

Newsletter

Volume 55 - September 2012

Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the 2012/13 season! I'm sure it will be as hectic as ever!

So far this season your committee has two level 1 courses booked in September and October; more will follow.

In Avon, we currently have 184 candidates who have successfully passed their theory exam and are eligible to umpire league games as per league regulations. Many of these candidates will be assessed during the current season, but it does mean that there are a large number of less experienced umpires who will need the encouragement and support of their experienced colleagues. In addition this means that teams will need to follow the regulation regarding agreement to use a candidate with their opposition, in order to avoid a situation where 2 candidates arrived to do the game! If you are linked to a club, please help us by reminding captains of their duties!

As well as running umpiring qualification courses, your committee extends an open offer to run rules evenings for club players. So why not suggest it to your club, or get together with another team and we'll do the presentation if you provide the venue and attendees!

Avon continues to be highly successful at developing our young umpires – 68 of our current candidates are under 21. Avon is very proud to boast about our youngsters - Caroline Fenn has been promoted to Level 3 National League and was last season's EHB Young Performance Umpire of the Year! Nick Bennett, who won this award the year

before also continues to do well. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow in their success – hopefully to be followed by our youngest Level 1, an exceptional 12 year old!

Whilst we want to nurture our youngsters and look to the future, we do not want to forget our more mature umpires – after all, our recycled teenagers do turn out week in, week out to support and promote the game!

You should all have received information regarding rules changes this season, which will be adopted at the start of the season. We have not received too many queries yet, but we'll see what happens when the season gets underway! If you do have any queries or observations, Dear Marge will be happy to answer them, or any other questions, for you.

In order to support our members who want to progress, or just improve as a level 1, we will be introducing a facebook page to use as an open forum and discussion, so keep an eye open for that very soon! We have set up a group on facebook, which you can ask to join now.

We want to find ways to support all of our members so please get in touch to advise us how we might best do that.

We also want this Newsletter to be yours and to reflect the needs of our members. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for articles, or whether you fancy trying your hand as a journo or a crossword compiler!

Finally, have a great season and keeeeeep whistling!!

Justine

NEW RULES 2012/13 SEASON

The new rules take effect from 1st September 2012 and will apply to all outdoor hockey.

Based on recommendations from the FIH Rules Committee, the FIH Executive Board has agreed changes to the Rules of Hockey.

Changes to the Rules of Hockey (with reference to the numbered Rules in the 2011 edition) are as follows:

Rule 8.1: method of scoring. The way a goal is scored is amended; it now includes what is sometimes referred to as an “own goal”. That is, a goal can now be scored after the ball is touched in the circle by either an attacker or a defender. It is anticipated that the detailed text will read:

8.1 A goal is scored when:

- a) The ball is played by an attacker, or touches the stick or body of a defender, within the circle
- b) After either of these actions, the ball does not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the cross-bar.

This is described as a “Mandatory Experimental Rule” so that it applies at all levels of hockey but, because it is a significant change, it will be monitored closely. After a period of review, the FIH Rules Committee will decide whether or not it becomes a permanent change to the Rules.

Rules 13.2.d and e: procedures for taking a free hit, centre pass and putting the ball back into play.

The ball may now be raised intentionally and directly using a push, flick or scoop action; this action must be conducted safely. This is essentially an evolution of what is known as the “self-pass” from a free hit. By having the option to raise the ball immediately, opposing players will not have had the opportunity to get closer than five metres; a raised ball should be safer.

It is anticipated that Rules 13.2 d and e will read:

- d) The ball is moved using a hit, push, flick or scoop
- e) The ball may be raised immediately using a push, flick or scoop but must not be raised intentionally using a hit.

Rules 13.2.f and g: as a consequence of the changes above, these rules have been deleted.

The FIH have indicated that new Rules books incorporating these changes will be available in late September and all members will receive a copy.

If you have any queries with regard to these new rules please do not hesitate to contact us.

Dear Marge

Dear Marge,

My team was playing in a match recently where the umpire advised us that a self pass in the 23m area could be played into the D after the first touch and that a free hit in the 23m area could be played into the D without travelling 5m, as long as the ball first passed outside the 23m line. I advised the umpire that I didn't think he was interpreting the rule correctly, but he said he was right because he'd seen it on YouTube! Could you tell me if there has been a reinterpretation of the rule, as I am now very confused?

Thanks, Noah Deer

Dear Noah,

There has not been a new interpretation of the rules governing free hits to the attack in the 23m area. The rule clearly states that if the self pass is used the ball may be played any number of times, but must travel 5m before that player plays the ball into the circle. The only time that a ball can be played into the circle before travelling 5m is if it is played by another player of either team. The rule applies regardless of taking the ball out over the 23m line, as the free hit was awarded and taken within the 23m area.

I hope this makes the rule clearer for you.

Marge

Dear Marge,

When watching the Olympics it appeared to me that a goal was given from a penalty corner even though the ball clearly was above the height of the backboard when crossing the line. Have I missed a rule change?

Noel



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Dear Noel

There has been no change to this rule.

The first shot at a penalty corner, if it is a hit, must cross the goal line at no more than 18" for it to be a goal. Any subsequent shot can go in at any height. If it is a flick, including a drag flick, or a scoop or if the hit is deflected it can enter the goal at any height.

Suspect the one you saw was either deflected or was a scoop or a flick.

Marge

Dear Marge

I have a query about an observation watching the hockey at the Olympics. Have I missed out on a change of rule - a two minute suspension for a player when showing them a green card? Or have they just got this rule for the Olympics

Thanks Fran

Dear Fran

No you haven't missed a rule change. The two minute suspension is only in operation for National League and Internationals.

It would be almost impossible to implement at the lower levels and is unlikely to be applied to all hockey.

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.

2012/13 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

Open Meeting

As requested at the AGM your committee have organised an Open meeting for all of its members on **Thursday 6th September** at 7.30pm

The meeting will be held at BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7RG (Room 7)

Some of the main themes of the evening will be

- Advantage versus Possession
- Issues raised from the Olympics – question and answer session
- New rules to be introduced on 1st September 2012 – explanation and implementation
- Directive regarding use of “foul & abusive” language

Fran Ripley, one of the West’s best players of recent years, will be there to join in the discussion.

Hope you are able to attend.

Pre-Match Check List

Many thanks to Karen Daffey from Berks and South HUA for providing this!

DRESS

Colour, suitable for teams and background.

WHISTLE

Fox or Pea, harmonise tone. Use of tone to control/communicate.

WHICH SIDE

Sun, Wind, Rain. Attack/Defence.

Crowd/supporters/subs/coach/manager.

AREAS OF CONTROL

Side line all the way along, diagonals with play coming towards.

Far side of 'D' right back/left inside channel.

TIME KEEPING

Who starts & indication of 1 or 2 minutes to go?

Penalty corner at end of half/full time.

Injuries, giving cards, under pressure.

POSITION

How far up pitch to support.

Where will you be for set pieces, both your control and support of colleague?

Where will they be to help you?

SIGNALS

When help is required, small or big signals.

Advantage when play going away from you.

Stop and restart time. Watch stopped/broken/not restarted.

Sign posting - both blow together and point in opposite direction.

Confirmation of goal/penalty stroke. Long corner/14.63 metre hit-out.

CONTROL

Agree attitude to raise ball, on field, both open play and free hits/side line hits.

Ball into circle and in circle. Ariel ball. Quick whistle/advantage.

Ball hitting foot, foot put in the way. Breaking down play.

Time wasting. Encroaching on 5 metres.

Stationary ball. Knocking ball away.

Dissent/chat. 10 metres

CARDS

Presentation, reason, who writes first, if yellow how long, where to put them.

Young Umpires

Sally Palmer has taken over the coordination of our young umpires under the age of 21 and is looking into ideas of how we might best service your needs.

- We have already set up a texting service to improve our communication.
- We are setting up a Facebook page so that you can stay in touch with each other.
- We are looking to find opportunities for you to umpire junior hockey.
- We are hoping to have a meeting in October when you will be able to put forward your ideas of how we might best be able to help you.

All these ideas are ongoing but, if you have any ideas to put forward, please let Sally know.

Email: sallypalmer28@btinternet.com

CLAMP DOWN

West Council will be writing to all clubs prior to the start of the season with regard to the increase in the use of “foul & abusive” language especially that which is directed at umpires. The West Umpiring Secretary will also be writing to all West umpires asking that they take the appropriate action. So what is the appropriate action?

- Speak to captain/s.
- Upgrade or reverse the decision.
- Green card the offending player.
- If it still continues, Yellow card the offending player.
- If it is particularly severe and/or threatening Red card the offending player.
- Should it happen after the game raise an MMO against the offending team – remember you will need to let an official of the offending team that you intend to do this.

We do not want this increase of foul & abusive language to continue so, like football, it becomes an accepted part of our sport. Therefore it is important that we take the appropriate action.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal is now well overdue, so if you have not yet paid this year's subs, please do so without delay.

A renewal form can be found on the website

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Have a good season!

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