



FIELD HOCKEY RULE MODIFICATION

Fall 2020

NFHS Field Hockey Rule 1-6-5 states “Goggles may be worn by all field hockey players.” Last season, the rule *required* that “eye protection,” (i.e. goggles), be worn, and that they be ASTM-approved. The new rule makes the wearing of goggles permissible, as opposed to mandatory, which means players will also now have the option of wearing face masks, which are incompatible with goggles.

The NFHS rules are silent on the use of face masks (corner masks). Therefore, each state association may implement its own rule in this regard. The Field Hockey Committee reviewed the face mask rules being applied by USA Field Hockey, the NCAA, and other states. With safety to all players being the driving consideration, the Field Hockey Committee recommended that smooth face masks that fit flush with the face (as opposed to cage-type face masks) be permitted at all times by all players. The full rule is provided below.

Field Hockey Face Mask Rule

Players shall be permitted to wear a face mask at all times during game play, subject to the following conditions and qualifiers:

1. The face mask must be smooth, and it must follow the contours of the face. It must be a single color or transparent. No steel or cage-type face masks are permitted.
2. Any equipment being used for a penalty corner play only, including face masks, should be put on and discarded without delay. Unnecessary delay will be treated as misconduct. Such equipment shall be stored behind the goal cage.
3. Face masks may be removed and tossed over the end line or sideline after use, during game play.
4. Players wearing face masks may not conduct themselves in any manner that will increase risk to other players.
5. Face masks are a personal item and may not be shared. Therefore, the face masks shall be appropriately labeled.

Please Note: Face Mask refers to “corner masks” and should not be confused with face coverings due to COVID-19 Considerations which are also permitted. See NJSIAA Field Hockey Considerations posted on the NJSIAA website.

Approved August 25, 2020