

Lausanne, Monday 25 November 2013

**To: Continental Federations
National Associations**

Rules of Hockey

Based on a recommendation from the FIH Rules Committee, the FIH Executive Board has agreed a change to the Rules of Hockey.

Mandatory Experimental Own Goal Rule

Rule 8 Method of Scoring currently states that: -

8.1 A goal is scored when:

- a the ball is played by an attacker, or touches the stick or body of a defender, within the circle
- b after either of these actions, the ball does not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the cross-bar.

With effect from 1 February 2014, this will no longer be mandatory and will become an Experimental Rule only.

With effect from 1 September 2014, the Experimental Own Goal Rule will be deleted and replaced by an amended Rule 8 Method of Scoring which will state that: -

8.1 A goal is scored when the ball is played within the circle by an attacker and does not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the crossbar.

The ball may be played by a defender or touch their body before or after being played in the circle by an attacker.

It also follows that, as of 1 September 2014, the guidance to Rule 9.7 that *Defenders are also permitted to use the stick to stop or deflect the ball at any height if it is otherwise likely to enter the goal as a result of Mandatory Experimental Rule 8* will also be deleted

The above timetable for the Rule change provides a significant period of notice for National Associations and Continental Federations; specifically: -

- The Own Goal will not apply to International Hockey with effect from 1 February 2014. *This means that all International Tournaments with effect from 1 February 2014 through to the World Cup (and beyond) may be played without the Own Goal i.e. international teams will be able to practice with the Rules that will be in force in the World Cups (and beyond)*
- National Associations, who wish to do so, may continue with the Own Goal in order to complete their current Leagues and Competitions using this Rule
- National Associations, who wish to do so, may play without the Own Goal with effect from 1 February 2014

FIH Partners



International Hockey Federation

FIH Suppliers



- Continental Federations, whose current competitions are in progress and being played with the Own Goal and who wish to do so, may continue and complete them using the same Rules
- The Experimental Own Goal Rule will end on 31 August 2014

In the introduction to the Rules of Hockey 2013, it was advised that, after a period of review, the FIH Rules Committee would decide whether or not the Mandatory Experimental Own Goal Rule would be adopted as a permanent change to the Rules. Based upon the feedback from a variety of stakeholders, including National Associations, Athletes, Coaches, Technical Officials and Umpires it was concluded that the Own Goal was seen as being contradictory to the reasons for changing the Free Hit Rules. Concern was expressed that the Rule penalises skill, with the encouragement to fire the ball into the circle being seen as unattractive and also increasing danger at lower levels of the game.

Any questions about the information in this document should be referred to the FIH Sport and Development Director: david.luckes@fih.ch

**FIH Rules Committee
November 2013**