

## **9 Conduct of play: players**

*Players are expected to act responsibly at all times.*

- 9.1 A match is played between two teams with not more than eleven players of each team on the field at the same time.

- 9.2 Players on the field must hold their stick and not use it in a dangerous way.

*Players must not lift their stick over the heads of other players.*

- 9.3 Players must not touch, handle or interfere with other players or their sticks or clothing.

- 9.4 Players must not intimidate or impede another player.

- 9.5 Players must not play the ball with the back of the stick.

- 9.6 Players must not hit the ball hard on the forehand with the edge of the stick.

- 9.7 Players may stop, receive and deflect or play the ball in a controlled manner in any part of the field when the ball is at any height including above the shoulder unless this is dangerous or leads to danger.

- 9.8 Players must not play the ball dangerously or in a way which leads to dangerous play.

*A ball is also considered dangerous when it causes legitimate evasive action by opponents.*

*The penalty is awarded where the action causing the danger took place.*

- 9.9 Players must not intentionally raise the ball from a hit except for a shot at goal.

*A raised hit must be judged explicitly on whether or not it is raised intentionally. It is not an offence to raise the ball unintentionally from a hit, including a free hit, anywhere on the field unless it is dangerous. If the ball is raised over an opponent's stick or body on the ground, even within the circle, it is permitted unless judged to be dangerous.*

*Players are permitted to raise the ball with a flick or scoop provided it is not dangerous. A flick or scoop towards an opponent within 5 metres is considered dangerous. If an opponent is clearly running into the shot or into the attacker without attempting to play the ball with their stick, they should be penalised for dangerous play.*

- 9.10 Players must not approach within 5 metres of an opponent receiving a falling raised ball until it has been received, controlled and is on the ground.

*The initial receiver has a right to the ball. If it is not clear which player is the initial receiver, the player of the team which raised the ball must allow the opponent to receive it.*

- 9.11 Field players must not stop, kick, propel, pick up, throw or carry the ball with any part of their body.

*It is not always an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand or body of a field player. The player only commits an offence if they gain an advantage or if they position themselves with the intention of stopping the ball in this way.*

*It is not an offence if the ball hits the hand holding the stick but would otherwise have hit the stick.*

- 9.12 Players must not obstruct an opponent who is attempting to play the ball.

*Players obstruct if they:*

- *back into an opponent physically interfere with the stick or body of an opponent*
- *shield the ball from a legitimate tackle with their stick or any part of their body.*

*A stationary player receiving the ball is permitted to face in any direction.*

*A player with the ball is permitted to move off with it in any direction except bodily into an opponent or into a position between the ball and an opponent who is within playing distance of the ball and attempting to play it.*

*A player who runs in front of or blocks an opponent to stop them legitimately playing or attempting to play the ball is obstructing (this is third party or shadow obstruction). This also applies if an attacker runs across or blocks defenders (including the goalkeeper) when a penalty corner is being taken.*

- 9.13 Players must not tackle unless in a position to play the ball without body contact.

*Reckless play, such as sliding tackles and other overly physical challenges by field players, which take an opponent to ground and which have the potential to cause injury should attract appropriate match and personal penalties.*

- 9.14 Players must not intentionally enter the goal their opponents are defending or run behind either goal.

- 9.15 Players must not change their stick between the award and completion of a penalty corner or penalty stroke unless it no longer meets the stick specification.

- 9.16 Players must not throw any object or piece of equipment onto the field, at the ball, or at another player, umpire or person.

*Following a penalty corner, if the ball hits any discarded equipment, such as a hand protector, knee pads or a face mask, a free hit should be*

*awarded if this occurs outside the circle, and a penalty corner awarded if this occurs inside the circle.*

- 9.17 Players must not delay play to gain benefit by time-wasting.