



# whistlers'national

Hockey Australia's Umpires Newsletter • Edition 1, February 2011

## Welcome to the inaugural edition of Whistlers' National

Hi, and welcome to the inaugural edition of Australia's own Umpires Newsletter called Whistlers' National. Whistlers' as it will no doubt become known had it's infancy in WA and over a two year period became the authority and the publication to inform and answer the everyday hockey player and umpires questions and queries. The publication is aimed at the 'everyday' player and Umpire. Although everyone claims to be an expert when the opening whistle blows, the fact is that many players and umpires have never actually taken the time to read the rules and freely admit it. This goes right down from a new umpire doing their first ever under 9s match, to some of our elite who have umpired at an international level who in some cases also get away with the odd incorrect decision, after all they are only human. They too will read, have a chuckle and benefit.

Already there will be mumbles from these comments; well get used to it because this is a no holds bar publication wanting to get rid of inconsistencies in our umpiring, get rid of the traditional wrong 'over the bar' interpretation and get everyone realising that there is just one Rule book. It's the same book for both Men and Women (no pink or blue covers).

The same for young and old including veterans and in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. The interpretations are what differ. We have in our mist here in Australia many of the best world authorities in hockey, most of whom we will call upon to ensure we keep consistency as the No: 1 priority. We will also ensure our brethren that shy away and hide indoors on those finely honed wooden floorboards are included and we get to appreciate just how fast and how skilful the indoor player and Umpire is; this section will be called Whistlers' Undercover.

Finally it will be you that make this publication both fun, relevant and enjoyable to read. We need your input, we need your articles, and we need your questions to answer. Remember the question you have that may appear silly and simple will be one that so many others have pondered over for years, but were afraid to ask. Ask them and we can assure you we will answer questions quickly and them publish them in the next edition. All questions should be directed to [whistlers@hockey.org.au](mailto:whistlers@hockey.org.au).

I hope you enjoy the read..... Whistler



*I'm wearing green, so please don't see red!*



If you see Officials and Umpires wearing this shirt then it's important for you to know that they are beginners.

# What can Umpires learn from the Demolishing Kookaburras?

*Monthly column by The Legend*

*- an astute observer of the game with decades of umpiring experience at both domestic & International levels*

Ric Charlesworth has set new standards of achievement in the World Hockey. He has raised the bar internationally with the Kookaburras as he did during his sojourn with the Hockeyroos. No other team in the history of the game has won three major tournaments in the same year. That is a remarkable achievement one which all Australians not just hockey followers should be proud. The demolition of the opposition in the Commonwealth Games has sent a clear message to all those European Nations Netherlands, Germany and Spain that the Kookaburras are the standard setters. If you want to win a tournament in which the Aussies compete then to do so you need to lift your game because the Aussies have taken the game to a new level. The message is very clear the game is never over until the siren goes. The final goal of the Games in the last five seconds with Australia leading seven nil over the Indians showed that the Aussies have learnt to put sides away. It is a lesson that other Australian sporting teams might like to learn. The Kookaburras have clearly demonstrated that they are the leading Australia sporting team in the International arena and justifiably won the national award as the best performing team. Their record ever since they entered the World scene in the last century is without peer.

The International Rules Board has changed many rules in recent times to enable the game to be more attractive and they are to be commended for doing so. The umpires have played their role in interpreting the new rules in a manner that does them credit. The game has moved on players of today are fitter, they hit the ball harder, they have better skills, their athleticism is at times beyond belief. Whilst many of my

contemporaries will cry that the game is not like it used to be and infer that the old days were better I am not in that league. However it is fair to say that umpires of yesteryear had many more rules to adjudicate but the game has moved on umpires are far more mobile.

It is often said that rules are introduced to combat coach's tactics. I am sure that not only occurs in our game but in others sports as well. As a keen observer of our national game I see it repeatedly. What I also see is that we are entering a new era where coaches are being far more innovative and not only looking ways to get around the rules but also new strategies and tactics are being employed that take the game forward. The rotation of players, players being able to play in any position that in itself requires incredible flexibility, the speed of movement of players with and without the ball, the high skill level of all players and the new skills that international players use that will ultimately find its way down to the lower levels.

But what can umpires learn from all of this? Much I think. What role can we play in ensuring that the quality of play is enhanced not only for the guys but also for the ladies. How can we assist new coach Adam Commens to play our role in the delivery of quality umpiring? The fundamentals remain the same of course no matter whether it is for players or umpires. In reading books about high profile athletes of a variety of sports the continuing theme in all of them is how hard they practice the basic skills. That gives them the ability to perform at the highest level with the It is simply not good enough to rock up of a Saturday afternoon and expect to umpire,

adjudicate referee or whatever and expect to umpire in the same old way. The game even in the lower grades, maybe not in the over 70 vets with no ill feelings to those ladies or gentlemen, has progressed. Umpires need to get with it and modernise their umpiring. Those who have been at it for a few years need to eliminate "the old habits die hard" syndrome. Watch the new international breed of umpires how they move and manage the game.

Another important factor is that we all play the game for different reasons and the philosophies that each level of players have is quite different. So the umpire needs to appreciate these different philosophies when he or she adjudicates. Perhaps the final point to take the example from the Commonwealth Games is the game is not over until the fat lady sings. The example in the first paragraph of Australia scoring in the dying seconds of the game is an example of that. The message for the umpires is concentration must be 100% until the fat lady sings.

*The Legend.*

## Did you know???

There were **FIVE** Australians selected by FIH to Umpire at the Beijing Olympics which is an all time record for number of Umpires selected from any one country.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Julie Ashton-Lucy, Lisa Roach, Minka Woolly, David Gentles and Murray Grime

**ALSO** - Julie Ashton-Lucy (QLD), Lisa Roach (NSW) & Mel Trivic (WA) have been selected as members of the FIH "Women Umpires Development Project" an intensive mentoring/coaching program leading to the 2012 Olympics & 2014 World Cup. Congratulations to all!

# What's your decision? Ask *Whistler*



What's your decision is an opportunity to clear up any misconceptions you see in your games of hockey. In each case it is critical that you realise that most umpires make these split decisions in every game and in the most cases they get it completely right. So in considering your decision make sure you make it in. 01sec. with at least 11 players going to be really peeved that you just made it....and if it is a Junior game then you have probably got little Johnny or Sallys' Mum and Dad in your ear....is this pressure? you bettcha!

## Question 1:

A defender is sent to 1/2 way line for breaking at a PC, can they advance when the ball is pushed in?  
- **What's your decision?**

## Decision 1:

Yes, they have only been precluded from the PC formation not from the field of play. That same player must return to the centre line if another PC is awarded before the original PC has been completed. It will be wise for the disengaged umpire to make a note of those players who have been sent to the centre line for breaking.

## Question 3:

There is a misconception that you can't play the ball while you are on the ground, is that right? -  
**What's your decision?**

## Decision 3:

No, that is not correct. There is nothing in the rulebook that precludes players from playing the ball on the ground. It's could be considered as stupid and dangerous but as long as they don't interfere and obstruct then it's play on.... I have seen many a player fall and desperately play the ball from their knees and get the ball away without a problem.

## Question 2:

Does the defender who is sent to the 1/2 way line stay there if another PC is awarded before the other is over?  
- **What's your decision?**

## Decision 2:

Yes, as that PC is not over due to the fact that another PC was awarded.

## Question 4:

The GK in defence pats the ball away across back line deliberately  
- **What's your decision?**

## Decision 4:

Rule 12.3 (d) A PC is awarded for intentionally playing the ball over the back-line by a defender. A GK can deflect a ball with their body or their stick but they can't deliberately play it across the line. Again, you need to look carefully at the GK's intention, where they are standing, how they are facing. If they make some attempt to play it down the back line then OK. If they put it out within playing distance or straight over then they are guilty just like a field defender. If they swing their body toward the line as they deflect or use the inside of their infield kicker to push the ball across the back line then they should be penalised.

## *Whistler's advice corner*

Ensure you read the rulebook and do not look for breeches that are not there. Rules are fairly black and white so don't make it difficult for yourself.

Edited by Graham Napier.

