

PLAYING RULE CHANGES 2019

F.I.H introduced rule changes to Rules of Field Hockey for 2019

As per recent memorandum to Clubs due to these changes, there have been some rule changes from Hockey WA.

The EGHA Executive has discussed these rules and after clarification with Hockey WA the following rule changes will be implemented here in the Goldfields. These rules will be played at State Champs level also.

1. Game Format

EGHA will change the format of the Senior & J9-J12 games from 2 x 35 minute halves to the following;

- 4 x 17 minute Quarters
- 2 minute break at 1/4 & 3/4 time
- 5 minute break at 1/2 time
- No stoppage time for penalty corners.

The game clock will run from the start of the game and run continuously throughout the game and breaks. With the new scoreboard there should be no need to start and stop time for at the breaks. A reminder to clubs and umpires that the clock does not stop during the normal season for injury or penalty strokes.

At the 1/4 & 3/4 time breaks the field players are to remain on the field and drinks can be brought out to the players. Umpires will notify the clubs when there is 30 seconds left till the start of the next quarter and teams are to set up for the start of the next quarter. At half time members can come from the field and into the dug out area.

If the umpire deems one team is deliberately taking their time to get back onto the field (when the other team is ready) for the start of the quarter and are not ready to go when time begins their captain can be penalised in the following way

- 1st offence in the game - green card (2 min suspension)
- 2nd offence in the game - yellow card (5 min suspension)
- 3rd offence in the game - yellow card (10 min suspension)

Please Note: Umpires please ensure you record these yellow cards as time offences on the game card.

Game format for J3-J8 will remain the same as it was in 2018.

- 2x 25 min halves
- 5 min break at half time.

2. Removal of the ability to have a Player with Goalkeeping privileges

Teams can no longer remove the goal keeper and have a player on the field who is able to use their body to stop the ball. Teams utilise one of the below options;

- Goal keeper with full protective equipment or
- Play with 11 field players.

If there is a penalty corner awarded at the time of having 11 field players 5 players can defend the penalty corner but no one has the goal keeping privileges.

If there is a penalty stroke awarded at the time of having 11 field players teams can substitute their goal keeper back on to face the penalty stroke. If teams decide not to substitute the goal keeper back on the person defending the penalty stroke may only wear normal field player protective equipment.

3. Defending Free hits within 5m of the circle

All players now must be 5m away from the attacker taking the free hit, even if they are standing within the circle. If the attacker however chooses to take the free hit immediately, then defenders who are inside the circle and within five meters from the ball may shadow around the inside of the circle as per the explanation of the rule before 2019. Defenders outside the circle must be 5m from the attacker or not engage or influence the play.

4. Free hits awarded inside the defensive circle

A defender may now take a free hit awarded in the circle anywhere inside the circle or up to 15 meters from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

5. Completion of a Penalty Corner

Rule 13.6 that described the completion of a penalty corner for substitution purposes and for a penalty corner at the end of a period, has been deleted. The option that a penalty corner is completed when the ball travels outside the circle for the second time, no longer exists.

The penalty corner is completed when:

- a goal is scored
- a free hit is awarded to the defending team
- the ball travels more than 5 metres outside the circle
- the ball is played over the back-line and a penalty corner is not awarded 36
- A defender commits an offence which does not result in another penalty corner
- A penalty stroke is awarded
- a bully is awarded.

If you require any further clarification on these please do not hesitate to contact the EGHA Executive.