



Guernsey Hockey LBG – UMPIRE GUIDELINES

Bulletin 4 – 10 September 2010

Effective from the 1st September 2010 the following guidelines will apply to the Men's Leagues, Women's League and all Cup Competitions organised by the GHLBG:

Early breaking at Penalty Corners

Umpires are reminded of the provision under Rule 12.4.c that a penalty corner can be upgraded to a penalty stroke for the offence of

“defenders persistently crossing over the back-line before permitted during the taking of penalty corners”.

Such an upgrade is a big decision and careful thought should be given before its implementation. Pro-active management of the first and second breaks are important and umpires are advised to remind the defenders on each occasion of the possible repercussions of a further early break.

It is suggested that due consideration should also be taken of the level of the game and the fitness, skill and knowledge of the players. For example, a youth player is less likely to know the rules than a Men's Division 1 player. Is the early break of a few inches over the back line likely to affect the subsequent play by the attacking team? Did the early break affect the attacking players' options?

It is not very often that we see a penalty corner be upgraded to a penalty stroke but this Bulletin is issued to serve as a reminder of the rule in case we come across the situation in our games. As stated earlier, pro-active management of the first and second early breaks will probably avoid the necessity to upgrade except in extreme cases.