

2015 NAJH By-Laws Briefing

Welcome to the 2015 season for the North Area Junior Hockey. In order to help matches and the operation of the competition work as clearly and smoothly as possible, we have put together this briefing that highlights some of the more important aspects of the North Area competition By-Laws. The full By-Laws can be found on the NAJH website by clicking on the "By-Laws" link in the top menu of the home page, <http://www.nahockey.org.au> We recommend that all junior competition officials – managers, coaches and umpires in particular – familiarise themselves with the By-Laws. The following serves as a guide to some of the more crucial By-Laws that are related to the conduct of matches.

Key By-Laws for NAJHA Matches

Note that unless an exemption is specified by the North Area Committee (as noted below), the current FIH Rules of Hockey apply to the conduct of all NAJH matches. <http://www.fih.ch/files/Sport/Rules/FIH-Rules%20of%20Hockey%202015-Interactif.pdf>

Specifically on rule changes and adoption of tournament regulations introduced by FIH for 2015 season, North Area will be adopting the following changes.

Attacking Hits within Five Metres of Attacking Circle The ability to take attacking free hits, awarded within 5 metres of the edge of the circle, from the point of the offence. The change states that the ball still has to travel at least 5 metres before it can be played into the circle, or alternatively has to be touched by another player of either team, other than the player taking the free hit.

Long Corners The second change concerns the re-start, after the ball has unintentionally been played over the back-line by a defender or deflected by a goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges, and no goal is scored. Play will now be re-started with the ball on the 23 metres line and in line with where it crossed the back-line. Taking the re-start from the 23 metres line will open up the play and give more passing options.

Breaking from Penalty Corners North Area will adopt the breaking from penalty corner regulation for the U13, U15 and U17 age groups – see FIH Rule 13.7.

North Area will not be adopting the following regulations.

Green Card – two minute suspension Green Cards will continue to be used by umpires in North Area as a warning to players.

Stick above the shoulder The former rule will apply, namely that players must not play the ball with any part of the stick when the ball is above shoulder height except that defenders are permitted to use the stick to stop or deflect a shot at goal at any height.

Further extracts from key NAJH By-Laws for the conduct of matches are outlined below as "•" points, with any further suggestions, explanation or clarification following under a "–" point.

- By-Law 5.1: All players must wear a mouthguard and shin guards whenever they are on the field.
 - Umpires may wish to check at the toss before a match commences that all players have protective equipment, particularly for younger age groups.
- By-Law 5.2: No game will proceed unless each team fields a fully kitted goalkeeper. If a team does not have a fully kitted goalkeeper the game may be forfeited by that team.
 - One of the implications of this By-Law is that if a goalkeeper is injured and has to leave the field of play, the game should be stopped until a fully-kitted reserve or replacement goalkeeper can take the field.
 - Note that as By-Law 11.8 indicates (see below), wherever possible, extenuating circumstances (e.g. traffic delays, misplaced kit) must be taken into account and a shortened or rescheduled match should be arranged, in keeping with the spirit of junior sport.
- By-Law 6.4: Coaches of U11 teams in the B pool or below may be on the field during games during the competition, and may coach from the turf edge in semi-finals, preliminary finals and grand finals. Coaches of U11 A pool teams may not be on the field after the fourth game of the season and may not coach from the turf edge in semi-finals, preliminary finals and grand finals.
 - The "turf edge" is defined as the area on the artificial turf apron inside the fence but not on the field of play, i.e. along the sidelines. Coaches of U11 A pool teams can be on the field during the first four games of the season. The fourth game of the season is defined as the fourth competition game, i.e. grading round matches are not counted.

- By-Law 7.3: Overaged players are required to wear identifying arm bands in their first four matches after initial Committee approval in order to be easily identified, and are to be identified to the manager or coach of opposing team for those matches.
- By-Law 8.1: A Club which has two or more teams in any one age group can allow up to three players from a team to play in another team of that age group in weekly club competition. This applies whether the teams are in the same or separate pools.
 - These three players do not have to be the same three each week, nor does a list need to be kept of which players have played in another team from their club of the same age group. They can be any three players, so long as they are not one of the strongest 11 players listed for the top-ranked team playing in a lower ranked team – unless they are a field player playing down as a goalkeeper or a nominated goalkeeper playing down as a field player (see By-Law 8.4).
- By-Law 10.1: If a yellow or red card is issued during a game, the game cards for that game are to record the identity of the relevant player and a short explanation of the reasons for the card being issued.
 - Note that **both** match cards (i.e. the match cards of **both** teams) should have the name and club of the player to whom the card was issued as well as an explanation of the reason, not just the match card from the team of the player to whom the card was issued.
- By-Law 11.7: If the goal difference at the end of any game exceeds 10, the winning team's score will be reduced to the score that is only 10 higher than their opponent's score.
 - This "mercy rule" is only to be applied by the NAJHA Records Officer when entering scores onto the NAJHA website; please ensure all goals scored during a match are recorded, regardless of how large the deficit may become.
- By-Law 11.8: If a team cannot field at least seven players (including a fully kitted goalkeeper) within twenty minutes of the scheduled start time the game will be recorded as a "Forfeit" by that team unless the other team agrees otherwise. All extenuating circumstances must be taken into account when considering whether a game should be forfeited, and in keeping with the spirit of junior sport shortened or rescheduled games should be arranged whenever practicable.
- Re raised balls. Clubs are asked to work with their umpires to ensure a measured approach to the 'raised ball' rules. The key FIH rules are:
 - 9.8 Players must not play the ball dangerously or in a way which leads to dangerous play.
 - 9.9 Players must not intentionally raise the ball from a hit except for a shot at goal.
 Clubs are asked to work with their umpires so that they take into account the reaction time and reflexes of junior players when assessing if the ball has been played dangerously. In working with umpire, clubs should advise umpires that 'overheads' are permitted (as they are not a 'hit'). A defensive player cannot be within 5 metres when an overhead is attempted and,
 - 9.10 Players must not approach within 5 metres of an opponent receiving a falling raised ball until it has been received, controlled and is on the ground.
- Re tomahawks. This shot is not permitted in any age group other than U17s. Tomahawks re distinguished from reverse sweep shots which are permitted in any age group.

Other Points for NAJH Matches

As a general note for umpires, match result cards need to be checked for consistency in the match score line (as well as any other detail such as injuries, yellow or red card infringements, etc.) before they are signed off at the end of a match. Umpires should carry a notepad and pen or pencil while umpiring so that they are able to keep an independent record of the score and to record details of any incidents that may warrant noting on the match card.

Team officials (managers and coaches) should assist the umpires by making sure that player substitutions are made at half-way, with the substituting player not entering the field of play until the substituted player has stepped off the field. Team officials should also ensure that any injuries requiring first aid or treatment are recorded on the match result card, preferably during the match; the short change over time between NAJH matches means umpires have to rush if they are the ones writing up injury reports. Likewise, any yellow or red card infringements should be written up by officials, including the reason for the issuing of the card based on advice from the umpires. In this way, the umpires only need to check the content of the match card (instead of having to write it up as well) before signing it at the end of the match.

We thank you for your attention to these important points and look forward to a fun, safe and smoothly-run year of junior hockey.

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