

Field Hockey Points of Emphasis - 2020

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[field hockey](#)

2020 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

PROVIDING AN OFFICIAL SCORER AND TIMER

Scorers and timers are an integral part of the official's team. As a part of the officiating crew they should give appearance to impartiality and neutrality throughout the contest. Verbal or visible reactions to outstanding plays or official's calls is inappropriate. Rule 2-2 outlines the duties of the scorers and timers for field hockey.

The home team shall supply the official timer and scorer. They are to remain at the scorer's table for the entire game, including intermissions between quarters. The home team should supply an audible device as well as a game clock and stopwatch. NFHS rules recommend they wear officials pinnies at the table.

TACKLING

Smooth passing and dribbling techniques are two core skills all players should know how to do. Players should also know how to tackle the opponent when the ball is in their possession. The NFHS rules book defines tackling as a technique executed by a player in an attempt to gain possession or cause the opponent to lose possession of the ball. To properly execute a tackle, the player must be in the proper position to avoid a foul. The player shall not use the stick dangerously, nor deliberately make body or stick contact to gain any advantage when tackling. Remember that a player can't hit, hook or hold an opponent's stick with her stick. There should be clear intent to play the ball by the tackling player and the timing of the movement must be exact.

5-YARD VIOLATION

The opponent (and attack players inside the attacking 25) shall be 5 yards from the selfstart/free hit.

If an opponent is within 5 yards of the ball, she may shadow the opponent but must not interfere with the taking of the free hit/self-start and must not play nor attempt to play the ball. The NFHS rules book defines shadowing as the act of being within playing distance of an opponent and following their movement on the field without impeding their progress. If this player is not playing the ball, attempting to play the ball or influencing play, she has not violated the 5-yard rule. If the player does impede progress or influence play, she shall receive a warning and another free hit may be awarded. For repetitive violations by a player, the official should use the proper card progression. Be aware the player taking the self-pass does not have to delay her start.

ISSUING CARDS FOR FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Officials must always consider violations for repetitive, non-dangerous fouls, deliberate actions, misconduct or dangerous play. When possible, the official should use preventive officiating.

Card progression is an important tool in game management as well as ensuring player safety and fairness during the game. At times a verbal caution can serve as a warning to both teams from an official. However, when one player or one team commits repetitive fouls and is in the card progression, it is not appropriate game management to include both teams in this same card progression. Both teams have their own card progression and should not be included in the opponents' card progression.