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**FIELD HOCKEY**

**Weekly Points of Emphasis for October 3, 2011**

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Point of Emphasis for the week of October 3, 2011

1. Following a White foul in the midfield, Blue #10 legally, but VERY QUICKLY self-starts and dribbles right toward a retreating defender who is making no effort to play the ball and every effort to get back and establish 7 yards from the spot of the foul. Legal or not?

It is not legal for the attack to dribble directly towards a retreating defender in order to force a second foul. Rule 9 Section 2 Art. 3 on p 48 states: “Opposing players shall not be within 7 yards of the spot where the free hit is to be taken. Sufficient time shall be allowed for players to leave the area. However, if an official determines that an opposing player is standing within 7 yards to delay the free hit, she shall not stop the game.” Also, on page 71 of the Rule Book (VI B 3 and 4 b) it states: “Be aware that the player taking the self-pass does not have the right to dribble directly at an opponent to force a foul. In this situation, the attack should be penalized.” The attack player has other options and should not be dribbling into the retreating defender.

2. Red #5 dribbles the ball down the field and **through the legs of a defender**. The defender is now positioned between the attack player and the ball; however she does not turn and does not make any attempt to play the ball. Legal or not?

3. Replace what is in yellow above with “and executes a ‘y dodge’ – pushing the ball to the right past the defender and running to the left past the defender. Keep the rest of the statement the same. Legal or not?”

As described in this situation, the established defender has not obstructed the attack player. The attack chose to put the ball through the legs of the defender or to execute a y dodge. The result is that she surrendered her possession of the ball and it has become a 50-50 ball. The attack player has the obligation to go around the established defender. If the attack player runs into the defender, the attack player should be called for pushing and a free hit awarded to the defender. If

the attack player goes one way and the defender turns to other way and does not interfere with the attack's movement either player may try to gain possession of the ball.

On page 75 of the Rule Book (VIII B j) states: "Do not penalize the defender because of a poorly executed non-stick dodge by her opponent, unless the defender moves to block her opponent's movement. Similarly, if one player sends the ball through the legs of her opponent and the opponent does not move (to create a screen) obstruction should not be called."