

SAFETY STATEMENT ON HOCKEY PLAYING EQUIPMENT

- Nov 26,2013



The Irish Hockey Association would like to draw the attention of all its members to the safety guidelines in relation to playing equipment in Point 4 of the FIH Rules of Hockey 2013. These rules are implemented in the interest of player safety first & foremost and provide clarity on issues that may be deemed as safety concerns. All IHA Competitions are played in accordance with the FIH Rules of Hockey and the Rules and Regulations can be found at:

[//hockey.ie/contentPage/114476/rules/match_cards](http://hockey.ie/contentPage/114476/rules/match_cards)

4 Players clothing and equipment

Competition Regulations available from the FIH provide additional information and requirements about players' clothing, personal equipment and advertising. Refer also to regulations established by Continental Federations and National Associations.

4.1 Field players of the same team must wear uniform clothing.

4.2 Players must not wear anything which is dangerous to other players.

Field players:

- are permitted to wear gloves for protection which do not increase the natural size of the hands significantly;
- **are recommended to wear shin, ankle and mouth protection;**
- are permitted to wear throughout a match for medical reasons only a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise single coloured face mask which closely fits to 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); the medical reasons must be assessed by an appropriate authority and the player concerned must understand the possible implications of playing with the medical condition;
- are permitted to wear a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise single coloured face mask which closely fits to the face when defending a penalty corner or

penalty stroke for the duration of that penalty corner or penalty stroke and when they are inside the circle they are defending;

- other than players with goalkeeping privileges, are not permitted to wear protective headgear (face mask or other protective head covering) in any other circumstances.

4.3 Goalkeepers and players with goalkeeping privileges must wear a single coloured shirt or garment which is different in colour from that of both teams. Goalkeepers (i.e. wearing full protective equipment) must wear this shirt or garment over any upper body protection.

4.4 Goalkeepers must wear protective equipment comprising at least headgear, leg guards and kickers except that the headgear and any hand protectors may be removed when taking a penalty stroke.

The following are permitted for use only by fully equipped goalkeepers: body, upper arm, elbow, forearm, hand, thigh and knee protectors, leg guards and kickers.

4.5 A player with goalkeeping privileges may wear protective headgear when inside their defending 23 metres area; they must wear protective headgear when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke.

Protective headgear incorporating a helmet with full-face protection and cover for the entire head and throat is recommended for goalkeepers and players with goalkeeping privileges.

4.6 Clothing or protective equipment which significantly increases the natural size of a goalkeeper's body or area of protection is not permitted.