

AGAWD Newsletter

Volume 42 December 2003

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It was great to see so many familiar faces at the recent open evening (the first one for sometime). Almost 50 members or club representatives were present with the evening covering the rule changes applicable since the start of the season and those, which will come into effect on 1st January 2004. For those who were not present and those that were these changes are set out later in this newsletter. Many thanks to Peter Lovell for his expert presentation. The evening concluded with a question and answer session covering both practical umpiring problems, administration and club problems.

Clubs are still having problems finding umpires to fulfil their fixtures with the main reasons being as follows:-

1. Most matches take place in the morning.
2. Many club umpires are also players and are therefore playing.

Ways of resolving these problems were discussed with the following suggestions and successful ideas put forward:-

1. Try to change the times of your slot so that you can come to an arrangement with another club to swap umpires.
2. Swap fixture lists with another club or willing

umpires to fill the gaps as far as possible.

3. Clubs need to get more player/umpires qualified and then be prepared to rotate the umpiring and playing roles. Six player umpires would only have to umpire 3 times a season each and be able to play the other 15 league matches.
4. Liaise with clubs playing on pitches close to your own to see if a swap of umpires can be done.

To facilitate clubs the Association is currently working towards putting together a list of umpires who would be willing to have their number distributed, (currently we do not do this) and we are also running a further level 1 course which commences on 11th January 2004 – more details later or from Peter Lovell.

Please contact me with any further suggestions to help both umpires and clubs so that I can share these with everyone.

Don't forget any of the committee are available to help you with any queries you have.

On behalf of the committee may I take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Gill





2004 Rules Changes

The changes which have been incorporated in the 2004 Rules of Hockey are relatively minor. They will come into effect on **1st January 2004**.

Your attention is drawn to the main ones below.

- The specification of how a penalty corner is completed has been simplified and standardised. Completion for substitution purposes is now consistent with completion at the end of half-time and full-time and is as follows:
 - a. A goal is scored
 - b. An attacker commits an offence
 - c. The ball travels more than 5 metres outside the circle
 - d. The ball travels outside the circle for the second time
 - e. The ball is played over the back-line and another penalty corner is not awarded
 - f. A defender commits an offence and another penalty corner is not awarded
 - g. A penalty stroke is awarded.

In relation to substitution, the penalty corner is also completed when a bully is awarded. However, in relation to completion at the end of half-time and full-time, if play is stopped because of an injury or for any other reason and no penalty has been awarded, the penalty corner must be taken again.

- Field players who leave the field for injury treatment, refreshment, to change equipment or for some reason other than substitution are permitted to re-enter only between the 23 metres areas.
- How the result of a match is decided is now specified: the team scoring the most goals is the winner but if no goals are scored, or if the teams score an equal number of goals, the match is drawn.
- Procedures for starting and re-starting play have been rationalised. The Rules specify that the procedures for taking a free hit now apply to the centre pass and to putting the ball back into play after it has passed completely over the side-line or back-line.
- The fundamental characteristics of the bully have been retained but it has been simplified by requiring sticks to touch only once.
- The former Rule which specified that a ball must not be raised intentionally so that it lands directly in the circle has been deleted. Wherever it lands, any ball must not be dangerous.
- The obstruction Rule has been simplified by referring in the Rule itself only to the fundamental principle that players must not obstruct an opponent who is attempting to play the ball. Explanatory notes will indicate that players obstruct if they back into an opponent, physically interfere with the stick or body of an

opponent or shield the ball from a legitimate tackle with their stick or any part of their body.

- Players must not tackle unless they are in a position to play the ball without body contact.
- The "advantage Rule" is specified more simply and clearly: a penalty is awarded only when a player or team has been disadvantaged by an opponent breaking the Rules. If awarding a penalty is not an advantage to the team which did not break the Rules, play must continue.
- The player taking a penalty stroke must start by standing behind and within playing distance of the ball and must not approach either the ball or the goalkeeper after taking the stroke. The former limitation of taking only one step forward has been deleted.
- The Rules now specify that the whistle must be blown to start a penalty stroke when both players are in position (rather than requiring the umpire to confirm that both are ready which can cause confusion in the absence of a common spoken language).
- How offences at a penalty stroke are dealt with have been rationalised. It is now clear that the penalty stroke is taken again if a goalkeeper prevents a goal being scored but leaves the goal-line or moves either foot before the ball has been played. For any other offence by the goalkeeper which prevents a goal being scored, a goal is awarded.
- To improve control of player conduct and therefore to protect the image of hockey, the intended duration of a temporary suspension may be extended for misconduct by a player while suspended.
- New umpiring signals have been introduced to indicate dangerous play (place one forearm diagonally across the chest) and stick obstruction (hold one arm out and downwards in front of the body half-way between vertical and horizontal; touch the forearm with the other hand).



Committee

Chairman:

Gill Prophet 0117 - 9652716

Secretary:

Peter Lovell 0117 - 9091025

Treasurer:

Bob Pearce 0117 - 9622139

Committee:

Josephine Dee

Liz Powell

Mandy Sanderson

Justine Nicklin

Carolyn Britton

The address to which your five match cards should be returned was omitted from the card. They should be returned on completion to:

**Peter Lovell
6 Salisbury Park
Downend
BRISTOL
BS16 5RY**

Dear Marge



A player steps up to strike a penalty corner early on in the match. The strike is undercut/squeezed and hits the post defender in the chest causing considerable distress and effectively preventing the defending team from adopting their usual defensive routines at any further penalty corners. Luckily the player was able to continue to play albeit not at her best and there were no long term or belated medical/physical problems.

The umpire reacted accordingly and whistled immediately, awarding a free hit to the defending team and stopping play to allow the injured player to receive attention.

Umpires should not pre-judge the game or players and react only to what happens in the game situation.

However, this player is renowned for this and as a player coach I know that she has been coached to do this. Her body position prior to the strike is a clear indication of what is to follow. This is the worst form of "professionalism".

Could this be considered a "Red Card" offence and should the umpires be made aware of the situation?

Does the umpire accept it at face value and blow accordingly without further penalty?

I would appreciate your comments.

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

As umpires we cannot pre judge situations or react to prior knowledge so - when the

*offence occurs you blow and penalise accordingly, a free hit to defence and **at least** some eye contact with the player to show her that you are unhappy with such a shot.*

I would also advocate a word with the player and her captain if you feel that eye contact has not got the message across. Something along the lines that you saw from her body language and preparation to strike the ball that she meant to undercut it and that you have seen the move used in several matches. You will penalise appropriately if it reoccurs.

We have to be seen to be protecting the players from injury especially from such cynical tactics.

If she does it again, it can then be deemed deliberate and a yellow card given. If the team coach, who has asked her to use such a shot, loses a player for at least five minutes due to his poor tactics then it is a good use of the penalty.

*This is not a red card scenario (unless she continues to use the stroke after the yellow card is given!). If you gave a red card to the player you would actually be penalising the wrong person – she has only followed orders. **If I were to advocate a red card, it would need to go to the coach for coaching dangerous play!***

Level 1 Umpiring Course

The next level 1 umpiring course is due to start on Sunday 11th January 2004. Should you know of anyone who might be interested in gaining their badge please contact Carolyn Britton on 01454-851182