

WESTERN COLLEGIATE FIELD HOCKEY CONFERENCE BYLAWS 2011-2012

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I. INTRODUCTION

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Western Collegiate Field Hockey Conference (WCFHC) will sponsor the California Regional Playoff and Championship Tournament and will provide a selection of teams to participate in the National Collegiate Field Hockey Championship Tournament sponsored by the National Field Hockey Coaching Association (NFHCA). A regular season and championship handbook is produced for each WCFHC sponsored tournament and posted on the WCFHC Online Web site (www.wcfhc.org)

How to Use This Publication: The handbook is divided into three sections: (1) General Administration; (2) Determination of Competing Institutions; (3) WCFHC//NCAA Rules and Regulations.

II. WESTERN COLLEGIATE FIELD HOCKEY CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

The Western Collegiate Field Hockey Conference (WCFHC) was established in 1998 for the purpose of quality competition among established college club teams. The league follows NCAA Rules and Regulations with the exception of WCFHC specific rules which are determined by league members who vote annually on changes to any of the listed regulations.

Purpose: The purpose of the WCFHC is to work with various club field hockey teams within the league, in such a manner that individual clubs may better their existence and possibly change their status from club to varsity level. The WCFHC is also used to stabilize the foundation and assist the further growth and recognition of the league, as well as the sport of field hockey.

Membership: For the 2011-2012 season, the WCFHC is comprised of club collegiate teams organized as follows:

Northern Conference:

University of California Davis,
California State University, Chico
Santa Clara University
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Southern Conference:

University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Southern California
Claremont McKenna College, Claremont Colleges
University of California, San Diego

League Member Incorporation: League member selection is based on the following:

- A) The club field hockey team is fully recognized by its respective university or institution
- B) Representatives of interested teams are informed of all WCFHC meetings and events
- C) Teams and representatives are responsible for maintaining proper conduct in accordance to the rules of the league. Representatives are required to attend the annual WCFHC meetings

Governing Structure: The Executive Officers shall consist of two coordinators. Voting powers shall be divided in a manner so that the league benefits—not individual club teams. Each club team will be represented within the WCFHC by the club president or his/her designee

Western Collegiate Field Hockey Conference Regular Season, Playoff, and Championship Information:**III. IMPORTANT DATES:**

Saturday, September 10th – Preliminary start of the WCFHC season for Semester Universities
Friday, September 23rd – Deadline for partial or full reimbursement of umpire stipends
Saturday, September 24th – Official start of the WCFHC season
Friday, October 7th-Sunday, October 9th – Colorado Regional Rumble hosted by California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Sunday, November 6th – Last day to play conference games
Monday, November 7th – Formulation of WCFHC Double Elimination Playoff Bracket
Wednesday, November 9th – Publication of the WCFHC Double Elimination Playoff Bracket Online
Thursday, November 10th – Teams must notify WCFHC President of student-athletes who are not eligible to participate in the WCFHC Championship Tournament as well as the NFCA National Collegiate Club Field Hockey Championship
Saturday, November 12th – Sunday, November 13th – First Round of WCFHC Double Elimination Playoffs, Hosted by #1 Conference Seed
Saturday, November 19th – Semifinals of WCFHC Double Elimination Playoffs, Hosted by #1 Conference Seed

Sunday, November 20th – Finals of WCFHC Double Elimination Playoffs, Hosted by #1 Conference Seed

Friday, December 2nd-Sunday, December 4th – National Collegiate Club Championships Sponsored by the NFHCA, Hosted by University of California, Santa Barbara

Sports Committees: The WCFHC Field Hockey Championships is under the control, direction, and supervision of the Western Collegiate Field Hockey Conference Committee while the National Collegiate Club Championship is under the control, direction, and supervision of the National Field Hockey Coaching Association (NFHCA).

Current members of the WCFHC Committee are:

Stephanie Gerretsen, University of California, San Diego stephanie.gerretsen@gmail.com

Pieter Cornel, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont College
pcornel14@students.claremontmckenna.edu

Contact Information for NFHCA Executive Board:

Jennifer Goodrich	Executive Director	executivedirector@nfhca.org
Becca Kohli	President	becca.main@quinnipiac.edu
Marybeth Freeman	2 nd Vice-President	mf2721@columbia.edu
Peel Hawthorne	DI Group Rep.	pshawt@wm.edu
Andy Whitcomb	Division III Group Rep	awhitcom@mtholyoke.edu

Annual WCFHC Meetings: Annual meeting of the WCFHC Committee Members and WCFHC Team Representatives will be held in mid-April at a site agreed upon by all of the officers at the beginning of the new year. An attempt will be made to host the meeting at a centralized location (traditionally Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) each year or at an alternating North/Central/South rotation if the league members deem this suitable. The meeting is mandatory for members and open to non-members of the league. Any member that misses a league meeting or fails to send a proxy (during the spring) will be fined \$50.00.

WCFHC League Play: All teams are required to play each team in their designated conference twice. Should two different regional teams elect to play each other during the regular season, termed “out-of-conference” games, the game will not count towards conference standings and/or playoff ranking. All teams must be members of the Western Collegiate Field Hockey Conference. They must also abide by WCFHC policy and play the required number of WCFHC games to maintain their WCFHC eligibility status. In order to be eligible for the National Collegiate Club Championship Tournament sponsored by the NFHCA, teams must obtain a membership with the NFHCA. The cost of a 2011-2012 membership is \$50 and will provide the College-Club program with the following member benefits:

- Eligibility to participate in the 2011 Intercollegiate Associate National Championship
- Access to NFHCA clinics and educational materials
- Access to NFHCA resources and materials for those programs attempting to make the move from club to varsity status

IV. SEASON SCHEDULING

League Game Schedule: League conference and out-of-conference games shall be determined prior to the start of the season. Tournament games will be regarded as non-conference games and unless a regulation or “conference” game is played.

Draft schedules and game time availability should be submitted to the WCFHC Committee at the annual league meeting. Final game availability schedules are due to the WCFHC Committee by July 1st. Resolution in discrepancies in schedule submissions and final WCFHC schedule will be conducted during the month of July. A league schedule becomes final as of the first Monday in August. Modifications (this includes adding/dropping games) will not be accepted after the first Monday in August for no reason except weather or other natural disasters. Teams may individually negotiate changes in the schedule in terms of non-conference-games but must notify the WCFHC Committee and the respective umpire assignor of any and all changes which are to be submitted and published on the regular schedule calendar.

Note: If a team requests a change in game time, date, or location for reasons other than weather or natural disaster after the first Monday in August, the WCFHC Committee will only review your request if both teams are able to negotiate and agree on an acceptable alternative date, time, location and are able to have officials available for assignment to the newly agreed upon date. If both teams are unable to negotiate an acceptable alternative then the originally scheduled/previously approved game is binding. The WCFHC Committee must approve any change to the league schedule after first Monday in August and reserves the right to deny any request for good cause.

Each team is responsible to maintain their schedule and should complete all league games the Sunday of November 6th, prior to the scheduled start of league playoffs.

Rescheduling games after the first Monday in August: If games need to be rescheduled due to weather conditions, natural disasters, or field conditions:

- A) The home team will notify the visiting team and both officials of the change as soon as it is known. As all teams use an assignor of officials, the home team shall follow the assignor’s policy.
- B) If the game is cancelled after any officials have embarked to the location of the game, the home team will pay that official.
- C) The home team shall propose at least three reasonable substitute dates and negotiate a new game time within 72 hours after the cancellation.
- D) Rescheduling game will be determined by the two teams involved and will be based on field availability and scheduling of the teams. If the conference game is not rescheduled and played before November 6th, the conference game is considered 0-0 tie.
- E) Games delayed due to weather may be resumed on the same day dependent on safety conditions determined by officials and safety officers in charge of the field. If game play has begun and weather conditions force game stoppage and no continuation of play, the game may be rescheduled for an alternative date if the game was stopped prior to the start of the second half. Games stopped during the second half of play due to weather and safety reasons based on official and field manager jurisdiction, the score at that time will be recorded as the final game score.

F) In the event of possible inclement weather for an upcoming game, it is strongly suggested that both teams communicate to each other and the WCFHC Committee, the status of the game prior to either team's departure. The method of communication should begin by phone and follow with an email. An attempt should be made to contact any of the opposing team's contacts until contact is made, should the first contact not be available to be reached.

V. FORFEITS

Failing to appear at a game within 10 minutes of start time without notification of delay will result in a forfeit.

If a team refuses to play any conference match for reasons other than weather, field availability, or umpiring availability will incur a forfeit fine of \$225 to be enforced by the team that did not forfeit and by the assigned referees for the game. Notification of forfeit must also be submitted in to the WCFHC Committee, opposing team, and both referees. The conference game must be cancelled two weeks prior to the game time in order to avoid forfeit fine.

Use of an ineligible player will result in the team's automatic forfeiture of the game(s).

Definition of League Forfeits:

Standard Forfeit: The game in question is not played on the day or at the time or in a situation agreed upon by the league and both teams involved.

Administrative Forfeit: The game in question is played and would have counted as a league contest except for an administrative problem encountered before, during, or after the fact.

Such forfeiture includes: continued use of an ineligible player, failure to withhold a player(s) suspend from a previous contest, failure to reschedule canceled games within 72 hours.

Forfeit Scoring: If the winning team was in compliance with league standards at the time of the game, the score shall remain the same. If the winning team was not in compliance with the league standards at the time of the contest, a forfeit loss of (3-0) will be recorded. If no game is played and a forfeit is granted by the league, the score will be recorded as (3-0) in favor of the team who was in compliance. If both teams forfeit, neither will earn points, and a score will be recorded and submitted online to the WCFHC as (0-0).

Forfeits and forfeit fines incurred during non-conference games will still be administered and scoring remains the same as conference games. Scoring should be submitted to the WCFHC and will be recorded on the league schedule.

VI. CONFERENCE STANDING

League Conference Standings: For both Southern and Northern conference games, the win/loss records of the participating teams shall determine playoff standings. Game results, forfeits, strokes, ineligibility, and any cards are to be submitted electronically on the Game Report Form of the league website within 48 hours of the game by both teams. Score reports must include the Home and Away score, player statistics for the submitting team (including green and red cards

received by players or coaches). It is mandatory to include carded players/coaches on your score reports as of the 2011 season. Failure to submit complete score reports in a timely manner will result in a warning administered by the WCFHC. Further offenses will result in penalties levied by the WCFHC Committee which will be conveyed in appropriate feedback and fairness.

Ranking within the League is based on the following:

First place goes to the team with the highest number of points. Points are awarded as follows:

- 3 Points for a win
- 1 Point for a tie
- 0 Points for a loss

League Conference Tie Breaking Procedures: Should one or more ties occur when determining the conference standings, the tie or ties will be broken statistically in the following order:

- A) Wins
- B) Goal Difference (GF-GA)
- C) Results of what happened when the teams in each respective conference played each other
- D) Blind draw conducted in the presence of tied teams or their designated representative by third party members

VII. STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To eliminate ambiguity and disputes, the WCFHC will use the following eligibility rules which will take effect directly prior to the 2011 WCFHC Playoffs and NFHCA-hosted Championship, and will take immediate full effect starting in January 2012.

- A) Student-Athletes must be enrolled as a full time student in a program of studies as defined by the institution that they are representing
- B) Student-Athletes must be in good academic standing with the institution they are representing
- C) Community College players are eligible to play provided they are playing for the Community College institution they represent. Community College players are not allowed to play for another member team.
- D) Graduating Seniors: A student-athlete who has already accepted a diploma from his institution may no longer participate in any WCFHC contest unless he/she is continuing their coursework at the same institution pursuing another degree and has eligibility remaining.
- E) A player may only play four regular seasons of college field hockey in the WCFHC, NFHL, NCAA, or similar level combined.
 - A player may have as many years as he desires to complete his four years of college play
 - There are no transfer rules that force a student-athlete to sit out a year if he transfers institutions.

Use of an ineligible player results in a team's automatic forfeiture of the game(s) the individual played in.

Team Rosters and Eligibility Reports: Each team is responsible for submitting a WCFHC Team Roster and Eligibility Reports to the WCFHC Committee one week before the first conference game is to be played. Teams are to update their rosters when there are additions or deletions. Member institutions are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before the beginning of each academic year and withhold ineligible student-athletes from all collegiate competition.

It is up to the institution and coaches involved to respect and carry out all eligibility rules so that all games involve equitable competition between student-athletes. Member institutions are reminded to notify the WCFHC Committee before the selection date for playoffs and championships of any student-athletes who may have participated in regular-season competition by subsequently is determined to be ineligible or unavailable for WCFHC competition.

Note: For the 2011 season, eligibility reports stamped by the team institution's registrar will be only checked prior to the WCFHC Playoffs and National Collegiate-Club Championships. Effective January 2012, eligibility reports will need to be stamped and sent to the WCFHC Committee one week prior to the start of the team's first conference game and will be upheld for the entire regular season games, tournaments, and post-season championships.

VIII. GAME GUIDELINES AND STRUCTURE

Rules: All league games will be played according to NCAA Official Rules for Field Hockey. The home team will provide a properly lined NCAA regulation field that will be available one hour before game time.

Each game will start with a minimum amount of 7 players, of which one may be a goalkeeper, to be considered a regulation game. If there are men on the team, only two men on each team will be permitted on the field at a given time. Two males may either be field players, or one male field player and one male goalie. The opposing team with a full roster is allowed to play with 11 players. Players who are deemed ineligible may not participate in competition. Please review eligibility rules for more information.

Game Structure: During the fall season, all conference and out-of-conference games will have 35 minutes halves and a 10 minute half-time. Substitutions are unlimited and rolling.

Ties: In the event of a tie, due to scheduling back-to-back games and limited lighting at certain facilities, the two teams will go straight into strokes, 5 strokes per team. If still tied after the first round of strokes, sudden death strokes will take into effect with up to 5 more strokes.

During WCFHC Playoff, if a tie persists after regulation play, 7 v. 7 "sudden victory" for 10 minutes will be played. If the score is still tied after the "sudden victory" overtime play, strokes and sudden victory strokes will take place.

Officials: Officials will be assigned to all games once the league schedule is finalized. WCFHC is responsible for ensuring all officials are assigned to their schedule game, however, home teams are also responsible in double checking that assigned officials will be at the designated game to be played. Any coach or team parent of a team may not umpire any league game involving that team, unless agreed upon by both teams prior to the game/referee assignment. Two officials are required for each conference and out-of-conference league game to be played. The fee to be paid to officials is \$75 per game. Home teams are responsible for paying both respective umpire assignor or appointed representative. The stipend amount will be reviewed prior to the start of each academic year.

All WCFHC members are required to submit full payment for all of their conference games to the WCFHC Treasurer prior to the first played conference game. In the event a team cannot make full payment at the beginning of the season, alternative arrangements may be made between the team representative and the WCFHC Committee. All officials for conference games will be sent a stipend after the designated game has been officiated and will receive it no later than one week post-weekend game. Parking fees will be an additional fee to be paid to officials by the home team. Receipt for parking is required and must be sent to the WCFHC Treasurer.

If officials must stay overnight for a competition, the cost is to be covered by the home team. If there are multiple teams designated as home for the next day, for example: hosting games at one location), the cost of the lodging will be split between all the home teams for the following day. A copy of the lodging receipt is also required to be submitted to the WCFHC Treasurer to be reimbursed appropriately.

For non-conference games, home teams are responsible for paying both officials the stipend of \$75 per official per match. Failure to provide payment the day of the game being played will result in a disciplinary action regulated by the WCFHC as deemed appropriate.

If there is paperwork for the umpire to fill out in order to be paid for non-conference games at designated institutions, teams must provide appropriate paperwork for officials the day of competition.

For Southern conference teams, the total stipend due for regular season (not counting playoffs) is \$600. For Northern conference teams, the total stipend due for regular season (not counting playoffs) is \$450.

Field Safety: All fields used for conference and out-of-conference games must be approved by officials at the beginning of the season. If there is a change of field site, officials must be notified so that the field can be deemed safe prior to game day. Charges may apply to the team that is hosting the game so that the umpire can travel to the field and approve it ahead of time. Teams must update the address, directions, and list of fields that may be used for games during the season which should be submitted to the WCFHC in order to be listed on the website. At this time, the PIT field at the University of California, Santa Barbara is not approved for league play and shall not be used.

Trainer: Each home team will provide/assign a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) or a student-trainer, or EMT for each game.

Uniforms: The home team must wear white socks and white jerseys while the visiting team must wear dark socks and dark jerseys. If teams do not possess the designated appropriate jersey color, please notify opposing team to coordinate uniform change.

Player Conduct: Players must treat all other players on the field with the utmost respect and dignity. Players are also expected to compose themselves maturely and have sportsman-like conduct on the field at all times. Players who fail to abide by the conduct rule will face consequences stipulated under NCAA Rules.

IX. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ETHICAL PRACTICES

No member of the WCFHC Committee or league member may vote on any matter in which he or she has a financial interest, or in which any member of the person's immediate family has a financial interest. If a member of the WCFHC Committee or league member becomes aware of any other matter that could be considered a conflict of interest or raise the appearance of a conflict of interest, the members shall immediately disclose that conflict to the WCFHC Committee.

X. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

A majority vote (51%) by league members including the WCFHC Committee is required for entry of a new institution into the WCFHC. Approval of this document is a pre-requisite for the institutions wishing to enter the league. Future changes to this document must be met by majority approval of the members of the institutions.

XI. NCAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

2011 NCAA Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Rules Modifications Effective August 1, 2011

USA Field Hockey's Modifications to the 2011 Rules of Field Hockey *USA Field Hockey has carefully considered and approved the following modifications. They are presented to match the organization of the 2011 Rules of Field Hockey.*

MODIFICATIONS

Field of Play: *NO MODIFICATIONS*

Composition of Teams: *NO MODIFICATIONS (except as required in requirements specific to each tournament)*

Captains: *NO MODIFICATIONS*

Players' Clothing and Equipment: *In addition to requirements found in the Rules of Hockey, players may wear face protection without a medical reason, however, cage-type goggles and other protection that protrudes from the face are not allowed. During a match, members of all teams must be in uniform (shirts and socks of matching color) with numbers 6" in height or taller on at least the back of the shirt. Shorts/kilts or other uniform clothing worn on the lower*

body must be of like color with the shorts/kilts worn by teammates. Mouth guards and shin guards are required in all divisions for players and goalkeepers fewer than 19 years of age.

Goalkeeper Clothing and Equipment: *In addition to requirements found in the Rules of Hockey, goalkeepers must wear full helmet with a fixed face mask. Further, goalkeepers in all divisions for players fewer than 19 years of age must wear a mouth guard, collar throat protector, and chest protection.*

Match and Result: *NO MODIFICATIONS (except as required in requirements specific to each tournament)*

IMPORTANT:

The NCAA Divisions I, II, and III Field Hockey Championships will be conducted according to the FIH (International Hockey Federation) Rules of Hockey and the following NCAA Modifications.

All competing NCAA Institutions must have full knowledge of both “The Official Rules of Hockey” and the “NCAA Modifications” and must compete according to and within all rules as noted.

Note: “The Official Rules of Hockey” can be found at www.fihockey.org, purchased from the International Hockey Federation, the USFHA or US Field Hockey vendors.

2011 NCAA RULES MODIFICATIONS:

PLAYING THE GAME

1. FIELD of PLAY

On multi-lined (use) fields, the 23-meter line (25 yd.) must be clearly distinguishable from all other non-field hockey lines. If the 23-meter line (25 yd) is not clearly distinguishable, six X’s must be marked on the 23-meter line (25 yd.), intersecting the line every 10 yards, with the lines of the X’s being one yard long.

---X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X---

It is permissible for a player to add water in the area of the 10-meter mark (injection area) during a penalty corner provided there is no delay of the game.

2. COMPOSITION of TEAMS

2.1 Goalkeeper/Designated GK:

a. In the event of a defensive penalty corner or penalty stroke, a player acting as goalkeeper (kicking back) must wear; a throat protector, helmet incorporating fixed full-face protection, and distinguishing jersey.

b. A designated goalkeeper may wear a chest protector underneath the distinguished colored jersey. It is permissible for the designated goalkeeper to remove the helmet and roam the field with the chest protector under the jersey. No chest protector is allowed to be worn over the jersey.

2.2 Substitution:

- a. Each team shall have substitution cards, which must be kept at the scorers table. The home team shall provide a minimum of three substitution cards for each team.
 - b. The designated area for substitution is 3-meters on either side of the centerline. It is recommended that this area be marked with cones.
 - c. The exchange of the card between players at the sideline signifies the substitution has been made and the player may enter the game.
 - d. On a penalty corner, regular substitution may occur as soon as the ball is played from the back line.
 - e. When a timeout is called (by the team in possession) after a penalty corner has been called during a playing period or any extension to complete a penalty corner, substitution may not take place because the penalty corner is still in effect.
- Exception:* injury, suspension, or disqualification to the defending goalkeeper.
- f. When play is stopped due to a player being injured and an athletic trainer, medical personnel or coach must come onto the field to attend to the player, the injured player must leave the field and a substitute may take her place. When the injured player is a goalkeeper, she may remain in the game.

3. PLAYERS' CLOTHING and EQUIPMENT

3.1 Uniforms:

- a. Game shirts must have a minimum of three-inch numbers on the front and six-inch numbers on the back.
- b. The numbers must be of a color clearly contrasting with the uniform top.
- c. Goalkeepers shall have their own uniform number. The solid color of the jersey must be in clear contrast from field players of both teams; goalkeepers of opposing teams may wear the same colored jersey (i.e., a goalkeeper may wear black, but not if either team is playing in navy blue; these colors are not in contrast).
- d. Game shirts worn by the designated home team must be predominately light or white, and game shirts worn by the designated away team must be predominately dark.
- e. Turtlenecks worn by the designated home team must be light (e.g., white turtlenecks with yellow game shirts) and turtlenecks worn by the designated away team must be dark (e.g., black turtlenecks with navy game shirts).
- f. Turtlenecks and/or tights worn by team members must be identical in color.
- g. The color of the socks and/or shin guards must be consistent with team uniform colors and of a contrasting color of the opposing team. It is the responsibility of the home team to wear socks and/or shin guards in clear contrast to those worn by the visiting team. In the event that the colors are not of contrasting colors, the home team will be required to change.
- h. A team whose game shirts do not meet the above requirements will be given the opportunity to change game shirts.
 - A team that is unable to or chooses not to change will be assessed a yellow card with a five minute suspension served by the captain.

3.2 Blood Rule:

- a. If a player incurs a wound that causes bleeding, the umpire must stop the game at the earliest possible time.
- b. The wound must be evaluated by an athletic trainer or medical personnel (the person or persons in charge of the teams medical needs). This will be considered an injury time out (see rule 2.2 f).

c. When a player's uniform or equipment, has blood on it (whether it is the player's blood or somebody else's blood).

- The umpire must stop the game at the earliest possible time to have the uniform and/or equipment evaluated by medical personnel.
- If the team's medical personnel determine that blood has saturated the uniform and/or equipment the player must change the bloodied item and play shall resume after a maximum of two minutes.
- In this situation, a number change may occur. The new number must be different from that worn by teammates on the field.
- If saturation has not occurred, the player may continue to wear the uniform or equipment.
- This is not considered an injury timeout.

4. MATCH and RESULTS

4.1 After Goal Scored:

a. Game clock shall be stopped after a goal has been scored.

4.2 Halftime:

a. The length of halftime will be ten (10) minutes with the halftime clock starting immediately at the conclusion of the first.

4.3 Timeouts:

- One timeout per team per game shall be permitted.
- The timeout will be a two-minute timeout administered by the umpire.
- A timeout can be called after a goal or during a dead-ball situation by the team with possession of the ball.
- Any coach or player on the field can call a timeout.
- The timeout can be used at any time during regulation and the seven versus seven overtime periods.
- At the 1:45 minute mark of the timeout a warning signal will be made – by the umpires – and an umpire will notify each coach of the signal.
- A second signal will be made at the 2:00 minute mark and play must be resumed immediately.
- If a team delays in returning to the field, the captain will be carded for delay of game.

4.4 Countable and Championship Games:

a. For selection and ranking purposes, the respective NCAA field hockey committee will only consider games that include two periods of 35 minute each, with ties played off by using up to two 15 minute sudden victory periods and penalty strokes.

(See tied games below for tie breaking procedures).

b. A suspended game shall be resumed at the point of suspension. See countable games section in the respective NCAA Divisions I, II, or III Field Hockey Championships Handbooks (visit the NCAA Website at www.ncaa.org).

5. TIED GAMES

5.1 Tied Games:

[Note: The following overtime procedure shall be used when a game is tied at the end of regulation play.]

- a. A tied game will be broken to determine the winner by playing up to two 15-minute “Sudden Victory” periods of teams consisting of seven team players (of which one may be a goalkeeper). All game rules apply with the following modifications
- b. There will be a five-minute break between the end of regulation and the first overtime period, and a two-minute timeout between the overtime periods.
- c. Coin Toss: A toss of the coin for the first overtime period will determine ball possession or direction of attack. If a second overtime period is necessary, the team that lost the coin toss in the first overtime period will have the “choice” of ball possession or direction of attack. The visiting team will call all coin tosses.
- d. Each team will begin the first overtime with seven players, one of which may be a goalkeeper unless players were disqualified or have not completed a suspension during any previous playing period.
- e. Any player who has been disqualified during regulation play is not eligible for the overtime period and the team plays short for the entire overtime.
A player suspended during regulation play would be eligible at the end of the suspension. Any player who has not completed a suspension or was disqualified during the overtime periods shall not be eligible for penalty strokes.
- f. On Penalty Corners: The defending team is permitted to have only four team members (of which one may be a goalkeeper) behind its goal line.
- g. The game is completed as soon as a goal is scored.
- h. If the score remains tied at the end of the second overtime period: A series of penalty strokes will be taken.
 - A coin toss will give a team the choice to attack or defend.
 - Five players from each team shall take a penalty stroke alternately against the same goalkeeper from the opposing team.
 - The coach of each team will be given the maximum of two minutes to turn in the lineup for penalty strokes.
 - The team awarded the highest number of goals shall be the winner.
 - Once the stroke procedure is decisive, the game shall be complete and no more strokes need to be taken.(Eliminated the second set of full strokes to help get to a winner quicker.)
- i. If no decision is reached after first series of penalty strokes:
 - A “Sudden Victory” procedure will be used to break the tie.
 - There will be a second series of penalty strokes taken by the same group of players.
 - The order may be changed but not the players.
 - The team who defended first in the first set will stroke first in this set.
 - The first team awarded more goals than its opponent after an equal number of strokes shall be the winner.
 - Every player of the five selected must stroke before a player may stroke again.
- j. If an overtime game goes into penalty strokes, a total of one goal (team goal) is awarded for the winner of the set rather than the number of goals scored in the set.

6. CONDUCT OF PLAY: PLAYERS, GOALKEEPERS, and COACHES

6.1 Green Card

A green card may be issued to the head coach as a warning prior to assessing a red card. The head coach is responsible for actions of their team bench area and shall receive any card assessed related to bench decorum.

6.2 Yellow Card.

- a. Any player on the field receiving a yellow card shall be suspended from the game for a minimum of five minutes. A suspended player shall be seated at the scorer's table on side opposite from her bench.
- b. The umpire will notify the scorer's table of the suspension time when the penalty is called. If additional time is assessed to the player during the suspension due to conduct, then the umpire will again notify the scorer's table of the additional penalty time.
- c. A member of the table personnel will notify the player when the time of suspension has expired. Normal substitution rules must be followed for re-entry.

6.3 Red Card:

- a. A player, bench personnel or coach receiving a red card shall be ejected from the game, shall leave the premises of the field of play and shall sit out the next regularly scheduled game, including postseason games. Should a player, bench personnel or coach receive a red card in the last game of the season (including post season games) the suspension would carry-over to the first game of the following season (exhibitions and/or scrimmages do not satisfy the suspension). The head coach shall receive any red card assessed to their team bench area and will be required to leave the field of play. A coach serving a game suspension shall be restricted to the designated spectator area and is prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with his or her team, assistant coaches and/or bench personnel from the start of the contest to its completion.
- b. If a coach is red carded and refuses to leave the site of the contest within a reasonable amount of time (three minutes), the game shall be declared ended, and the opposing team shall be awarded the win (score becomes 1 – 0). THE GAME SHALL COUNT AS A COUNTABLE GAME.

6.4 Misconduct by personnel, players on the bench and/or spectators should be brought to the attention of the field administrator. It should be noted that use of profane and/or vulgar language, and/or harsh treatment towards opponents or umpires by personnel, players on the bench or spectators shall not be tolerated.

6.5 Regulation game player suspensions (Yellow Card) and player/coach disqualifications (Red Card) will carry over into overtime play.

6.6 Suspended players should be placed at the scorer's table on the side opposite from her bench.

6.7 Coaching of players who are suspended from play is prohibited except during time-outs or between periods.

6.8 The coaching of players who are participating in the game at the time when an injury timeout is called is prohibited.

6.9 Designated Bench Area: Failure to comply with the following will be considered misconduct and possible suspension. The bench area is defined as the area from the center line (50-yard line) to the 23 meter line (25 yards).

- a. The official party must remain within the designated bench area during play.
- b. Coaches and players in the bench area “MUST” remain behind a clearly marked restraining line (a minimum of five yards from the sideline; if 5 yards is not available, as close to 5 yards as possible).
- c. Spectators are not permitted behind the goal area and must be at least 10 yards behind the endline, and a minimum of five yards from the sideline.

6.10 Electronic Communication: Electronic communication between team personnel in any remote location other than the bench area as defined in 6.9 (i.e., video platform) and the team bench is permissible. There shall be no direct communication, neither verbal nor signal, between team personnel located in any location other than the bench area and the players on the field.

FIELD and EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

7. VISIBLE CLOCKS

7.1 Visible Clocks:

- a. Visible clocks are required.
- b. The visible clock will be the official game clock. The on-field umpires or alternate umpire shall keep a back-up clock. The time kept by the on-field umpires or alternate umpire will become the official time in the event of a clock malfunction.
- c. Players shall play to the whistle not the horn. If the penalty corner is not finished, then play continues until the umpire stops play.

8. EQUIPMENT

8.1 Equipment:

- a. All field players have the option to wear soft headgear.
- b. Field players are permitted to wear throughout a game only a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise dark plain colored face mask which fits flush with the face, soft protective head covering or eye protection in the form of plastic goggles (i.e., goggles with a soft-covered frame and plastic lenses. A caged frame cannot be worn).
- c. All field players and the kicking back are required to wear a mouthguard at all times. [*NOTE:* Failure to comply with this rule will be considered misconduct]. Mouthguards for goalkeepers are strongly recommended.
- d. Goalkeepers must wear a throat protector and chest protector at all times.
- e. Goalkeepers are required to wear appropriate protective headgear; a helmet incorporating fixed full-face protection and cover for the head including the back of the head.

GUIDANCE

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- a. The use of a designated bench area shall be enforced during all games.

- b. A coach or team representative is only permitted to interact with umpires pre and post game with the opposing coach or team representative present.
- c. Prior to leaving the field of play, the official scorecard shall be signed by both umpires assigned to the game.
- d. Once the score card is signed, the game is official and any penalties assessed to a player, coach or bench personnel (yellow or red card) may not be overturned. The officials remain in charge of the site until they leave the field area.
- e. It is recommended that stick checks occur not later than 45-minutes prior to the start of the game.
- f. When a game is played at a neutral site, a team must be designated as the home team and the home team is responsible for ensuring that all game management responsibilities are confirmed.
- g. If a violation of 6.10 occurs, then it shall be communicated to the appropriate conference office for discussion and/or review.

Questions regarding interpretations of NCAA Rules Modifications shall be addressed to:

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Rules Interpreter for NCAA
Phone: 302/668-7409
Email: stevenjhorgan@comcast.net

Questions regarding interpretations of International Rules of Hockey shall be addressed to:

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