

**MINUTES**  
**FIELD HOCKEY RULES COMMITTEE**  
**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

---

Marriott – Texas Room

Indianapolis, IN

February 3-4, 2002

---

Committee members in attendance:

Jerra Rowland, CA	Chair	2004
Jean Angell, RI	Section 1	2003
Mary Stetson, VT	Section 1	2005
Suzie Stammer, KY	Section 2	2005
Barbara Dwyer, MO	Section 5	2003
Karen Collins, CO	Section 6	2004
Peggy Booth, CA	Section 7	2002
Joyce Sisson, VA	NFOA	2002

Guests in attendance: Jane Hansen      United States Field Hockey Association

Committee member absent from meeting: Anne Horton, OH      NFCA

## **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. Treva Dayton, NFHS liaison, welcomed the committee to Indianapolis and thanked them for their commitment to the continued growth and development of interscholastic field hockey in their states. She also welcomed new committee members Suzie Stammer and Mary Stetson and presented each with an NFHS pen.
- B. Treva then reviewed the following committee responsibilities and procedures:
  - 1) Conflict of Interest Statements
  - 2) Indemnification Statement
  - 3) Expense Reports
  - 4) NFHS Rules Review Committee
  - 5) Board of Directors Approval of Rule Revisions
  - 6) Voting Procedures

## **2. SECTION REPORTS**

After contacting state associations, each sectional representative reported on issues in their section. Concerns included poor field conditions, using turf vs. grass playing fields, participation trends and the importance of coaches' education. The recruiting and training of officials was a major issue in most sections, and possibilities for a future NFHS field hockey rules interpretation meeting were discussed. The USFHA will host a rules meeting for coaches and officials at the University of Maryland on June 29–30, 2002 and efforts will be made to have at least one NFHS committee member attend.

## **3. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

The questionnaire and comments by respondents were reviewed and discussion followed. Committee members explored methods to improve the distribution of questionnaires to coaches and officials and strategies for increasing the number of questionnaires returned to the NFHS. Each committee member will be notified when the questionnaires are shipped to state association offices next fall.

## **4. SPORTS MEDICINE ISSUES**

The issue of protective eyewear was discussed, and samples of the Halo Sports Bangerz goggles were available for examination. Statistics of injuries from the NCAA Injury Surveillance Survey and the state of Massachusetts were reviewed and discussed, along with other articles related to safety issues. Rhode Island will mandate eye protection for field hockey in the coming season. Committee members expressed

their concerns with the sharp edges of some goggles, the problem of fogging and the issue of fitting goggles over prescription eyewear. Concerns about unintended consequences from committee members and others in the field included the reduction in visibility and potential for other injuries due to playing with the head more bent to the ground. It was noted that education for coaches is critical to reducing injuries caused by inappropriate use of the stick, in practice situations and in games. Unsafe field conditions were also considered to be a cause for concern. NFHS rules for protective eyewear will remain permissive rather than mandatory in the 2002-03 edition of the rules book, and committee members will forward to the NFHS office any material or studies they become aware of concerning field hockey injuries in the coming year.

**5. RULES CHANGES & CLARIFICATION**

Rules Reference	PROPOSED REVISION WITH RATIONALE	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
1-2-4 e	Recommendation to have the hash circle a different color than the striking circle. <b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players are mistakenly shooting, once inside it.</li> <li>• 16 yd. hits are being taken at the top of it.</li> <li>• Officials have counted as goals, drives made from inside it.</li> </ul>			X
1-7-1 a	Return to having the goalkeeper in the same shirt as the rest of the team. <b>Rationale:</b> Much confusion when fouls are committed as to which team committed the penalty.			X
1-7-1 h	The goalkeeper must wear a mouth protector, which may be attached to the facemask/helmet <del>with a flexible strap, band or material.</del> <b>Rationale:</b> Although field players are prohibited from wearing mouth protectors attached to material worn around the neck, goalkeepers with a full face/cage mask helmet do not face the same safety concerns.	X		
1-7-3	Goalkeepers may not play outside their own half of the field unless they are taking a penalty stroke. <b>Rationale:</b> Risk minimization. We don't allow any other players on the field with hard helmets.	X		
1-7-5	If the ball becomes lodged in the goalkeeper's protective equipment or clothing when in her own circle, play shall be restarted with a penalty corner. (Rather than a bully. Omit the rest of article 5 as it is covered in 5-2-1.) <b>Rationale:</b> The ball lodging in the goalkeeper's pads takes away the rebound for the offense and needs more of a penalty than a bully.	X		

Rules Reference	PROPOSED REVISION WITH RATIONALE	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
2-1-5	<p>Delete the final statement of article 5 So Article 5 will read: The official nearer the officials’ table shall sound the whistle to start and end each half of play. The whistle shall also be sounded to: (a) suspend the game; (b)signal time-outs; (c)resume play following time-out; (d) indicate, when necessary, that the ball has gone out of play;(e) indicate a goal has been scored (f) signal time-out following a goal (See 4-2-2g Note); (f) assess a penalty; and (g) start and end a penalty stroke. <del>[The official nearest the officials’ table shall restart the game following a goal.]</del> <b>Rationale:</b> Depending upon the official’s area of coverage, that official should indicate a goal has been scored. This official shall restart the game following a goal.</p>			X
3-4-1	<p>Use shoulder height as the stopping point for raised sticks to determine whether or not it is intimidating/dangerous or not. <b>Rationale:</b> Clarifies situation for officials.</p>			X
4-4-5	<p>Substitution cards would no longer be required.</p>	X		
5-3	<p>Consider always restarting play after an injury with a bully. <b>Rationale:</b> “Possession” is often difficult to determine and leaves some officials in a quandary.</p>			X
8-1	<p>No field players are allowed in the goal when the ball is in play for any reason. The penalty should be either a penalty corner or a penalty stroke. <b>Rationale:</b> This rule will allow for safer play and maintain the integrity of the sport.</p>			X
8-1-2 Pen	<p>For a foul committed by the defense in the circle, a penalty corner [add: or a penalty stroke] shall be awarded the attack. <b>Rationale:</b> Clarifies that certain fouls by the defense when in the circle result in a penalty stroke.</p>			X
10-1-2	<p>Reduce the number of back-line defenders on a penalty corner from five (four plus a goalkeeper) to four (three plus a goalkeeper). <b>Rationale:</b> 1. Provide a greater advantage to the fouled team 2. Improve the potential for scoring a goal from the penalty corner situation 3. Reduce congestion in the circle/scoring area -- addresses both safety and scoring</p>			X
10-1-6	<p>No shot at goal from a penalty corner shall be made until the ball is stopped or comes to rest on the ground outside the circle. <b>Rationale:</b> Would be consistent with FIH.</p>			X
10-1-8	<p>Allow substitutions prior to a penalty corner. <b>Rationale:</b> Players should be allowed to substitute at any time, as long as there is no undue delay in resuming play.</p>		X	

Rules Reference	PROPOSED REVISION WITH RATIONALE	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
10-1-9	A penalty corner awarded after time has expired at the end of game shall not be played out if the outcome of game has already been determined. <b>Rationale:</b> Outcome of the game is not affected.		X	
10-1-9 g	To have the ball stopped on penalty corners rather than controlled. <b>Rationale:</b> “Control” is subject to wide interpretation by officials.			X
11-2-6	Allow the goalkeeper defending a penalty stroke to move laterally on the whistle to start the stroke.			X
12-1-2a	Eliminate "Engage in continuous excessive coaching." <b>Rationale:</b> What is excessive coaching? High school players need to be coached, and coaches are hired to coach. How do we tell them that they are coaching too much?			X
2-1-1	The game should be administered by two officials. Prior to the game, one of the officials shall be designated as the <u>lead</u> official and shall be located on the same side of the field as the officials’ table. In tournament play, the tournament director shall designate the <u>lead</u> official.... <b>Editorial:</b> The term lead official replaces head official. This promotes the idea of equity among officials. The term “lead” implies that one official is not better qualified than the other. Throughout the rest of the rule 2 this official is referred to “the official nearest the official’s table.”	X		
4-2-4	The Board of Directors and SMAC approved the addition of a clarifier behind the word “physician” “(MD/DO).” <b>Editorial Note:</b> Some state associations may choose to define a physician in accordance with their state statutes.	X		
10-1-7	Add “or the ball has traveled 5 yards from the circle.” <b>Editorial:</b> Clarification--Penalty corner rules no longer apply once the ball has traveled 5 yards from the circle. However, that is not stated in this section, except in Article 6.	X		
12-2-2 Pen 1	Change line 4 to say "warn the spectator(s) that such behavior could..." <b>Editorial</b>			

**6. SUBCOMMITTEES**

The committee divided into subcommittees to create necessary exam questions and answers, points of emphasis and casebook situations, and to review the officials’ manual. Suggestions for next year’s questionnaire were submitted.

**7. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

At the conclusion of the meeting, sincere appreciation was expressed to Joyce Sisson and Peggy Booth for Joyce’s four years and Peggy’s two years of outstanding service to the committee. Out-going members received a certificate and a watch. All committee members were commended for their excellent preparation and thoughtful participation throughout the meeting.

8. **ATTACHMENTS:**  
Rules changes and rules clarification summary  
Questionnaire results

### **FIELD HOCKEY RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Jerra Rowland, Chair:** Jerra played field hockey in high school and college. She officiated the first 10 years she taught, and has been a coach since that time. She teaches science and is the director of athletics at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, California.

**Jean Angell, Section 1:** Jean has been a teacher of physical education and health in Scituate, RI for 29 years. She has also coached basketball (30 years) and softball (20 years). She has officiated volleyball for 26 years. In addition, Jean has been the athletic director at Scituate H.S. for 15 years and for the past nine years, she has been the field hockey director with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

**Mary Stetson, Section 1:** Mary played field hockey in high school and college. She has been a teacher of physical education at Mt. Abraham in Bristol, VT for 20 years. For the past 10 years, Mary has been the co-athletic director. She has coached field hockey for 17 years. Presently, she is the chair of the field hockey committee for the Vermont Principal's Association and is a coach in the USFHA Futures Program.

**Suzie Stammer, Section 2:** Suzie has been a player, coach and umpire at the junior high, high school and college level for the past 40 years. She taught chemistry and physics at the junior high and high school level in Lexington, Kentucky for 21 years. She has been officiating hockey at all levels since 1970, has served as the USFHA field hockey umpiring chair for the past 5 years and has been Kentucky's state rules interpreter for the past 5 years.

**Barbara Dwyer, Section 5:** Barb has been teaching and coaching for 15 years and is currently at Ladue Middle School in St. Louis. She has officiated field hockey at the high school and collegiate level since 1978. She is currently the co-chair and assigner for the St. Louis Field Hockey Officials Association.

**Karen Collins, Section 6:** Karen was the head coach of field hockey, basketball and track at Windsor Locks High School in Connecticut for 8 years before becoming the head field hockey coach at the University of Michigan from 1983-1989. She has served as the Assistant Executive Director at the U.S. Field Hockey Association for 12 years. Karen has served as a Colorado high school umpire and rules interpreter since 1989.

**Peggy Booth, Section 7:** Peggy played field hockey in high school and college. She has been a field hockey coach for fifteen years. Peggy teaches physical education at Willow Glen High School in San Jose, California and is the tournament director for the annual Willow Glen High School field hockey jamboree for 30 teams.

**Anne Horton, NFCA:** Anne has been a teacher and coach for nineteen years. She has been at The Columbus Academy in Columbus, Ohio for the past eleven years, where she is the assistant athletic director and head coach for field hockey and lacrosse. Anne is also a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association's field hockey committee.

**Joyce Sisson, NFOA:** Joyce is an assistant director for athletics at the Virginia High School League (VHSL). She has officiated field hockey since 1974, and has served as the VHSL field hockey rules interpreter and clinician since 1993. Joyce also officiated high school basketball for more than 20 years, and currently assigns officials for boys' and girls' basketball in northern Virginia.