



Working as a Team- *Whistlers' Observations*

It is important that early in the season, we set a high standard and try not to deviate from it throughout the year. It is a tall ask but it will be of the utmost benefit to you and your colleagues if you are to maintain a high standard.

Tackling

Tackling is a constant theme of mine and we are still not to a level where it is acceptable and we have a considerable way to go until it is. Each week we see players play to their optimum and we expect umpires to have a similar attitude. Slackness and cruising have no place in Australian Umpiring, a high level of performance is demanded at all times. In this issue we will highlight two issues where those making the tackle should have been suspended for the crude and or deliberate tackles.



1. The right winger travelled down the right wing with the ball at speed; the left half came to tackle him; the winger eliminated the left half. The left half tried to hook his opponents stick to halt his progress and gave away a free hit. The winger extricated his stick and continued on his path to the goals, the umpire in this case applied advantage. Apart from a verbal warning no further action was taken. At the very minimum the Umpire should have issued a green card (2 min. suspension). A yellow card suspension might have been more appropriate in this instance.

2. In the second example the player swung his stick on the reverse side from about waist height and hit his opponents stick out of the way. No temporary suspension was given and in these instances we would suggest at least a 10 minute yellow was warranted.

Remember the PIT rule: (P) = Position (I) = Intent (T) = Timing

Get all of these wrong and you should expect a 10 minute Yellow! 2 out of 3 wrong should be at least a 5 minute yellow and 1 out of 3 at least a 2 minute green.

Dangerous Play

When the ball is lifted it is not always dangerous. Players will try to "con" the umpire to believe it is dangerous by "taking evasive action". Umpires should ignore this and not blow it. When it is dangerous they should apply the correct penalty. I now want to give an example of where an umpire should not blow danger because he or she is not in the best position.

- The ball is hit by a defender, of a team that is hitting to the northern end of the ground, in the air from the left half position. It is the responsibility of the umpire who is behind the trajectory of the ball to determine whether it is dangerous. It is not the duty of the umpire on the other side of the ground to blow as he/she does not have depth of field vision and couldn't determine how close it was to the players.

Umpire your own area

An umpire has areas of responsibility. He/she should only blow a decision in that area unless the colleague is unsighted. Too often we hear the double whistle blown because each has seen the same breach and feel compelled to blow it. Umpires should refrain from blowing in their colleague's area as soon as they see a breach. They should give the colleague an opportunity to blow or indicate that advantage is being applied. It is all about composure, a necessary attribute of an umpire.



Whistler



Question 1:

What is the outcome if the defender does not move 5 metres from the free hit and 'shadows' the attacker up to the circle, then puts on a tackle in the circle, it's a short corner?

Decision 1:

Everyone should be 5m from a 'free' in the 23m and as an umpire you should make sure this happens well before they take the 'free'. If the defender 'shadows' then yes a PC can be awarded, you should also look at a 'yellow' or at least a 2 min. green. You don't have to wait till the attacker gets to the circle as shadowing is a breach and in this instance seems deliberate inside the 23m. A PC in any case

Question 2:

Is a player allowed to take a free hit by running off with the ball (e.g., not two separate actions)?

Answer 2:

Reversal could be considered for continuous breaches after being warned that this would happen (preferably through the captain) but a 'green' would be too confronting - empathy with the intent of the rule & the intent of the player are key issues: the player's intent is not to cheat but to take the hit as quickly as possible, &, hence, incorrectly.

WAS THE BALL IN OR OUT?

Rule 7 – Ball outside the field:

This is a rule that causes conjecture during a game. 'It was out! It was in! No goal Ump, he didn't hit it inside the circle!' and so it goes on.

Rule 7.1 says: The ball is out when it passes completely over the side-line or back-line. That means the whole ball must pass over the line to be considered out, otherwise Play-On.

The ball must travel completely over the side-line to be out;

The ball must travel completely over the back line to be out;

The ball must, from the push-in at a PC travel outside the circle (must cross completely over the circle line to be considered outside and then brought inside the circle before a goal is scored;

The ball can be on the circle line (on the line is considered inside the circle) if a goal is to be scored



Whistler's advice corner

Umpires keep it simple (K.I.S.S.) and don't go looking for breaches or rules that aren't there. Keep thinking, does it affect play, is it really disadvantaging one of the teams? If not, PLAY-ON....keep the game flowing.

Rule Variations 2011

SCHEDULE OF VARIATION TO RULES OF HOCKEY APPLICABLE FOR FIH WORLD LEVEL EVENTS

The following variations to the Rules of Hockey and Tournament Regulations will apply to FIH World Level Events (i.e. World Cup, World Cup Qualifier, Champions Trophy, Champions Challenge I, Champions Challenge II, Olympic Qualifier and Junior World Cup).

1. Green Card – Two Minute Suspension

For any offence, the offending player may be warned (indicated by a green card).

- Where a green card is issued the offending player shall be temporarily suspended for two (2) minutes.
- During the period of temporary suspension of a player, the team shall play with one less player.
- The umpire shall immediately restart the game after the issue of the green card.
- The offending player must leave the field immediately. If the player interferes with play on the way to the technical table area the umpire will further penalise the player in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- The two minute temporary suspension shall commence when the player is seated at the technical table area.
- The timing of the suspension shall be controlled by the technical officials on duty at the technical table.

2. Yellow Card – Temporary Suspension

For an offence where the offending player is temporarily suspended (indicated by a yellow card)

- Where a yellow card is issued the offending player shall be temporarily suspended for a minimum of five (5) minutes.
- During the period of temporary suspension of a player, the team shall play with one less player.
- The umpire shall restart the game after the issue of the yellow card.
- The offending player must leave the field immediately. If the player interferes with play on the way to the technical table area the umpire will further penalise the player in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.
- The exact length of suspension shall be indicated to the technical table by the umpire who issued the yellow card
- The period of temporary suspension shall commence when the player is seated at the technical table area.
- The timing of the suspension shall be controlled by the technical officials on duty at the technical table.

3. Breaking at Penalty Corner

- Until the ball has been played, no attacker other than the one taking the push or hit from the back-line is permitted to enter the circle and no defender is permitted to cross the centre-line or back-line.
- For any offence of this rule by a defender, other than the goalkeeper, the offending player(s) shall be required to go beyond the centre-line and cannot be replaced by another defender.
- For any offence of this rule by a defending goalkeeper, the defending team defends the penalty corner with one less player.
- For an offence of this rule by an attacker who enters the circle before the ball is played, the offending player(s) shall be required to go beyond the centre line.
- The player who pushes or hits the ball from the back-line must not feint at playing the ball. For an offence of this rule the offending player shall be replaced by another attacker.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT HOCKEY AUSTRALIA WILL BE APPLYING THESE REGULATIONS AT ALL HA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2011 & RECOMMENDS THEIR IMPLEMENTATION BY ALL STATES/TERRITORIES WHERE AN APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL BENCH IS IN PLACE.

Jan Hadfield (HOCKEY AUSTRALIA NATIONAL OFFICIATING MANAGER)



(You have .02 sec. (the blink of an eye) to make the decision – how good are you?)

**In being made to make the decisions below in the time I'm suggesting brings a little realism into the Exercise. While it's a bit of fun I am trying to replicate a match situation.*

It's the Grand Final, NSW vs. WA, NSW led 3-0 with 15 minutes to go, it's now 3-3 and a PC has been awarded to WA. One of the NSW defenders broke and has been sent to the centre line....The WA GK is in full voice at the other end, the NSW strikers are giving you every assistance and some....finally, the siren goes, full time!.....PC is set and just as the 'pusher-in' is about to push the ball into play the NSW Goal Keeper moves a foot & steps into the field of play but quickly retracts his foot again (he did touch the ground inside the circle though!).....what's your decision? Remember this is a Grand Final..... (Is your HBF/Medicare up to date?)



Whistler Being Technical

Question:

(a) - At the recent Champions Trophy, a T.O. stopped a suspended player returning to the field during a PC at the end of the 2-minute suspension; in Rosario, in the same situation, a suspended player returned during the PC on completion of her suspension. There is nothing in the 'regulations' to say the latter can't happen - which one is correct?

(b) What if the suspended player is substituted at the end of her 2 minutes, can the substitute enter the field?

Answer:

(a)The Regulations allow for the player to come back at the end of the suspension period regardless of a corner. If the defense is set or nearly so the umpire should not delay the corner to allow a specialist who has been suspended to join in as a defender and if the suspended player is an attacker then she can join in if she gets there in time.

i.e., the umpires must manage the situation sensibly.

(b) In the third instance, NO! as this constitutes an interchange or substitution and that is specifically prohibited in the substitution rules.

Edited by Graham Napier- Technical Official

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