
RULES CHANGES - SEASON 2001 - 02

The changes listed below are applicable to all international competition from July 1st 2001. English Hockey will introduce them to domestic hockey on the September 1st 2001.

1. CAPTAINS:

Because we have rolling substitutes, the need for each team to have a captain actually on the pitch and wearing a distinctive arm-band throughout the game has become unnecessary and confusing. It has therefore been agreed that the **captain can be on the pitch or on the substitutes bench** at particular times in the game. The exception shall be when / if a captain is suspended. In these circumstances an alternative captain must be nominated and must wear the arm-band.

2. GOALKEEPERS:

No goalkeeper can play **outside their own half** of the pitch (except when taking a penalty stroke). In essence, this means that goalies cannot go to the opposing circle edge (during prolongation of penalty corners at half or full-time) in an effort to assist in keeping the ball within the circle.

3. PERSONAL PENALTIES:

Substitute players (those on the bench) are under the control of the umpires and can be cautioned, warned or suspended temporarily or permanently. In the **event of a suspension, the number of players on the pitch shall be reduced** accordingly.

4. RAISED BALL:

It should be noted that this is a change that relates to Rules **interpretation**. It should make a big difference to the game as long as it is **understood by players, coaches and umpires**. "Understanding" in isolation (i.e. by players only or umpires only) will not bring about the deserved level of change.

The wording is: ***The interpretations have been revised to emphasize that it is not an offence to raise the ball unintentionally from a hit (including a free-hit) anywhere on the pitch (including into the circle) unless it is dangerous or likely to lead to dangerous play.***

5. PENALTY CORNER:

If the ball becomes trapped in the goalkeeper's protective equipment, the umpire shall award a **penalty corner**. (Until July 1st it was a bully that was awarded at the top of the circle.)

I hope I have written this Paper clearly and that it's content can be understood by all.

Please feel free to photocopy it and distribute accordingly.

Thank you.

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