



2014 LGSHA UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Keeping it safe, simple & fun

Questions & Answers

#2



Last year, I put a few questions to Rodney Thornton who has conducted a couple of umpire workshops for us in previous years.

I thought it would be a timely update on some rules around the Penalty Corners.

1. Penalty Corner at end of half/full time - Do you play out the PC even if it has commenced before the siren sounds?

YES (Rule 13.4) - Play the PC right out however it is good practice to let the clock wind down if it is under say 10 seconds before they are going to release the ball as the hooter is a distraction sometimes. At the very least make the players aware that they need to keep playing.

PC ends when:

- I. either a goal is scored
- II. another penalty corner is called
- III. a penalty stroke is called
- IV. the penalty corner finishes by way of an attackers infringement
- V. the ball goes out the circle twice**
- VI. the ball goes over the back line (and no PC awarded).

**** Important Point** - in regular play, a PC is deemed over if ball travels more than 5m from circle (**Rule 13.3.m**) **BUT** if PC is being played out after regular time, then it is deemed over when ball travels outside the circle for the second time (if it did not travel past the hash line the first time – **Rule 13.6**) - *so bring all the players up and 'lock' the ball in.*

2. Is there a designated time before the PC must be under way?

NOT REALLY - But give both the defence and the attackers time to get sorted. Be consistent from the start of the game to the finish. Don't all of a sudden make the attacking team hurry up just because the defence is set. Look at the clock & allow about 15-20 seconds for them to get into position, both teams. Don't however let them dawdle to waste time. If necessary, stop the clock (again don't do this just at end of game in dying seconds because one team is screaming at you - be consistent from start to end)

3. Can you substitute an injured field player during a PC?

NO (Rule 2.3.a) – substitution is only permitted for an injured (or suspended) defending goal keeper (or player with goalkeeping privileges). The injured field player can certainly come off the field but the substitute from the bench must wait for the PC to be completed before entering the field.

**** Note** – a suspended field player at the end of the designated penalty can return to the game during a PC.

4. Umpire cooperation & positioning

All umpires are encouraged to communicate to co-umpires during the game as well while game is in progress. In congested circles, assistance is appreciated but it is a learned habit to look up towards the other umpire to check if they are signalling what their call may be. Remember, the non-controlling umpire should not be blowing the whistle to make decisions in the “other” circle.

This means **positioning** is critical to keep this simple. Umpires need to be mobile and prepared to move down the field to be close to the non controlling circle. This also means you as an umpire can make better decisions from a “credible” position – the further away you are from the play, the greater the chance that your decision is a guess! Olympic umpire Murray Grime recommends maintaining a distance of 30m between umpires. Both umpires are encouraged to stop play to clarify anything with the other umpire to make sure the right call is being made.

A good example last year was non controlling umpire in a Women's A - MP v TG game who stopped play to talk to the controlling umpire after they had disallowed a high PC first shot on goal (which initially looked like the right decision to most of us). The umpires came together, and a brief discussion confirmed that the ball had actually travelled more than 5m from circle and the PC rule did not apply (**Rule 13.3.m**). The umpire reversed his initial decision and rightly awarded the goal to Tigers.

5. Can the goalkeeper be suspended?

Sure Can! (Rule 2.3.a) – A suspended goal keeper can actually be replaced by another goal keeper (or a nominated “kicking” fullback but the team still has to play with one less player). The team may choose to pad up a field player to play in goals but this must be done in their own time off the field. Play must not be delayed as per regular suspension of a player.