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FIELD HOCKEY

Weekly Points of Emphasis for September 26, 2011

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Situation 1: "With the white team attacking in the green team's striking circle the green team goalkeeper goes to the ground to stop a shot from a white player. As the goalkeeper scrambles to get back on her feet her helmet dislodges from her head. The lead official does not recognize that the goalkeeper is now helmetless and circle play continues. A second legal shot from the white team is deflected away from the goal by the goalkeeper who is now playing without a helmet. The trail official rushes in to stop play and awards a penalty corner to the white team because the green team goalkeeper played the ball while not wearing required equipment. Correct procedure?"

There is no foul in this situation. The keeper did not take her helmet off, it fell off. This falls into the area of equipment malfunction, the same as if her kicker strap came undone or one of her goal pads came loose and fell off. Our first and foremost duty is to keep the players safe. Time out should be called as soon as it is discovered, to allow the keeper to replace her helmet. If the attack had possession inside the circle, the game is restarted with a free hit at the top the broken line circle. If the defense had possession, the game is restarted with a free hit for the defense. If there is no clear possession, the game is restarted with a bully, 16 yards from the end line. Rule 5-Sec 2-Art 1 & 2-b p. 35 -36.

Situation 2: An attack player is bringing the ball down the field 7 or 8 yards past the center of the field. When she got to the 25 yard line she drove the ball parallel to the sideline straight into the circle. The drive was a rocket. A lone defender (no attack player within playing distance) standing in line with the drive had no time to react to the ball. The ball glanced off the defender's shin guard and crossed over the end line. The umpire awarded a long hit. After the game the umpire was asked why a long hit? She indicated that the defender, who was 5 or 6 yards beyond the far post, had no time to react to the ball. With no attack player near her, the defender didn't affect the outcome of the play, which was, the ball was going out over the end line. In this scenario, the attack was not disadvantaged by the ball glancing off the defender's shin guard. If this had happened in front of the cage with attack players near, a penalty corner would be appropriate.

Situation 3: Reminder: The winner of the coin toss at the beginning of the game no longer has the option of taking the center pass to begin the second half.

Rule 1 Section 4 art. 3 p 10 states: "... The visiting team captain shall call the coin in the air, and the winner of the toss is given the choice of the center pass or which goal to attack or defend **in the first half**. The team that did not win shall have the remaining choice."