

MEMORANDUM

To: HQ Member Associations

CC: HQ Committees

From: Louisa Begley, HQ Chief Executive Officer

Date: 1st April 2016

Subject: Rule Amendment – Stick Above the Shoulder



Dear Member Associations & HQ Committees,

On Wednesday 23rd March, Hockey Australia advised all States & Territories that following a review of the implementation of the stick above the shoulder rule to competitions within Australia, athletes will now be permitted to play the stick above the shoulder in line with the FIH 2015 Rules of Hockey at **ALL** Australian Championships, the Australian Hockey League and all Hockey Australia sanctioned competitions.

Acknowledging the support of the Queensland Government and the Queensland Academy of Sport

The following brief was given regarding the reasons for this rule amendment:

In consultation with the HA Officiating Appointment Panel, the HA Competitions Committee and general feedback from tournament officials last year, the advice provided was to implement the rule at all levels of competition. Aerial / overhead skills are on the list of critical skills for developing athletes and Hockey Australia believes it is imperative that we encourage the development of these skills from an athlete, coach and umpiring perspective within our high performance pathway. With the inclusion of the stick above the shoulder rule at international and top domestic level, Hockey Australia believes it is necessary that athletes of all ages and skills are exposed to aerial / overhead skills in a safe and controlled manner. Hockey Australia are in the process of developing both coaching and umpiring resources to ensure the correct implementation of the rule occurs across all competitions, ensuring that the safety of participants remains the highest priority in the execution of aerial / overhead skills.

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To remain in line with Hockey Australia, Hockey Queensland will also be adopting this rule amendment for **ALL** HQ Tournaments from 2016 onwards.

Please note the following information with regards to the changes applicable in Queensland:

STICK ABOVE THE SHOULDER

Current Rule is (FIH) 9.7:

“Players may stop, receive and deflect or play the ball in a controlled manner in any part of the field when the ball is at any height including above the shoulder unless this is dangerous or leads to danger”

***Applicable to the following Hockey Queensland Competitions:**

1. **Poligras Super League Tournament (Men & Women)**
2. **State Open Championships (Men & Women)**
3. **U18 State Championships (Men & Women)**
4. **U15 State Championships (Men & Women)**
5. **U13 State Championships (Men & Women)**
6. **Masters State Championships (Men & Women)**

HOCKEY
get into it.

FURTHER NOTES:

Hockey Queensland Associations may only play this rule in the following local (domestic) Competitions:

1. **Senior Competitions**
- ALL Senior Grades/Divisions
(Individual Associations can “Opt-Out” as they deem fit for their competitions)
2. **Junior Competitions**
- U13 and above ONLY – Not to be played in U11 or below
(Individual Associations can “Opt-Out” as they deem fit for their competitions)

Hockey Queensland are required to advise Hockey Australia if any Associations elect to “Opt-Out”. As such, should your Association wish to “Opt-Out” for any competition/s, the Association is required to advise Hockey Queensland in writing (via email) no later than **Friday 29th April**. Please provide the specific age groups/divisions/competitions that you are wishing to “Opt-Out” of playing the Stick Above the Shoulder rule. You may also provide justification for opting out should you wish, however, this is not required by HQ.

Please distribute this information to your members and officials as soon as possible.

Kind Regards

Louisa Begley
Chief Executive Officer
Hockey Queensland



incorporating
THE STATE HOCKEY CENTRE

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Acknowledging the
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