

# Key rule changes

## Removal of Player with Goalkeeper Privileges (PwGKP)

A team no longer has the option to play with a player with goalkeeping privileges. This means that teams either play with a Goalkeeper, or 11 outfield players

## Amendments to Attacking Free Hits within the 23m

Additional wording in the guidance concerning the re-start after awarding a Free Hit to the attacking team within 5 metres of the circle they are attacking. The introduction of a quick self-pass for these Free Hits allows the defenders to stay within the circle, within 5m and not interfere with play until the ball can legitimately enter the circle. They cannot attempt to play the ball until it has travelled 5m. If there is no quick self-pass, then ALL defenders and attackers, regardless of location in the 23m, must retreat 5m if they wish to legitimately play the ball once the Free Hit is taken.

## Defensive Free Hits awarded within the defensive circle

A free hit awarded to the defence within the defensive circle can be taken anywhere in their circle OR taken up to 15 metres from the backline in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.

## Amendment to ruling around Attackers entering the circle early at a Penalty Corner

Change to current rule, now if an attacker enters the circle at a Penalty Corner before permitted, the player taking the push or hit from the backline is required to go beyond the centreline and the Penalty Corner is taken again.

## Timing

Other than the elite Level (i.e. National League and Tier one competitions) for season 2019-20, to leave the rest of the club game played as halves, usually of 2x35 minutes (or shorter formats in the junior game as appropriate).

## Defending a penalty stroke

If the player defending the stroke is otherwise taking part in the game as a field player, they may wear only a face mask as protective equipment. If the team defending a penalty stroke has chosen to play only with field players and not to use a substitute goalkeeper to defend the penalty stroke, the defender may only use their stick to make a save.

## Striking of equipment in the circle

If the ball hits a piece of equipment lying in the circle and a probable goal is prevented, a penalty stroke may be awarded.