

Newsletter

Volume 49

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Chairman's Letter

Well are you enjoying the summer?

We've had the World Cup, Wimbledon and the ACWHUA Summer League to keep us occupied.

The World Cup especially has reinforced my opinion that officials in sport should not be given hard and fast directives, it takes away the use of the most important rule that is not written down, the one that says use your "common sense" at all times.

Surely it is more important to officiate to the spirit of the game than it is to umpire to directives that do not take in to account the game that is in front of you.

However, I don't feel it is to controversial to say, that we all would hope that cheats do not prosper. In the world cup we saw non stop diving, or as it is officially called "simulation", and yet, on many occasions no action was taken.

This is one area in which I feel the official should take a very strong stance, whatever the sport, and I am an advocate of automatically using a yellow card in hockey for anyone who deliberately breaks down the play. It is something that seems to be happening more and more and it is no more than cheating.

Wimbledon, as always, showed officials at their best. Staying calm, cool and collected in difficult situations and retaining the respect of the players. Something we can all learn from, the umpire that keeps his or her cool at all times will gain the respect of all players.

And finally to our summer league: I am glad to say, that on my numerous visits, I have not seen any signs of cheating but a lot of good hockey played in the right spirit. A great deal of thanks must go to Justine Nicklin and Carolyn Britton who do such a great job in organising this event. But a lot of the credit must go to the teams participating; who recognise that the league is primarily arranged so that umpires at all level may be coached and assessed.

Again this has proved a phenomenal success, at the time of writing we have 8 new level 1s and we have assessed 3 umpires who are hoping to progress to their Level 2 next season.

Many thanks must go to all the coaches involved, but especially to Janet Wilson and John Burr who, despite no longer being on the committee, have given up a great deal of time to encourage and support all umpires involved.

Finally, our website (www.acwhua.com) has been redesigned and relaunched, there are many useful things to help everyone. So whether you need to find the location of a pitch in The West or to look up the rules, please take the time to take a visit. Post your comments to the visitors book and fill out the survey to help us to help you.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see as many of you as possible next season.

Peter



Website: www.acwhua.com

MEMBERSHIP

Have you paid your membership?

If not you will have received a membership renewal form with this Newsletter.

Don't forget membership still includes umpire insurance.

WEBSITE

www.acwhua.com

Our website has recently been redesigned and relaunched so what's there:

Who are we?

- Contains information about your committee and our constitution.
- Refer to our complaints and reassessment policy.
- Read minutes from all our AGMs

Coaching

- Gives information on how to start umpiring or how to progress.
- A very useful and interesting article by Gill Clarke MBE.

Discipline

- Information with regard to EH disciplinary code and administrators.

Events and Fixtures

- What's going on locally & nationally

FAQs

- All those questions you want answers to.

Membership Benefits

Newsletters

Young Umpires Page

- Useful information and articles for any young umpires.

Contact Us

- Sign the visitors book
- Update your records should you change address, phone no. or Email.

Help

- Ideas to help should your club find themselves inadvertently without an umpire on match day.
- Help to contact a club or find their pitch.

Downloads

Tips & Tricks

News & Gossip

[Please visit the site and fill in the questionnaire to help us to help you](#)



At the West AGM several posts were left unfilled:

- Competitions secretary – i.e. schools, clubs and vets.
- Assistant treasurer
- A person to take over from Peter James as WHA secretary

Do you have the necessary skills and time to spare – then contact Liz Powell for more information



Website: www.acwhua.com

Tips & Tricks

Following an unnerving situation when I first started umpiring, I never say to the penalty corner taker “When you are ready”.

A situation arose in a match when I had awarded a penalty corner to the team who were 1-0 up with only a few minutes to go. Having said those words the player taking it seemed to take a very long time, I therefore awarded a free hit to the defence. Yes you’ve guessed it – the player told me I couldn’t do that because she **wasn’t ready**.

I now use the words “away you go” or something similar.

Stick tackles – who does what and which way should the free hit be awarded.

In general I tend to watch the ball and, although it is not always the case, the majority the direction the ball is moving after the stick tackle has been made is the direction in which the free hit should be given



Should you have any tips you wish to pass on Email peter.lovell4@btinternet.com

CAN ANYONE HELP US

At the AGM a request was put by the Committee to the membership to allow us to purchase a laptop from funds.

This would assist us enormously in giving presentations for Level 1 Courses, Club Rules Evenings and Open Meetings and make the whole procedure a great deal more professional.

It was suggested that, in the first instance, we approach the membership to see if anyone has one that they might be willing to donate or offer at a reasonable cost.

So, if anyone out there feels they might be able to help us with this venture please contact me,

Peter Lovell, Email: peter.lovell4@btinternet.com or any other member of the committee.



Any offers of help would be greatly appreciated!!



Website: www.acwhua.com

Richard Powell Memorial Award

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **John Burr** the inaugural winner of the Richard Powell Memorial Award for Services to Umpiring.

Joan Davies, West Umpiring Secretary presented the award, a Bristol Blue paperweight and the Memorial book to John at this year's AGM.

Probably for the first time ever, John was "speechless" when it was announced that he had won this award, but was extremely honoured to have done so.

Change in the Rules Effective Immediately

Hitting the ball with the edge of the stick

At its March 2006 meeting, the Executive Board agreed proposals for rules changes recommended by the Hockey Rules Board. Most of the changes will apply from 1 January 2007 but one change was agreed for immediate implementation. It relates to use of the forehand edge of the stick to hit the ball hard. This action had already been referred to and prohibited as an interpretation of current rules but is now reinforced by a formal change to the rules. The following applies in 2006.

PLAYERS MUST NOT HIT THE BALL HARD ON THE FOREHAND WITH THE EDGE OF THE STICK.

The forehand is defined as playing a ball which is to the right of the player in a forwards direction. This does not prohibit use of the edge of the stick on the forehand in a controlled action in a tackle, when raising the ball in a controlled way over an opponent's stick or over a goalkeeper who is lying on the ground or when using a long pushing motion along the ground.

The use of the edge of the stick on the backhand has developed as a technical skill and is permitted subject to danger.

This rule change is incorporated in the 2006 Rules of Hockey published on the FIH website. It will be fully integrated in the 2007/8 rules when they are published later in the year.

ENDS....

As one might expect, there has been quite a substantial amount of correspondence about this change - essentially from players and umpires looking for further clarification. England Hockey when unsure of answers has sought clarity from the FIH and in an effort to provide more detail and attempt to pre-empt further questions please see below.

This is a relatively new technique where the ball is played with the edge of the stick (anywhere along its length) on the forehand.



This action is considered to be dangerous. This is because the ball must be hit very precisely at the correct spot, otherwise it is likely that the ball will be raised at high speed and in an uncontrolled manner. Also, the direction of the ball from these hits is not predictable by opponents and in most cases not even by the player hitting the ball. This action can be executed accidentally or can be disguised as a different action so opponents have little or no chance to react if the ball is raised.

This applies only to a hard hit of this type. It is not considered dangerous to use the forehand edge of the stick in a controlled action such as the “jab” tackle, raising the ball in a controlled way over an opponent’s stick or goalkeeper who is lying on the ground or when “sweeping” the ball along the ground on the forehand.

A number of people expressed concern that many umpires would penalise any 'hard' shot from either edge of the stick on the forehand side. Actually those umpires would be correct ... and indeed, they should penalise any hard hit and not just those that are shots!

The reference to “face down” has also been deleted since the interpretation first issued in January 2006 to make it clear (and hopefully a bit easier for umpires!) that use of either edge on the forehand is prohibited.

The word ‘hard’ is not defined – it is a matter of judgment like other things in the rules. Acting prudently and with common sense is the expectation.

The word ‘edge’ is also not defined explicitly – but experience with the use of ‘backhand’ edge of the stick to play the ball (which is permitted) shows that there is a common and acceptable understanding of this term.

There is a link to other rules about danger – but there is also an important difference in this case. The FIH are not saying that it is permitted to use the forehead edge so long as it is safe; instead they are saying that it must not be used at all because it is potentially dangerous. Referring to it this way will help players, coaches and umpires; it is not a case of waiting to see what happens as a result of a hard hit of this sort – but, quite simply, saying “Don’t ever hit the ball hard using the edge of the stick on the forehand”!

This is the approach the FIH are trying to take. It’s to be seen as a simple prohibition and not one that gets ‘bogged down’ in definitions of ‘hard’ or ‘edge’.



2006/2007 COMMITTEE

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Chairman - Peter Lovell - 01275 844 875

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[All committee members can be contact on our Website](#)



Website: www.acwhua.com

Dear Marge

Dear Marge,

Scenario:-

A right winger going at full tilt enters the striking circle along the right hand side back line. A sweeper goes in at full tilt to engage a tackle. Both players touch the ball simultaneously and the ball rolls along and stops near the right hand post. Both players proceed to tumble off the back line (no offence has happened; it is just a result of their speed and enthusiasm). The goal keeper is not aware where the ball has stopped. (*He must be playing for my team*) The right winger quickly realizes that all he has to do is to take 1 or 2 paces onto the pitch and tap the ball into the back of the goal.

The defender belatedly also realizes the danger, but is not quick enough to recover the situation and therefore 'accidentally or deliberately' entangles him self (off the pitch) with the attacker trying to take his 1 or 2 paces onto the pitch to score what can only be viewed as a certain goal. The umpire blows his whistle!!!!!!

I have asked a few umpires whose opinions I value, what they consider to be the correct decision, only to be amazed at the different answers.

Answers so far are:-

Yellow card and bully at the 16 yard line (*the offence was off the pitch*)

Penalty corner and a yellow card (the offence was inside the 25 yard line)

Penalty stroke and a green card (*but I'm not sure*)

Penalty stroke and a yellow card (*but I am sure*)

No offence has happened (*it's off the pitch*).

Pretend you have not seen it!!!! (*No change there*)

I look forward to reading your understanding of how this should be umpired.

Regards Bewildered

Dear Bewildered,

What a cracker! This has caused a stir amongst the great and the good! However, this is one that we feel cannot be answered in a conventional and quick manner. There are questions that need to be answered and can't be unless you were there watching the proceedings. Were the defenders actions deliberate or accidental in the eyes of the umpire? Where was the GK? Where were other players? Without seeing the action one cannot give a definitive answer. Sorry to



appear a wimp but sometimes it is not possible to give judgements without all the pertinent factors and that is not possible without seeing the action first hand or a slow motion video!

Dear Marge,

Attempting to improve my cooperation with my colleague I ventured into the far 25 yard area well on to the pitch. Great position to see the action at the penalty corner but..... The corner was dealt with quickly and I was dismayed to see the ball coming straight at me at speed with an attacker close behind. I then found a defender running towards me from behind. Was I to be the filling in the sandwich? Other than rise vertically where do you think I should go? I moved backwards straight into the defender! Obviously the wrong choice! Egg and cress!

Dear Egg and cress,

Great to hear that you are trying new positioning – well done! This is a tricky one and also a rare one thank goodness! If you move away from your comfort zone you need to be aware of the possibilities of being caught (or stuffed!). Good cooperation as described is an element of the Level II umpires game that is second nature to them and they are constantly vigilant to the possibility that they will need to move very quickly at times to avoid this type of situation. Without seeing the incident and using only what you have told me, the probable way to avoid a collision is to “crab” sideways to the sideline allowing the ball and the players to meet in front of you. However, you then have to recover quickly in order to keep up with play as it flies past you and on to your circle! What is important is that you keep the ball in view at all times so, even if off balance, you can see any fouls and deal with them.

If you have any questions for Marge Email them to Liz Powell or any member of the committee. Or simply visit our website and post them there.



Website: www.acwhua.com