



**Rules of Hockey 2007/8**  
**Briefing and Guidance**  
**for Umpires**

12 December 2006

# Rules of Hockey 2007-2008



- The forehand hard hit, which uses the edge of the stick, is not allowed and should be penalised even for a shot at goal
- Only controlled technical skills using the forehand edge are permitted (which include raising the ball in a controlled way over an opponent's stick or a controlled shot at goal over a goalkeeper who is lying on the ground, but not a hard hit as a shot at goal)
- There is no change to the interpretation of the rule concerning the ball hitting the foot, hand or body of a field player. Only the wording has been changed





# Goalkeepers

- When wearing protective headgear, goalkeepers may only take part in the game within their own 23 metres area. If a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear does not remove the headgear before taking part in the game outside their own 23 metres area, a free hit should be awarded. Repetition means a free hit and appropriate card
- Designated goalkeepers who only wear protective headgear may take part in the game outside their own 23 metres area, provided that they have safely removed their headgear. They must continue to wear a shirt or garment of a different colour to both teams, and still have goalkeeping rights when inside their own circle. They must wear the protective headgear at penalty corners and penalty strokes





# Goalkeepers

- At penalty corners, an injured or suspended goalkeeper may only be replaced by a similarly equipped goalkeeper - so in this instance a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear may not be replaced by a fully equipped goalkeeper
- At penalty strokes, the goalkeeper may still be replaced by a fully equipped goalkeeper - there has been no change to this rule
- When a fully equipped goalkeeper is substituted onto or off the pitch, time must be stopped
- If substitutions involve only goalkeepers wearing protective headgear or field players, the normal substitution rules apply and time is not stopped





# Goalkeepers

- Play should not be delayed while a goalkeeper not yet on the pitch changes into or puts on protective equipment
- A fully or partly equipped goalkeeper can be substituted onto or off the pitch near their goal
- In order to prevent the problems associated with a fully equipped goalkeeper stepping out of their goal and being replaced (by a goalkeeper wearing only protective headgear or a field player) at the centre-line, time should not be re-started until the substitution of the fully equipped goalkeeper has been completed
- Substitutions onto or off the pitch of field players who replace goalkeepers, should take place near the centre-line





# Goalkeeping

- Goalkeepers are permitted to move the ball away with their hand / hand protector / arm / body, as part of a goal saving action
- This action is permitted in all situations where attackers have an opportunity to score or attempt to score a goal, so it can also be used to deny attackers the possibility of possession of the ball or another shot at goal
- There is no requirement that the ball is going towards the goal when using this action, so a goalkeeper may intercept a pass across the face of the goal or sweep the ball away from in front of an attacker's stick – there only needs to be the threat of an attacker being able to play the ball





# Goalkeeping

- Goalkeepers therefore must not intentionally propel the ball over long distances with their hands. Goalkeepers who propel the ball forcefully in this way (when there is no chance of an opportunity for the attackers or after a pass from a team mate, for instance) should be penalised with a penalty corner
- The distance that the ball can be moved away is not specified, however common sense should be used in judging the distance the ball may travel from the goal saving actions as indicated in this rule. Be aware that the nature of the materials from which the protective goalkeeping equipment is made will have an influence on this. The permitted action is subject to the usual danger considerations





# Players

- If a player defending a penalty corner continues to wear a face mask after the corner has been completed (e.g. they play outside the circle wearing the mask), a free hit should be awarded. Repetition means another free hit and appropriate card





# Finally ....

The Rules changes for 2007/8 are intended to simplify the game and to make the rules easier to understand for players and umpires.

An interpretation of the rules will often be necessary – common sense and an understanding of what the players are trying to do should be deciding factors.

