



INDOOR LEAGUE



1 February 2023

Junior Premier Indoor League Rules Clarification, all JPIL Divisions

Re: JPIL Rule 5.6 – Removal of Face Masks after PC

To: All 2023 JPIL Participants and Officials

This should be purely an administrative adjustment, however please be advised that JPIL Rules & Regulations - Rule 5.6 was recently changed to state:


*Field players are permitted to wear **throughout a match for medical reasons only** a smooth preferably transparent or white but otherwise single colored face mask which closely fits 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).*

This adjustment aligns the JPIL Rule with FIH Indoor Rule 4.2 and the guidance provided by Sean Rapaport, USAFH Director of Umpiring in the [2022-23 USA Field Hockey Indoor Hockey Umpires' Briefing](#). Umpires were instructed to follow this guidance at the start of the season, so there should not be a change to what teams see practically in the field.

For additional information on this rule, we encourage you to refer to the [FIH Rules of Indoor Hockey](#) Rule 4.2 and to the Briefing slides also provided below.

Lurah Hess, JPH Technical Director
Donny Gobinsingh, JPIL Assistant Umpiring Director

Removing PC equipment



Rule 4.2 new guidance text (effective 1 December 2022):

Field 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 equipment arises, they can continue to wear it whilst they are within their defending half of the field without penalty

All players must remove all protective equipment before they leave their defending half of the field or when instructed to by the umpire



Removing PC equipment

Rule 4.2 new guidance (effective 1 December 2022):

Should a Free Hit be awarded to the defending team during a Penalty Corner, defending players are permitted to immediately pass the ball wearing protective equipment, however they are not permitted to take a self-pass.

2021 Rules of Indoor Hockey as published and updated by the FIH in November 2022, Rule 4.2 provides as follows:

Field players:

- *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 the face, soft protective head-covering or eye protection in the form of plastic goggles (ie 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 or metal grill face mask, which closely follows the contours of the face when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke. **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 equipment arises, they can continue to wear it whilst they are within their defending half of the field without penalty. All players must remove all protective equipment before they leave their defending half of the field or when instructed to by the umpire;** the primary objective of wearing a face mask to defend a penalty corner or penalty stroke is safety; wearing of face masks which are consistent with the underlying spirit of this guidance should be allowed;*
- *are not permitted, when wearing face masks, to conduct themselves in a manner which is dangerous to other players by taking advantage of the protective equipment they wear;*
- *are not permitted to wear protective headgear (face mask or other protective head covering) in any other circumstances.*



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28 December 2023



JPH followed USA Field Hockey's lead last year in bringing the face mask rule in line with FIH Rule 4.2 – without modifications. Some reminders follow below on managing the face mask rules.

Regarding face masks, FIH Rule 4.2 states:

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

Field players:

- 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 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 or metal grill face mask**, which closely follows the contours of the face **when defending a penalty corner or penalty stroke**. 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 equipment arises, they can continue to wear it whilst they are within their defending half of the field without penalty. All players must remove all protective equipment before they leave their defending half of the field or when instructed to by the umpire; the primary objective of wearing a face mask to defend a penalty corner or penalty stroke is safety; wearing of face masks which are consistent with the underlying spirit of this guidance should be allowed;
- are not permitted, when wearing face masks, to conduct themselves in a manner which is dangerous to other players by taking advantage of the protective equipment they wear;
- are not permitted to wear protective headgear (face mask or other protective head covering) in any other circumstances.

| Smooth preferably transparent which closely fits the face | Metal grill face mask |
|---|--|
| Defend PC & PS | Defend PC & PS only |
| Throughout a match <u>with approved</u> medical reason | Does not meet medical reason requirements |
|  |  |