



## Memorandum

**Date:** Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
**To:** All Associations  
**Cc:**  
**From:** Colin French – Technical Manager  
**Re:** **Update on New Rules and Protocols for 2020 Hockey Season (Revised)**

---

Further to our Internal Memo dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June; and following the Government announcement that New Zealand has now moved to Alert Level 1, please review the revised rules and protocols below.

Community hockey continues to be reintroduced in a cautious and methodical manner, based on the best available evidence to optimise participant and community safety. In order to be aligned to Hockey's overarching "return to play" considerations; the following **ONE** rule change has been confirmed to remain in place:

### Spitting & Bushman Nose Blowing

Spitting and bushman nose blowing (blowing your nose without a handkerchief or tissue etc.) is a practice that unfortunately occurs in our sport and must stop as it poses a significant risk to other participants

#### *New Rule:*

- A 2 min suspension (green card) to be issued to any player or participant caught spitting or bushman nose blowing.
- Repeat offenders (i.e. player(s) offending more than once) to be shown a yellow card (10 mins).
- Consistent repeat offenders will be subject to a Judicial process under Hockey NZ Code of Conduct Policy
- Standard suspension rules to apply

#### *Umpiring Guidance/tips:*

Apply this rule consistently to all participants (i.e. no exceptions). Safety is always the key consideration. Ensure players and team management are aware of new rule changes before starting a match. Proactive and preventative education of health and safety requirements is a key action/step.

### Other Important considerations/protocol's:

#### Application of Rules

When umpiring hockey, our 2 key pillars are to keep the game fair and keep the game safe. As well as the technical appreciation of a rule, it is just as important to understand the intent/spirit of the rule to ensure the best practical implementation. Apply common sense, context, and a consistent application of the rules at all times.

Under the current Covid-19 environment, our key messaging is that *All* participants have a personal responsibility to identify and adhere to best health and safety protocol's pre, during, and post a hockey match.

Accordingly, the following measures are **recommended** (*but not mandatory*) under Alert Level 1:

### **Protective Equipment & use of face masks at Penalty Corners**

No rule changes, however, it is recommended that all protective equipment, including face masks, gloves, (and any other defensive PC equipment to be used) **should not** be shared where practical. Accordingly, it is recommended that defenders at penalty corners need to have their own identified equipment (e.g. coloured marking) to be allocated and worn by themselves.

Umpiring Guidance/tips:

Defensive players are now going to need sufficient time to identify and put on their own protective equipment. Additionally, there may be a requirement for face masks to be cleaned at penalty corners as well. Umpires need to allow players acceptable time to do this. Umpires must still proactively manage the PC set up process.

### **Goalkeeping Gear**

No rule changes, however, it is recommended that all goalkeeping gear be cleaned and sanitized at home/away from the turf venue prior to every match.

### **Players Equipment**

No rule changes, however, it is recommended that individual players gear (sticks, shin pads, gloves) is not shared with other players. Mouthguards obviously cannot be shared, and players are strongly recommended to keep mouthguards in their mouth during the entirety of the match. Removal of mouthguards on the turf needs to be reduced to an absolute bare minimum. Mouthguards should be cleaned at home/away from the turf venue prior to every match.

### **Cleaning of Players Equipment**

Individual players are strongly recommended to clean all their equipment (water bottles, mouthguards, face masks, gloves, etc.) at home/away from their respective hockey venue wherever practical (both prior to and after each match).

### **Injuries & Blood Protocols**

No rule changes, however, to minimize contact the following protocols are recommended:

- Where practical any injured players should be treated by their *own team members/management* or medical professional
- Team Managers (or equivalent) should prepare and preplan what actions they need to undertake for injury situations

We also recommend that umpires and team management review and understand rules that apply to injuries and blood protocols, and also to check in with your Associations and turf venue to ensure that local procedures are in place and to have an awareness of what these protocols and guidelines are.

### **General**

The above one rule change and recommendations have been put in place under the current environment of Covid – 19 at Alert Level 1. This has been a rapidly changing landscape and a further review or update may occur.

Wishing the best of success to all our hockey communities, enjoy the return to play, and keep safe everyone.

Colin French

Technical Manager

E: [colin.french@hockeynz.co.nz](mailto:colin.french@hockeynz.co.nz)

C: 021 1411822

---