

MEMORANDUM

To: All Hockey WA Players and Officials
From: Officiating and Education Co-ordinator
Date: 21 April 2010
Subject: Directive for breaking at penalty corners

The experimental rules relating to breaking at penalty corners has generated some discussion and the following serves to act as a guide for some of situations raised.

Time

Time is not stopped (unless the umpire stops time for another reason). Umpires are to encourage the quick movement of offending players so as not to delay the game. If the engaged umpire feels that the offending player is taking too long to get back to the halfway line, they may signal for the corner to proceed provided that the offending player has left the immediate playing area.

If a defender rejoins play before reaching the halfway line the penalty corner is to be retaken and a yellow card issued to the offending player. If an attacker rejoins play before reaching the halfway line, a free hit is to be awarded against the offending player and a yellow card issue. The advantage rule should still be applied in both instances (i.e. don't disadvantage the team that hasn't offended if goal is scored).

The disengaged umpire will check that any players sent to the halfway line on a previous break do not come back at any time during the same corner. This includes any subsequent corners awarded before the initial corner has been completed. FIH Rule 13.5 outlines when a penalty corner is complete as being when:

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

If play is stopped because of an injury or for any other reason during the taking of a penalty corner at the end of a prolonged first or second half and a bully would otherwise be awarded, the penalty corner must be taken again.

Goalkeeper breaking at a penalty corner

In the unlikely event that a goalkeeper breaks at a penalty corner, like other players, they will be excluded from play. The offending team will therefore be left without a goalkeeper defending the penalty corner. The goalkeeper is not suspended and as a result, cannot be replaced.

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Rather than send the goalkeeper to halfway line, it is acceptable to instruct them to stand behind the goal until the penalty corner is complete (as outlined earlier in FIH Rule 13.5).

Persistent breaks by the defending team

As per FIH Rule 12.4, a penalty stroke is awarded when defenders persistently break during the taking of penalty corners.

Injector deliberately causing early breaks

Umpires may use their discretion if they feel that a defender has broken the line due to the behaviour of the ball injector. If an umpire decides that the injector has deliberately tried to cause an early break, he will be penalised by not being allowed to inject the corner and shall be replaced by another player on the pitch at the time.