



**NCAA FIELD HOCKEY PLAYING RULES
INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS
2022**

September 20, 2022

Guidance for Rule 9.10 – Aerial Balls

Rule 9.10 states the following:

Players must not approach within 5 meters of an opponent receiving a falling raised ball until it has been received, controlled and is on the ground. The ball may be intercepted within 5 meters but outside of playing distance provided it is done safely.

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.

Guidance:

The Irish Hockey Association has produced an excellent video on Aerials which may help in our understanding of the rule and application.

[Aerials - Irish Hockey Association](#)

As stated in the video:

The Aerial may appear to be called inconsistent because of the skill level and speed at different levels. The consistency which must be applied is Danger. There should not be any contesting the ball in the air.

Finally, angles are everything and seeing the same play from a different angle will very much affect what is seen. It is important to remember that coaches and umpires may not see the same thing on the play.

September 6, 2022

Guidance for Rule 4.2 – Players Clothing and Equipment.

Rule 4.2 states the following:

Players should remove their penalty corner equipment as soon as they are able to do so after the penalty corner is completed.

If no suitable opportunity to remove the equipment arises, they can continue to wear it whilst they are within the 23m area without penalty.

All players must remove all protective equipment before they leave the 23m area or when instructed by the umpire; the primary objective of wearing a face mask to defend a penalty corner is safety.

(Reminder: This is only the cage mask. Smooth masks are permitted anywhere on the field.)

Guidance:

Should a Free Hit be awarded to the defending team during a Penalty Corner, defending players are allowed to **immediately** pass the ball wearing protective equipment, however, they are not allowed to take a self-pass. If the ball needs to be retrieved this is not an **immediate** pass and protective equipment should be removed.

A free hit is awarded against the defending team if:

- A player takes a self-pass wearing protective equipment used to defend the penalty corner.