009

In the 2009 rulebook, the free hit rule has been re-worded. It now incorporates two variations on the old rule: the option to ‘auto’ or ‘self’ pass and the restriction when hitting the ball directly into the circle from the attacking 23 metre area.

Outlined below is the actual wording issued by FIH. Under each part of the rule, there is a guide to umpires and a brief commentary to provide some clarity. Please feel free to contact me (027 2211 492) if there are any aspects that require further explanation.

Note: In all cases below, when the term ‘free hit’ is used, the rule will also apply to side-line hit ins and long corners inside the attacking 23 metre area. Note also that the ‘auto pass’ can be used to start the game, or to re-start after a goal has been scored.

13.1 Location of a free hit:

a a free hit is taken close to where the offence occurred

‘Close to’ means within playing distance of where the offence occurred and with no significant advantage gained. The location from which a free hit is taken must be more precise inside the 23 metre area.

Commentary and guidelines: Around the field, the placement of the free hit has become more liberal. In particular when a team takes a free hit back from where the infringement occurred, a 10 – 20 metre tolerance may be appropriate. Clearly when the ball is taken ahead of the spot, then maybe a 5 metre tolerance is acceptable. Inside the attacking 23 metre area, free hits (and auto passes) need to be managed more closely.

b a free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle to the attack is taken at the nearest point 5 metres from the circle

Commentary and guidelines: Most turfs have the dotted line marked 5 metres from the circle edge. No attacking free hit (or auto pass) is allowed within this line and the circle edge. Instead, the ball needs to be taken directly back and outside the dotted 5 m line.

c a free hit awarded outside the circle to the defence within 15 metres of the back-line is taken up to 15 metres from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

Commentary and guidelines: Using old terminology – “Take it up to the 16”

d a free hit awarded inside the circle to the defence is taken anywhere inside the circle or up to 15 metres from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

Commentary and guidelines: If a free hit is awarded inside the circle, it can be taken anywhere from inside the circle (or straight up to “the 16”).

13.2 Procedures for taking a free hit, centre pass and putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field:

a the ball must be stationary

Commentary and guidelines: In many cases the ball will not be stationary. However, it needs to be made clear that the free hit (or auto pass) has been taken.

b opponents must be at least 5 metres from the ball

If an opponent is within 5 metres of the ball, they must not interfere with the taking of the free hit or must not play

or attempt to play the ball. If this player is not playing the ball, attempting to play the ball or influencing play, the free hit need not be delayed.

Commentary and guidelines: Allow play to carry on in the spirit of open, flowing hockey. Deal with players who interfere deliberately under misconduct. However, if a player chooses to 'auto pass' then they should not be permitted to try and manufacture a foul by running at the opposition who may not have finished retreating 5 metres. The 'auto pass' rule is intended to speed up the taking of free hits – not to create an opportunity for a manufactured foul.

c when a free hit is awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, all players other than the player taking the free hit must be at least 5 metres from the ball

Commentary and guidelines: Self-explanatory

d the ball is moved using a push or hit

Commentary and guidelines: Self-explanatory

e the ball must not be raised intentionally directly from the free hit

Commentary and guidelines: Self-explanatory

f if the player taking the free hit is the next player to play the ball, the actions of taking the free hit and of next playing the ball must be two separate actions

Commentary and guidelines: This rule describes the 'auto pass.' It means that the auto pass needs to show clearly that the free hit (to ones self) has been taken. Therefore a player should attempt to make the ball stationary and pass to himself or herself, before say dribbling down the field with the ball. The temptation might be for players to carry on when the whistle goes without formally auto passing. This rule requires them to make the auto pass and their next action, two separate events.

g before another player of the team which took the free hit is allowed to play the ball, the ball must move at least 1 metre

The ball does not have to move 1 metre before the player taking the free hit may play the ball again.

Commentary and guidelines: The movement of the ball one metre to a player of the same team (conventional pass) is now an established rule. However, it too has been liberalised. The movement of the ball one meter at a free hit allows for opposition players to compete for the ball more safely when contesting the ball at an overhead pass situation. However, note that when a player does an 'auto pass,' then the ball does not need to move one metre.

h from a free hit awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, the ball must not be played into the circle until it has traveled at least 5 metres or has been touched by a player of either team other than the player taking the free hit.

Commentary and guidelines: Under no circumstances may a player play the ball directly into the circle from a free hit (or auto pass) within the attacking 23 metre area. The ball must first have traveled (moved) 5 metres (conventional or auto pass) or be touched by another player of either team.

Appendix I – Scottish Hockey Club Meeting Power Point

Source: www.scottish-hockey.org.uk/FileAccess.aspx?id=2124



Please double click image above to launch PowerPoint presentation. If the file does not open, please ctrl-click the source link.

Appendix J – Clarification of Rules from FIH

13.1 b - free hit awarded to attack within 5m from circle is taken at the nearest point 5m from the circle. **Does this mean that the attacker moves the ball back to the hash line (5m from the circle)??** YES !! WE REALISE THAT THIS WOULD SLOW THE GAME DOWN A LITTLE WHEN PLAYERS ARE READY TO GO, BUT MOST OF THE TIMES UMPIRES CALLED IT BACK AND BACK AGAIN BEFORE THEY ALLOWED PLAYERS TO TAKE THE FREE. ALL CHANGES IN RULES HAVE SOME COMPROMISES AND THIS IS ONE THAT WE WANT TO EVALUATE AFTER THE TWO YEAR TRIAL PERIOD

13.2 c - **any free hit within the 23m to the attack, ALL PLAYERS MUST BE 5M EXCEPT FOR THE PERSON TAKING THE FREE HIT (long corners, 16's, side line)** YES CORRECT. BUT DO NOT FORGET THAT AT A SELF PASS USED FOR TAKING THIS FREE QUICKLY AND PLAYERS ARE NOT AT 5 METRE YET, THIS CAN BE PERMITTED. THE PLAYERS THAT ARE NOT 5 METRES AWAY CANNOT PLAY, ATTEMPT TO PLAY OR INTERFERE WITH THE GAME UNTIL THE BALL HAS TRAVELLED 5 METRES (the distance they should have stayed away) OR IF AN OPPONENT OR OTHER PLAYER IS INVOLVED IN PLAY (open play situation as in normal free hit; this player was 5 metres away at take so can attempt at any moment after the take of the free)

13.2 g - **the ball must move 1m before another player of the team taking the free hit can play the ball unless it is a self pass and then the ball does not have to move 1m??** CORRECT. THERE IS NO ADVANTAGE FOR HOCKEY IN SAFETY OR WHATEVER BY REQUIRING THE 1 METRE AT A SELF PASS. IF THE FREE IS NOT TAKEN WITH A SELF PASS, BUT AS THEY ARE USED TO, THE 1 METRE IS REQUIRED.

13.2 h - I am confused about this one. **any free hit to the attack within the 23m, the ball must travel 5m before it can enter the circle or has been touched by a player of either team other than the player taking the free hit??**

YOU QUOTE THE RULE INCORRECT !!!!! THE RULE SAYS: before the ball can be PLAYED into the circle, not enter !!!

IT MEANS: TAKING A FREE HIT AT 5 METRES FROM THE CIRCLE WITH A SELF PASS AND NOBODY INTERFERING/DEFENDING, THE BALL MUST TRAVEL 5 METRES AND THEN THE BALL CAN BE PLAYED (it means another touch with the stick) INTO THE CIRCLE.

BUT IF THE FREE IS TAKEN WITH A SELF PASS, EXPECTEDLY DEFENDERS WILL APPROACH THIS PLAYER AND MIGHT INTERCEPT OR TOUCH THE BALL. IF THAT HAPPENS THE BALL CAN BE PLAYED INTO THE CIRCLE ALSO (but has travelled maybe only 3 metres before it was touched by a defender or a incoming teammate, so any other player). We have amended the text a little in the Rule Book and added a guidance as follows (book will be published in about 4 weeks, at the printers now):

- h from a free hit awarded to the attack within the 23 metres area, the ball must not be played into the circle until it has travelled at least 5 metres or has been touched by a player of either team other than the player taking the free hit.

If the player taking the free hit continues to play the ball (ie no other player has yet played it):

- *that player may play the ball any number of times, but*
- *the ball must travel at least 5 metres, before*
- *that player plays the ball into the circle by hitting or pushing the ball again.*

Alternatively:

- *another player of either team who can legitimately play the ball must deflect, hit or push the ball before it enters the circle, or*
- *after this player has touched the ball, it can be played into the circle by the player who took the free hit.*

All parts of Rule 13.2 apply as appropriate to a free hit, centre passes and putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field. In particular, Rule 13.2.h also applies if the attack puts the ball back into play within the 23 metres area after it has been outside the field.