

Dear Competition committee's,

With hockey competitions due to get underway during the later part of June and into early July, at various stages across the country, Hockey Australia has put together some guidelines and recommendations that competitions may think of implementing for the successful and safe return of competitions.

START OF MATCH

Rule - 6.1 A coin is tossed: a the team which wins the toss has the choice of which goal to attack in the first two quarters of the match or to start the match with a centre pass.

Suggested Guidance - Coin Toss will not be required. Home team (left dugout) gets ball first half and defends the goal which is closest to their dugout. Swaps for second half.

SPITTING & BUSHMAN'S BLOW

Spitting and bushman nose blowing (blowing your nose without a handkerchief or tissue etc.) is a practice that unfortunately occurs in our sport and must stop as it poses a significant risk to other participants.

Suggested guidance: A 2 min suspension (green card) to be issued to any player or participant caught spitting or bushman nose blowing. Repeat offenders (i.e. player(s) offending more than once) to be shown a yellow card (10 mins).

TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS

Current Rule – Suspended players to serve their suspension in the designated area in the technical bench.

Suggested Guidance - Suspended players should be situated in their own team dugouts and not on communal chairs or in the tech bench, TO to still time these and direct player when they can re-enter match. All other suspension rules apply.

PLAYERS PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The sharing of protective equipment among teammates creates a greater risk for the spread of COVID-19 through the close proximity these items have to players respiratory system.

*Suggested Guidance - All protective equipment, including face masks, gloves, (and any other defensive PC equipment to be used) are **NOT** to be shared under any circumstances. Accordingly, defenders at penalty corners*



will need to have their own identified equipment (e.g. coloured marking) to be allocated and worn solely by themselves. Due to these changes defensive players are now going to need sufficient time to identify and put on their own protective equipment. Umpires need to allow players acceptable time to do this. Umpires must still proactively manage the PC set up process.

MATCH CARDS/RECORDS

While it is still required for matches to have accurate recording of details such as players, starting line-ups, goal scorers and cards, however the transfer of these among multiple people can heighten the health risk during this time.

Teams should be instructed to ensure whoever is responsible for signing match reports/cards bring their own pen

Suggested guidance – where possible match cards should be digitally produced and audited by the Technical Official.

If this is not possible each team should have its own card and mark these through the manager(players details pre-loaded) there should be no need to have these signed by an official and names of officials can be recorded by each team and cross referenced. There may be a need for officials to submit a match report with score and officials.

OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

CORNER FLAGS

Corner flags should be removed from fields for the foreseeable future to avoid the need for people to readjust/move these into place.

CLEANING OF TECHNICAL AREAS

Appropriate cleaning supplies should be located at the technical bench for all venues to allow for officials to clean surfaces between matches to avoid cross – contamination.

USE OF BALL PEOPLE

The practice of using Ball People on matches should be re-considered or sufficient safety put in place.

OFFICIALS PAYMENTS

Where officials are usually paid in cash, efforts should be made to implement non-cash payment methods such as direct bank transfer, etc.

