

## **New proposed changes for season 2019-2020**

The FIH published the new Rules of Outdoor Hockey back in December 2018 which took effect internationally from 1 Jan, 2019. However, HKHA has the discretion to decide the date of implementation at the national level. Similar to previous years, HKHAUS will propose the new rules to be adopted / partly adopted at the start of the following hockey season.

Below are the key rule changes which HKHAUS proposes to adopt from the start of 2019-2020 season:

- **Removal of Player with Goalkeeper Privileges (Kicking Back)**
- **Amendments to the Attacking Free Hits within 23m**
- **Defensive free hits awarded within the defensive circle**
- **Retreat of defenders for free-hits within 5m of the circle**
- **New ruling around attackers entering the circle early at a Penalty Corner (PC)**

In the past seasons with the introduction of four quarters at the international level, some of our premier games were played under the same setup. Now with the new format adopted in the rules of hockey, HKHAUS proposes to apply a consistent set of rules throughout all levels of the sport in HK. However due to resources issues, most of the lower divisional games would not have adequate resources to run a technical table to manage the stoppage of play under the new rules. Hence we would like to propose the following format for the upcoming season:

### **For Premier Divisions ONLY (Men's and Women's)**

- To apply the 15 minutes quarters (with clock stoppage (up to 40 seconds) at initial PCs and goals scored).
- 2 minutes break after Q1 and Q3
- 10 minutes break during half time (after Q2)

### **For All Other Divisions – D1 to D6 (Men's and Women's)**

- To apply the 17 minutes quarters (WITHOUT clock stoppage at all initial PCs and goals scored).
- 2 minutes break after Q1 and Q3
- 5 minutes break during half time (after Q2)

As previously stated above, there are a number of changes to the FIH Outdoor Rules. These changes are all marked with a vertical line in the margin of the FIH Rule Book. The key rule changes are summarized below. HKHAUS will cover all these new changes in our upcoming Refresher Courses in Aug – Oct, however players, coaches, umpires and MOs are encouraged to read the full text of the new rules.

## Key Changes in Summary

2.2 – Mandatory Experiment: a team no longer has the option to play with a player with goalkeeping privileges. This means that teams either play with a Goalkeeper, or 11 outfield players

5 – Timing of matches to be more closely aligned with the international game as seen at the FIH International Tournaments or FIH Pro-League. See above for further details.

6 – Wording change around the start and re-start of the match to reflect the change to quarters in the rule book.

9.12 – Very minor clarification of third party or shadow obstruction during a penalty corner on defenders (and goalkeeper).

11.6 – Wording added to this rule to show that Umpires blow the whistle for the start / end of each quarter and for the stopping / re-starting of time around a Penalty Corner.

12.4 – Clarification added to the awarding of a Penalty Stroke if the ball hits a piece of equipment lying in the circle and a probable goal is prevented, a penalty stroke may be awarded.

13.1 – A free hit awarded to the defence within the defensive circle can be taken anywhere in their circle OR taken up to 15 metres from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

13.2 – Additional wording in the guidance concerning the re-start after awarding a Free Hit to the attacking team within 5 metres of the circle they are attacking. The introduction of a quick self-pass for these Free Hits allows the defenders to stay within the circle, within 5m and not interfere with play until the ball can legitimately enter the circle. If there is no quick self-pass, then ALL defenders, regardless of location in the 23m, MUST retreat 5m if they wish to legitimately play the ball once the Free Hit is taken.

13.3.g – Clarification on defending team's responsibilities when defending a Penalty Corner when playing with no Goalkeeper.

13.5 – Removal of previous rule of when a Penalty Corner is finished if time has already lapsed and clarification that if play during a Penalty Corner is stopped because of an injury or for any other reason during the taking of a penalty corner at the end of a quarter or half and a bully would otherwise be awarded, the penalty corner must be taken again.

13.6.e – Change to current rule, now if an attacker enters the circle at a Penalty Corner before permitted, the player taking the push or hit from the backline is required to go beyond the centre-line and the Penalty Corner is taken again.

13.7.e – If a team has chosen to play with eleven outfield players and no goalkeeper, if they concede a Penalty Stroke then this explains what protective equipment is permitted for the defender.