

UMPIRE DIRECTIVE

Raised Stick over the Head – FIH Rule 9.2

Since 2009, umpires have been directed to take action against players raising, waving or whipping their sticks over opponents' head or using their stick to push into opponents to attempt to force an obstruction. This is an extremely dangerous act and will not be tolerated at any level.

Please note that this is NOT a new directive - it is instruction to follow the FIH rules of hockey that have been in place for many years. There is a specific rule to reduce/remove head injuries from the game due to dangerous play with the stick. The rule itself is as follows:

*9.2 Players on the field must hold their stick and not use it in a dangerous way.
Players must not lift their stick over the heads of other players.*

Recommended Action

- On the first sighting of any player waving their stick over the head of, or at an opponent, umpires should give a passive verbal warning to all players to immediately stop this action, even if there no is contact made to the body initially. Make it clear to all players on the ground, this will not be accepted.

For further breaches by either team, more action must be taken by the umpire, be it a free hit awarded against the player or a reversal of a free hit given to that team.

- If there is ANY contact, even accidental, to the head or the upper body of any player at any time, the offending player MUST be temporarily suspended.

If the action is considered by the umpire, to be severe and malicious, a red card MUST be issued. That carded player must leave the playing surface and must not remain in its surrounding area, as per the rules of hockey. Refer FIH Rule 14.5.

There is no possible reason or excuse for this dangerous action; therefore it must be umpired out of the game. A passive approach is recommended initially but stronger action must be taken if the message doesn't get through. Please apply this directive with our usual common sense approach.

Please, if there are any queries, contact Michael McLean on 0413311369, by email at mickymclean@bigpond.com, or via Hockey Victoria.

Michael McLean
Hockey Victoria Officiating Committee Chairperson