



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

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Field Hockey Rules Committee Updates Substitution Rules

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (February 19, 2002) — The NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee, at its February 3-4 meeting in Indianapolis, made three rules changes and identified several Points of Emphasis for the 2002-03 school year. Of the rules changes, the most significant change involves the substitution process. Substitution cards are no longer required; however, substitution still must occur within the designated substitution area (Rule 4-4-5).

“Historically, there was a card for every uniform number, and substitutions were limited,” said Treva Dayton, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee. “As restrictions on substitutions have been reduced, we’ve moved to make the process easier.”

The Field Hockey Rules Committee also addressed other rules changes:

- Rule 1-7-4 was added to prohibit goalkeepers from playing outside their own half of the field, unless they are taking a penalty stroke. The rule was added to reduce the risk to other players, as no other player on the field has a hard helmet.
- Rule 1-7-5 states that if a ball becomes lodged in the goalkeeper’s protective equipment or clothing when she is in her own circle, play shall be restarted with a penalty corner. The rule allows for the attacking team to maintain a scoring opportunity since there is no rebound off the goalkeeper.

The Field Hockey Rules Committee also made three rules clarifications:

- Rule 1-7-1h states that a goalkeeper’s mouth protector may be attached to the facemask or helmet.
- Rule 2-1-1 will delete the statement that allows for head officials to be designated by tournament directors. Designation of lead officials can be determined in a variety of ways.
- Rule 10-1-8 clarifies that if the ball travels more than five yards from the circle, penalty corner rules no longer apply.

One Point of Emphasis attempts to clarify the conditions that need to be met prior to a shot on goal during a penalty corner, and to clarify when a penalty corner is considered completed at the end of a half or game. If a penalty corner occurs at the end of a half or game, time is not officially out until one of seven conditions listed in Rule 10-1-10 occurs.

The committee also made it a Point of Emphasis to reduce rough and dangerous play, emphasizing that it has no place in field hockey. Coaches, players and officials all were charged with trying to eliminate dangerous and unsafe play.

Dealing with officiating, one Point of Emphasis denotes that, even though a pre-game lineup of players for the purpose of inspecting uniforms and equipment is not mandated, officials should, at a minimum, observe players during pre-game warm-ups and inspect any questionable equipment to ensure that it meets specifications.

Also, dealing with stick interference, a tackle from behind that hits the stick or body of the offensive player is considered intentional and should be penalized accordingly. If it occurs between the 25-yard line and the circle, a penalty corner shall be awarded. If it occurs in the circle, a penalty stroke shall be awarded.

Finally, any green card may result in a change of possession when applicable. A second, similar offense by a teammate may result in the next upgraded card. All red cards do not result in penalty strokes, whereas a flagrant foul or red card for a coach or non-participating team personnel all require penalty strokes.

This year is the centennial celebration of field hockey in the United States. The pioneer of American field hockey, Constance Applebee, taught the rudiments of the game in Boston 100 years ago.

Field hockey is the tenth-most popular sport for high school girls with 60,918 participants, according to the 2001 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS.

The NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee, which meets annually to revise and amend existing rules, is comprised of seven section representatives and one representative each from both the NFOA and the NFCA. Jerra Rowland of California is the chair of the committee.

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