

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## GHA Guidance to Umpires for EH Clubs U12 and U10 In2Hockey Championships 2019 – 20.

The GHA rounds of the EH Clubs In2Hockey competition will use the EH 7-a-side In2Hockey rules which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2512&sectionTitle=Rules>

The Regulations for the competition are provided as a separate document.

### **Guidance:**

GHA understands that not all those umpiring for Clubs in the In2Hockey competitions will be formally qualified so this guidance is aimed at providing some insights into interpreting the rules. Qualified umpires may also benefit from reviewing this guidance.

1. Young players are often unfamiliar with the Rules and therefore the umpires should explain decisions and help the players whenever it is possible and appropriate. They should not be over proscriptive, the role is to support the players to get the most from the games whilst playing within the rules.
2. Safety of all involved is paramount and any action that could lead to injury should be scrutinised very thoroughly. Initially players should be spoken to if they are acting in a way that leads to danger and if they persist then the appropriate sanctions within the Rules should be applied. Just because they are young does not excuse them. This particularly applies to the reverse stick (or tomahawk) shot; this is a legitimate technique within hockey, but if carried out in an uncontrolled manner can be particularly dangerous.
3. Melees of sticks are a frequent occurrence, particularly amongst the youngest players. It may on occasion be best to simply whistle and award it one way to stop anyone getting hurt!
4. Feet often occur with young players so please remember it is not an offence if the ball strikes the foot and there is no advantage gained. This should be applied with leniency particularly at U10. However, within the "D" (goal scoring area) it is normal practice to penalise any contact with a foot.
5. Pitch markings may at best be unclear so in advance of the game the umpires should have established important aspects such as from where to take the penalty corners.
6. Your colleague may be unknown to you, but you are still a team so help each other and particularly look at each other.
7. Injuries may occur and whilst the tournament clock will not be stopped you may have to halt the game. The safety of the players overrides all other considerations.

Lastly, a smiling face always makes everyone feel better so be positive and cheerful in your approach and enjoy yourself.

Ian Harvey  
GHA Clubs In2Hockey organiser