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**To: Continental Federations  
National Associations**

## **Rules of Hockey**

Based on recommendations from the Hockey Rules Board, the FIH Executive Board has agreed changes to the Rules of Hockey and the Rules of Indoor Hockey. These changes formally take effect for international competition from 1 January 2011; all international matches played before that date use the existing (ie 2009) Rules. 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 Hockey** (with reference to the numbered Rules in the 2009 edition) are as follows:

Rule 9.15: "players must not force an opponent into offending unintentionally". This Rule is deleted.

Rule 13.1: location of a free hit. This former Mandatory Experimental Rule becomes a full Rule of Hockey.

Rule 13.1.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". The option of taking the free hit "anywhere inside the circle" is deleted.

Rule 13.2: taking a free hit, centre pass and putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the field. This former Mandatory Experimental Rule becomes a full Rule of Hockey.

Rule 13.3.h: "taking a 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". When an attacker enters the circle before permitted, the penalty corner is taken again except that when attackers persistently enter the circle before permitted, a free hit is awarded to the defence. In the full printed set of Rules, the penalties which apply for an offence during the taking of a penalty corner will be listed in detail.

Rule 13.9.a: "for an offence during the taking of a penalty stroke". If the stroke is taken before the whistle has been blown and a goal is scored, it is taken again.

Rule 13.9.c: "for an offence during the taking of a penalty stroke ... for any other offence by the player defending the stroke which prevents a goal being scored". Instead of a goal being awarded, the penalty stroke is taken again. This means that Rules 13.9.c and 13.9.d both now lead to the penalty stroke being taken again.

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**Changes to the Rules of Indoor Hockey** (with reference to the numbered Rules in the 2009 edition) are as follows:

Rules 5.2: time-out. This former Mandatory Experimental Rule becomes a full Rule of Indoor Hockey.

Rule 13.1: location of a free push. This former Mandatory Experimental Rule becomes a full Rule of Indoor Hockey.

Rule 13.2.h: a free push awarded to the attack within the half of the pitch they are attacking. The ball may enter the circle directly after touching the side-board outside the circle. I.e., the ball is no longer required to be deflected or pushed by another player after touching the side-board before entering the circle.

Rule 13.2: taking a free push, centre pass and putting the ball back into play after it has been outside the pitch. After including the change referred to above, this former Mandatory Experimental Rule becomes a full Rule of Indoor Hockey.

Rule 13.3.h: "taking a penalty corner ... until the ball has been played, no attacker other than the one taking the push from the back-line is permitted to enter the circle". When an attacker enters the circle before permitted, the penalty corner is taken again except that when attackers persistently enter the circle before permitted, a free push is awarded to the defence. In the full printed set of Rules, the penalties which apply for an offence during the taking of a penalty corner will be listed in detail.

Rule 13.9.a: "for an offence during the taking of a penalty stroke". If the stroke is taken before the whistle has been blown and a goal is scored, it is taken again.

Rule 13.9.c: "for an offence during the taking of a penalty stroke ... for any other offence by the player defending the stroke which prevents a goal being scored". Instead of a goal being awarded, the penalty stroke is taken again. This means that Rules 13.9.c and 13.9.d both now lead to the penalty stroke being taken again.

### **Publication of Rules books**

It is anticipated that Rules books incorporating the changes above will be printed and made available on the FIH website in September 2010.

Any questions about the information in this document should be referred to the FIH Technical Manager: [roger.webb@worldhockey.org](mailto:roger.webb@worldhockey.org).

**FIH Hockey Rules Board**  
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