

## Guidelines for umpires for the 2018 season.

### 1. Know your rules.

- Download FIH Rules app for smartphone (App store). To download the iOS version, click [here](#). For the android version click [here](#).
- Know the rules for the level of competition you are umpiring (refer to Hockey WA website: <http://www.hockeywa.org.au/Officials/Rules> )



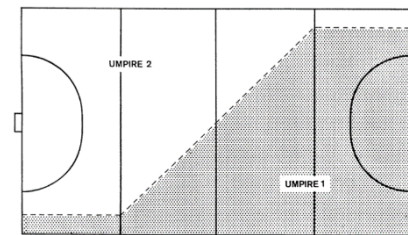
There are rules for Premier League, Provisional and Metropolitan League, Junior League and Masters that outline different elements of the game at each level.

### 2. Present yourself professionally.

Ensure you arrive at the ground 30 minutes before the game, dressed appropriately for the grade you are umpiring (purple shirts for Premier League only), have a whistle and watch that has a timer function.

### 3. Know your areas of control on-field.

See diagram at right – will be used for most Provisional, Metropolitan, Juniors and Masters games.



### 4. Communicate with co-umpire.

Establish signals between each other to assist in making accurate decisions. Ask for help if necessary.

### 5. During game:

- Set standards early – be consistent. Protect good skill, encourage game flow, maintain player safety and penalize poor hockey.
- Document cards.
- Communicate with players – explain decisions, use your voice to encourage flow (advantage and warnings), but don't be drawn into long discussions during the game or at half time. Don't engage with spectators.
- Maintain player safety. Remember the rules:
  - Players must not intimidate or impede another player (FIH Rule 9.4)
  - Players must not tackle unless in a position to play the ball without contact (FIH Rule 9.13)
  - Actions that bring players to the ground must be penalized (consider intent – accidental or deliberate). The penalty will vary with each situation, but umpires must be proactive in protecting players from dangerous contact.
  - Players on the field must hold their stick and not use it in a dangerous way (FIH Rule 9.2) Wielding the stick in a dangerous manner must be penalized – players have a responsibility to use their stick safely at all times. This includes when a ball has been raised into a crowded situation; ripping/flinging sticks when hooked, threatening actions (deal with these quickly). Remember: a goalkeeper cannot play the ball without holding their stick.
  - Be aware of “drawing contact” – by a player backing into another player. Deliberate contact to another player's body is a serious offence.

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### 6. Game flow:

Attacking free hits within 5m of circle:

- Players must not step out of the circle until the ball has travelled 5m. If a defender shadows the ball and steps out of the circle too early, it is a penalty corner.
- “Following a time stoppage after the award of a free hit inside the 23m, all players other than the one taking the free hit should be at least 5m from the ball.” – FIH briefing 2017.
- If time is stopped, ALL players must move 5m away from the player with the ball before time restarts.

Penalty corners:

- Players have a responsibility to clear equipment safely (masks, etc). If a ball strikes discarded equipment outside the circle, a free hit is awarded to the attacking team. If a ball strikes discarded equipment inside the circle, a penalty corner is awarded to the attacking team.

### 7. Player behavior:

- Players should show respect for officials at all times.
- Players are permitted to express frustration and/or question decisions appropriately.
- Umpires should show empathy and communicate with players.
- However, deliberate and directed dissent – such as personal comments, accusations of impartiality, obscene language directed at officials, etc – is a serious offence and personal penalties must be applied.
- Repeated misdemeanors such as slowing down play, constant and repeated questioning of decisions, refusing to accept explanations, etc should be dealt with promptly. Use toolbox – warn early then act accordingly should misdemeanors repeat.

### 8. End of game responsibilities.

- Check score is correct and that cards have been recorded correctly before signing match card.

Remember: As an umpire, you are responsible for facilitating the game and should encourage the game to flow. Show respect for the players and the role you are performing and keep the environment safe for all participants. Know your rules and be consistent in their application. Ensure that you are doing the best possible job you can, especially if you are being paid.

If you are interested in improving your umpiring skills, contact Hockey WA for details on umpire coaches and mentors to help you. During the year there will be several opportunities to attend courses and achieve umpiring accreditations through Hockey Ed. Hockey WA will have contact details for currently accredited and approved assessors to cover practical components of accreditation.