

Corner Mask Rule Updates and Guidance

The updated rule in the FIH Outdoor Rules document states that field players should remove their penalty corner equipment safely and as soon as they are able to do so **after the penalty corner is completed.**

- A defender who is still wearing penalty corner protective equipment may immediately play the ball when a free hit is awarded within their 23m area BUT **may not take a self pass while still wearing such equipment.**
- It is considered negligent if a defender throws protective equipment and it strikes an opponent, umpire or it strikes any other person outside the field of play. **This now requires a yellow card if the person is struck on or above the knee in a normal stance.**

The FIH does not mandate that corner masks must be worn HOWEVER USA FH and NCAA both mandate that corner masks are worn. PSE has adopted this mandate as well for all tournaments.

- If a corner defender does not have a mask they must **NOT** be allowed to defend the corner and are asked to go to the half line.

Guidance from Sean Rapaport the USA FH Director of Officials is as follows:

❖ ***Wearing of masks by defending field players at penalty corners***

- The USA Field Hockey Regulations were recently updated to provide as follows at paragraph A.9:

“All field players must wear a face mask when defending a penalty corner. It must be a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise single coloured face mask or a metal grill face mask, which closely follows the contours of the face.”

- The following guidance is provided regarding the management of this area of the game:
 - If a defensive field player wanting to defend a penalty corner does not have a face mask or refuses to wear one, they may not be included in the penalty corner defense and must go beyond the halfway line.
 - If a defensive field player does not have a face mask or refuses to wear one and their actions result in an unreasonable delay in the taking of the penalty corner they may be issued a green card and the defending team defends the penalty corner with one less player.
 - If a defending field player removes their face mask before the penalty corner is completed, the penalty corner shall be re-taken.
- Common sense must be applied when encountering, assessing and addressing any of the above situations.

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