

2011 Directions to Umpires (updated 7/4/11)



Umpires are responsible for ensuring the safety of players on the pitch by applying the rules of hockey. It is up to us as umpires to do our best to **apply the rules fairly, consistently and to the best of our ability** in every match. Remember to communicate with the teams to help them understand what you want them to do (whistle, voice, body language). Umpires have to make decisions that not everyone will agree with. It is NOT ACCEPTABLE for players, coaches or managers to challenge or abuse an umpire about the decisions made, even if these decisions are not correct. This sort of abuse should be stamped out of the game.

New rules for 2011

Please take the time to read the new 2011 Rules of Hockey (available now on the FNC Hockey website www.fnchockey.org.au under **Umpiring and Officiating/Rules & Resources**.

Major changes:

1) A free hit awarded to the defence in the circle must be taken in line with where the offence occurred, parallel to the sideline and UP TO 15m from the backline. It can no longer be taken from anywhere within the circle. This is covered under 2011 **Rule 13.1.c** This rule has been reworded to incorporate any free hit awarded to the defence within 15m of the backline, including offences within the circle.

2) If a goalkeeper offends during a penalty stroke and prevents a goal, the penalty stroke will be taken again. A penalty goal is no longer awarded. 2011 Rule 13.10 outlines appropriate penalties for offences during penalty strokes.

2011 Rule Books have been ordered but will not be available until mid April at the earliest. Clubs will be issued with Rule Books for each team. Additional books can be purchased from the Clubhouse.

Experimental Rules

At the 29 March meeting of the FNC Men's Committee and 5 April meeting of the Women's Committee, it was decided to introduce the experimental rules regarding the 2 minute green card and penalties for breaking/feinting on penalty corners.

The experimental rules are available to read on the FNC website. 2011 Rule 13.7 outlines the appropriate penalties for offences during penalty corners and should be read in conjunction with the experimental rules to incorporate the new experimental penalties.

A number of queries have already been raised regarding enforcing these rules. The following interpretations should clarify these:

- When more than one defender or attacker breaks on a PC, only the first one to break is sent to the half way. If two break at the same time, nominate the one you believe broke first to send to half way. Defenders who have been sent to half way cannot be replaced, but are only required to sit out for one penalty corner and can return for subsequent PCs.
- If an attacker breaks they are sent to the half way for one PC and the PC is reset. They are able to be replaced.
- If the injector (person putting the ball into play) makes a feint or double movement, they are to be replaced for one penalty corner and the PC is reset. They do not have to go to half way.



Self Pass

Many players are abusing the self pass rule or are unaware of how it should be played. **Players must make a decent attempt to stop the ball before playing at it. They must also make two separate movements in moving off with the self pass.** They cannot just run off with the ball on their stick. The free hit must also be taken WITHIN PLAYING DISTANCE of the offence. Be more pedantic about the hit being taken where the offence occurred in the attacking 23.

Defenders must make an attempt to back away 5m before they play at the ball. If they attempt to play at the ball while within the 5m radius, a yellow card should be awarded as this is a deliberate infringement. As this rule was not strictly enforced this way in 2010, PLEASE EDUCATE PLAYERS FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE FOR ALL MATCHES PRIOR TO EASTER WITH A CAUTION. This will give them time to get used to how the umpires are now playing the rule. Talk to players throughout the match to continue to remind them to “stay out” if they are within the 5m. If they still decide to play at the ball or consciously influence the play, first caution them, then increase the personal penalty to green and yellow cards if appropriate for subsequent offences.

Be aware of attackers attempting to manufacture an offence by running at or into the retreating defender. If the defender does not play at the ball, tell the attacker – “no offence – you have a choice where to run – play on”. They will soon understand this will not earn them a free hit. There is no need to reset the free hit unless an offence occurs.

Free Hit in Attacking 23m Area

With this rule, be aware that the rule states that THE BALL must move 5m overall – not 5m from where the hit was taken and not THE PLAYER having to move 5m. If the player decides to do five one metre drags, the ball has then moved 5m and the restrictions of this rule no longer apply. While this is an extreme interpretation of the rule, be mindful that a player can move two metres one way (any direction) and three metres in another and then hit the ball into the circle as the ball will have travelled five metres.

Abuse and Backchat

Abuse is one of the major reasons people do not want to umpire on the Far North Coast. It is against the rules and detracts from the enjoyment of the game.

In 2011, we are encouraging all umpires to crack down on back chat, swearing and abuse by penalising the offender (consider all control measures available – advance free hit 10m, reverse decision if it was in the offender’s favour, issue a personal penalty green/yellow/red depending on severity and whether first or subsequent offence). The rule book states (p41 of 2010 Rule book – Applying the Rules 2.3.c Control):

...it is not acceptable for players to abuse opponents, umpires or other technical officials verbally or through body language and attitude. Umpires must deal firmly with abuse of this sort and in appropriate circumstances issue a caution, warning (green card) or a temporary (yellow card) or permanent (red card) suspension. Cautions, warning and suspensions can be given in isolation or in combination with another penalty.



Captains

Remember you can use the captain as a control measure. If their team has multiple offenders or someone on the bench is the problem, caution or warn the captain (green card) and put the onus on them to moderate the behaviour of their team and the members of their bench.

Deliberate offences in attacking 23 and the circle

Brush up on the rules regarding awarding of penalty corners and penalty strokes for deliberate offences in these areas. If you are unsure of how to apply these rules, please ask an Umpire TEAM member.

Jewellery

Please remind players prior to them taking the field that all visible jewellery is to be removed or taped/covered if unable to be removed.

Injuries

Attend to injuries quickly and determine required action i.e. whether player needs to leave the field. Call for assistance from the bench only if required. Coach/Manager/other personnel are only to come onto the turf if requested by an umpire.

Have confidence in your ability to umpire, assist your co-umpire, and enjoy the match!