

Rules Reference	<b>2004 NFHS FIELD HOCKEY RULE CHANGES</b>
1-2-4a	<p>A centerline from sideline to sideline equally distant from and parallel to the end lines. It shall be marked and measured from the outer edge of the sideline. Add: It shall have a hash mark, not to exceed 24 inches, equidistant from each sideline marking the exact center of the line.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This mark would make it easier for the officials to administer the center pass.</p>
1-4-2	<p>Add the words: “without a penalty” at the end of the 2nd sentence</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarification</p>
1-5-3	<p>“...which extends below the uniform bottom. <b>All players on a team shall wear the same color compression shorts, undershirt and/or warm-up pants.</b>” Take out Exception and Note.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarified the spirit and intent of the rule.</p>
2-1-2a	<p>A shirt approved by the state association. Note: May be of a solid color contrasting with the color of both teams’ uniform tops or alternating black and white 1-inch vertically striped shirt.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarification of the options for officials’ attire.</p>
2-2-1	<p>Add this note at the end of article 1a: Note...Player(s) may be added to the roster without penalty if necessary.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarification</p>
3-1-5	<p>Change definition of Illegal player to: <b>Any player deliberately removing or not wearing required equipment.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarification of the intent and spirit of the definition.</p>
3-1-6	<p>Definition of an Ineligible player is one who has been disqualified <b>or has not completed a suspension.</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The addendum to this definition provides a better explanation.</p>
3-3-7	<p>Definition of "a tackle": Technique executed by a player in an attempt to gain possession or cause the opponent to lose possession of the ball.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Definition added for a common technique.</p>
5-2-1	<p>Change to read: ...when the ball has been lodged in the clothing of a field player or an official or <b>breaks apart during play</b>, play shall be restarted with a bully on the spot.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Provide guidance on re-starting play.</p>

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10-1-2	<p>Change to read: At the moment of contact, all attackers except the player taking the penalty corner shall be on the field with sticks, hands and feet not touching the ground inside the circle. A maximum of 5 defenders including the goalkeeper shall be behind the back-line with their sticks, hands and feet not touching the ground inside the circle...beyond the center line.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarifies player positioning on penalty corners.</p>
Signals	<p>Include a signal for play with the wrong side of the stick. Description: Wrong side of the stick-one arm extended in front of body, touch back of hand with palm of free hand.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Intentionally playing with the wrong side of the stick is a foul and needs to be signaled in order that coaches and players know what the call is.</p>
New 1-4-5	<p>Field players who leave the field for injury treatment, refreshment, to change equipment or for some reason other than substitution are permitted to re-enter only between the substitution gates.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To prevent a player from re-entering the contest to gain an advantage.</p>
New 1-6-8	<p>A player shall not change her stick between the award and completion of a penalty corner or penalty stroke unless it no longer meets the stick specification.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarifies what equipment is permissible to use between penalty corner award.</p>
Officials Guide 8-A-1	<p>Before the hit, watch for 1. Players, feet hand and stick touching the ground inside the circle. Note: Players may lean over the line as long as their hands, feet or sticks do not touch the ground inside the circle.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarifies player positioning on penalty corners.</p>

#### Editorial Changes

1-2-4k	<p>Replace "their respective..." with "the..."</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> A minor grammatical error.</p>
3-2-10	<p>Add the word "cage" to the end of the sentence.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Definition added for clarification.</p>
8-1-1e	<p>Remove the word "undercutting."</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarification for an appropriate technique.</p>
8-2-10	<p>Note: If goal is scored, "play" is restarted with a center pass by the team that did not score... When "such misconduct" occurs during intermission...</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Correct minor grammatical errors.</p>