

Rules Update

There are no new rule changes for the outdoor domestic season. At international level and in the England Hockey League the following differences have been introduced in the last couple of seasons:

- 2-minute suspension for a green card
- The ability to play the ball (safely) above shoulder height
- Those breaking the line at a penalty corner to return to the halfway line. If the defence they will defend the PC with one player less.

Domestically, these rules are not applicable to regular South Wales, Davies Wood, North West or North Prem league hockey.

For those umpiring in the England Hockey League:

Important clarification on players returning to play at penalty corners:

A question has been raised about inconsistencies this has created in the current guidance on when players can return to play:

- i) having been sent to the halfway line for breaking early at penalty corners;
- ii) by substitution;
- iii) following temporary suspension

and how penalty corners impact upon this.

After discussion with the FIH this note is issued to clarify the position and ensure a consistent approach across all EHL matches, as follows:

The clarification received from the FIH states that a PC is **NOT** over when another PC is awarded, unless the ball has gone 5m from the circle.

The effect of this is that if a PC is taken and a subsequent PC is awarded before the ball has travelled 5m outside the circle it is still the same PC and therefore:

- players sent to the halfway line cannot rejoin their team mates;
- substitutions cannot be made (save for injured or suspended goalkeepers or players with goalkeeping privileges in the usual way);
- green/yellow carded players cannot rejoin the game.

This means that the same approach can be applied to all three scenarios offering clarity and consistency in each situation.

For those of you interested in indoor - the latest rule changes (for 2015) can be viewed [here](#) on the FIH website.