

# Newsletter

Volume 54 - September 2009

## Chairman's Letter

Here's hoping you have all enjoyed the summer and that you are now getting into another season of hockey. This season promises to be a challenging one with the new rules and their interpretation and I know for sure, judging by the number of phone calls and emails I have received on the subject, that many of you are still coming to grips with them. However I do also feel that they will soon bed down and, when umpires, players and coaches have a better understanding, will become second nature. Included in this newsletter are summaries of the new rules and their interpretation.

My grateful thanks go to Steve Cox, a national League umpire, who travelled over from Swansea to give us his take on the new rules. The evening was attended by over 50 of our members and gave everyone a chance to discuss and debate the implications.

The summer has been a busy one with numerous assessments, reassessments and coachings taking place during our own summer league at Coombe Dingle and at other summer leagues in the region. With 28 umpires having qualified since the end of last season this has been our most successful summer yet. Please extend the usual help and consideration to all of those who are newly qualified. My thanks to Justine and Carolyn for their hard work in organising the league and to

the numerous coaches and assessors who gave of their time.

Also identified during the summer were 5 umpires who wished to progress to their Level 2 umpire award and were notified to the West to be assessed on the West Premier League. In the past few weeks all five have been successfully assessed and have gained their Level 2 awards. Many congratulations to Caz Fenn, Heather Child, Val Harding, James Self & Mark Williams and also many thanks to Liz Powell who gives these umpires, through her progression group, the coaching and experience required to gain promotion.

We also have four new Level 1 umpire coach candidates, Jeanette Bokacz, Heather Child, Charlene Fleck and Vicky Hollier who over the next few months will be learning the art of coaching umpires.

Jan Wilson who has now taken on the role of Avon President has, after looking at her extensive hockey commitments, decided it is time to hand over the role of coordinating umpire reassessment and I am pleased to say that John Burr has agreed to take up the challenge. A big thank you to Jan for her hard work over recent seasons.

Here's hoping you all have a successful and enjoyable season.

**Peter**

## NEW RULES 2009/10 SEASON

The new rules take effect from 1st September 2009 and will apply to all outdoor hockey with the exception of mini hockey.

The definition regarding a shot has been changed to mean a player with an intention to score.

How to deal with a situation where a team plays with too many players has been clarified.

Most of the other changes within the rulebook relate to the terminology regarding “a field player with goalkeeping privileges” and do not alter the rules as we know them.

### The Self Pass Rule

- Applies to **all** dead ball situations except penalty corner and penalty stroke
- Free hit will be taken within playing distance of where the offence occurred
- Ball **must** be stationary
- The free hit and the next play must be two separate movements
- The **Opposition** must be 5 metres away
- If a “self pass” the ball does **not** have to move 1 metre, but still applies if passed to another player
- Any free hit awarded to the attack within 5 metres of the circle will be taken from the nearest point which is 5 metres from the circle.
- All players must be five metres away
- The ball must not be played into the circle until it has either been played by another player or travelled a total of 5 metres in any direction.

### Interpretation

- Provided the player has made an attempt to stop the ball, they should not be penalised if the ball then moves slightly or it rotates on its axis.
- Play should not be delayed because opposition are not 5 metres away.
- Any opposition not 5 metres away must not attempt to play the ball or influence play until it has moved 5 metres or they have moved 5 metres away.
- If a player of the same side is within 5 metres when a free hit is awarded in the attacking 23 they should not be penalised unless they are influencing play.

### **Things to be aware of**

- Players taking a free hit inside the attacking 23m may attempt to run straight into a player who is not 5 metres away to obtain a penalty corner – consider the manufactured foul.
- Because the ball is like to be in play a lot more, umpires will need to be fitter, do not attempt to go to far up the pitch in assisting your colleague.
- You need to be precise as to whether a free hit is inside or outside the 23m, the options available are considerably different

### **Tips and Advice**

- When a free hit is awarded to the attack in the 23m ask yourself two questions
  1. Has the ball travelled 5 metres
  2. Has another player touched it

Prior to it entering the circle, if the answer to both questions is **NO** an offence has been committed and a free hit should be awarded to the defence at the point of the original free hit.

### **PITCH MARKINGS**

With the introduction of the new “self pass” rule, there have been several questions with regard to the need for the 5 metre broken line around the circle.

#### **Advice from England Hockey**

The rules 2009 include a Mandatory Experimental Rule relating to the free hit and specifically within it, an important reference to the free hit when awarded within 5m of the edge of the circle. It should be noted that no free hit can be taken within 5m of the circle edge and there is therefore a preference to have a 5m broken line around the circle to assist the players and officials.

England Hockey Policy requires all NEW or RE-Surfaced pitches to have the 5m broken line. Additionally we require all EHL venues and all venues hosting National Programme or Single System activity (excluding Club School Links) to have the 5m broken line.

Dear Marge

Would you please clear up a query with regard to the new rules?

An attacker who takes a long corner hits the ball directly into the circle, obviously this is no longer allowed but could you please advise where the subsequent free hit to the defence should be awarded. Using my own logic I awarded the free hit to be taken at the point where the ball entered the circle because this is the point at which the offence actually occurred but by the reaction of the players I think I may have got it wrong. Please advise.

Too many rule changes!

*Dear Too many rule changes,*

*For a breach of the rule that prevents an attacker who takes a free hit or any other action of putting the ball back into play in the attacking 23m area without first having either moved the ball 5 metres or the ball having been played by another player a free hit should be awarded to the defending side at the point of the original playing of the ball. So in the case you describe the free hit should have been awarded on the sideline. But remember if this happens, because there has been an offence and a free hit has been awarded the defence may then bring it up to the 16!*

Marge



Dear Marge,

If an attacker has a free hit within the 23m area and the defenders are 5m away, the ball is then self passed, can the defenders then go in to make a challenge as soon as that ball is touched? I only ask because the other umpire said that they had to give them 5m before attempting to play the ball.  
Confused & Bewildered

*Dear Confused and Bewildered,*

*Provided the defenders were 5 metres away when the free hit was taken they are allowed to approach and attempt to make a tackle as soon as the free hit or self pass is made.*

*If they are not 5 metres away when taken they must then not make an attempt to play the ball or influence play until either the ball has travelled 5 metres or they have retreated to at least five metres away.*

Marge



Dear Marge

If there is a free hit to the attackers within the 23m and they want to take a quick ball; they have their **own players** less than 5m away from them but are not interfering or attempting to play or obstruct, can play carry on?

Confused

*Dear confused*

*Yes play can carry on – a player should not be penalised for being less than 5 metres unless they are influencing play or they attempt to play the ball before it has travelled 5 metres – this applies to both attackers and defenders in these circumstances.*

Marge

Dear Marge

I wondered if you could clear up a heated discussion we had in a recent hockey match about taking a free hit on the 5 metres away



from the circle. I was not umpiring but my colleague explained the rules to both teams in the first half by saying that the ball must be played 5 metres before it is played into the D (out of the 5m zone around where the ball is laid). In effect it was stated that the player taking the hit cannot dribble directly into the D from this position.

Then at half time further discussions between the other umpire and their side and it was decided that this could now happen. We were certainly not in on these discussions or told of the different interpretation to this new rule. Late in the game the opposition was awarded a hit within 5 metres of our defending circle, took the ball back, did a self pass and dribbled directly into the D, shot and scored.

I know we should have made the tackle, but we were all amazed that the goal stood! It did not make any difference to the end result, but certainly fuelled the last couple of minutes and we all came off the pitch even more confused.

Still somewhat confused



*Dear Still somewhat confused*

*There seems to be a lot of confusion around especially with umpires who are not members of umpires associations regarding the new rule.*

*Firstly – Any free hit to the attack within 5 metres from the ‘D’ must be taken back to the nearest point 5 metres away from the ‘D’, this is most explicit.*

*Secondly – If at a free hit to the attack within the 23m line they chose to self pass the ball must move at least 5 metres **in any direction** prior to the same player hitting the ball into the circle, however if a second player touches the ball this requirement does not apply.*

*The rule states “the ball must travel 5 metres before being played into the ‘D’ and the definition of played is “touched by a stick”. So if the free hit was taken 5 metres from the D it is all a question of when the*

*player concerned last touched the ball prior to entering the circle, if she did so right on the circles edge, then no problem but if the last time she touched it prior to it entering the circle is a foot from the circle then the ball will not have travelled 5 metres from the where the free hit was taken before it was played into the circle.*

*Even more worrying is that your colleague discussed this alone with the opposition at half time and then without any referral to yourself and the opposition decided upon a different interpretation. In future I would hope that if there are to be discussions of this nature at half time that both umpires be involved and then that both captains are informed of the outcome.*

Marge



Marge is always at the ready to answer any burning question you may have about hockey umpiring and the rules.

If you have anything you would like her to answer please forward them to any member of your committee.



## 2008/9 Committee

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Please feel free to contact any member of the committee should you have any questions but please remember to observe common courtesies i.e. do not ring after 10pm

### Reassessment

*John Burr has now taken on the task of coordinating the reassessment for the committee.*

*As most of you will be aware, the Association operates a system of a 4 yearly reassessment to ensure that umpiring standards are maintained.*

*Most of these reassessments are done on a less formal basis than your original assessment for level 1 and those of you who are taking regular West tournament appointments or are members of the progression group will not require to be reassessed as you are already undergoing regular assessments.*

*So, if you receive an email or contact from John with regard to your reassessment please respond at your earliest convenience to make his job as easy as is possible.*

*Should you have any questions regarding this reassessment please do not hesitate to contact John or any member of the committee who will be only too pleased to help.*

## **Avon Junior League**

Once again the Avon Junior League will be held on Sunday afternoons at Yate and Gordano throughout the season and once again they will be looking for your assistance.

As Jan Wilson mentioned at the AGM this is an ideal opportunity for our umpires to support juniors in hockey and many of the clubs would be very appreciative on any help that can be offered.

This is also an opportunity for our candidate umpires to develop their umpiring skills. With candidates we found last year that it is important that they are supported with a mentor/coach as it can be a very competitive environment.

It is also an ideal opportunity for junior umpires; this is an environment where they can develop their skills with their peers provided they are supported by a mentor/coach.

So, if you think you can assist with this most worthwhile event please contact Jan Wilson direct: [jw007z0499@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jw007z0499@blueyonder.co.uk) .

Further information about this event can be found on the Avon Junior League Website  
<http://members.lycos.co.uk/pskca/>

## **Rules of Mini Hockey**

England Hockey has issued a press release on 15<sup>th</sup> October which will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November detailing a change to the rules of mini hockey. The new rules include an adapted version of the self-pass at free hits and re-starts. The rule regarding the self pass is the same as regular hockey with the following exception:

Because the mini hockey pitch does not have a 23m area the restrictions with regard to playing the ball directly into the circle from a free hit only apply to any free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle, the requirement to move any free hit awarded to the attack within 5 metres of the circle to the nearest point that is 5 metres away still applies.

England Hockey apologises for this inconvenience but trust that you will understand that the requests to implement the changes were very substantial.

## **Website Development**

As those of you who attended the AGM will know we are in the process of developing the website even further to include a forum, where you will be able to go and discuss your umpiring questions and a place for debate. This new forum should be up and running by the end of November. [www.acwhua.com](http://www.acwhua.com)

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## UMPIRING SHIRTS

As many of you will be aware we have for some time been trying to source yellow umpiring shirts and hoped that it might be possible to secure sponsorship for these. Unfortunately, probably due to the credit crunch it has not been possible to find a sponsor.

However we have been able to source a good quality yellow umpiring shirt from the EH supplier Tempest a picture of which is shown below. The shirt will be embroidered with the Avon badge with the word "UMPIRE" below.

The cost of the shirt is £17.50 but the committee has agreed to subsidise any member's first shirt by £5.00 thus making the cost of your first shirt £12.50 provided your order is with us by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

The sizes of the shirts are as follows:

Women's sizes: XS size 8 Chest 82cm  
S size 10 chest 87cm  
M size 12 chest 92cm  
L size 14 chest 97cm  
XL size 16 chest 102cm

Men's sizes XS chest 88cm  
S chest 94cm  
M chest 102cm  
L 110cm  
XL 118cm



One word of warning the shirts are a fairly snug fit so, especially if you are thinking of wearing something below them, we would suggest you order one size bigger than you think you might need.

To order your first shirt and therefore get the £5.00 reductions please send a cheque for £12.50 made payable to "ACWHUA" together with your size requirement to our treasurer:

Bob Pearce  
9 Farington Road  
Henleaze  
Bristol  
BS10 5BN

Once the first order has been placed in late November it is hoped that you will then be able to order further shirts of varying colours through a portal of the ACWHUA website.

**Have a good season!**



[www.acwhua.com](http://www.acwhua.com)