



Indoor Rules Trials: 2007/8

Explanation

Background

The Hockey Rules Board continually reviews the rules of the game with a view to making it even more enjoyable to play and watch while retaining its unique characteristics.

In 2007, the HRB is focussing on the Rules of Indoor Hockey partly to build on the very successful Indoor World Cup held earlier in the year.

It is looking at various aspects of the game but wishes in particular to gather practical feedback and experience about two ideas. It is therefore encouraging trials of two possible rules changes.

Rules Trials

Whether or not a National Association, Continental Federation or other organiser of indoor hockey matches and tournaments uses a trial rule is at their discretion. However, the HRB hopes there will be good take-up of the trials proposed and therefore some real experience on which to base its subsequent discussions.

A detailed explanation of each rule including a feedback form is provided on the FIH website so that experience can be gathered in a coordinated way.

Indoor Rules Trial: One Player Must Always Be Outside their Defensive Half of the Pitch

The HRB believes that more playing space should be created on the pitch. One way to do this would be to limit the number of players who can play in their defensive half of the pitch.

Points in favour of this idea include:

- this will create more space in each half of the pitch – so the game will be safer;
- there will be an advantage to attackers – so the game will be more exciting;
- at the same time, quick counter attacks will be possible – using passes out of defence to the player in the attacking half.

Points against include:

- the flow of play will be interrupted because one player may have to avoid running or tackling back into the defensive half of the pitch;
- if the rule is broken, it would be difficult to apply a penalty in the context of the flow of the game;
- umpires might be distracted when checking for this player.

Given that there are both points in favour and against, the HRB feels that the best real way to test this possible rule change is by undertaking a trial in the way proposed above.

Indoor Rules Trial: Attacking Free Pushes Must Not Be Played Directly into the Circle

The HRB is concerned about unattractive play and potential danger which results if an attacking free push is played directly into a crowded circle. Once again, there are points both in favour and against which can best be assessed through practical trials.

The points in favour include:

- this will avoid a ball being played into a crowded area which is potentially dangerous;
- it will encourage attackers to be more creative in their tactics and actions.

Points against include:

- the flow of play may be interrupted;
- this is especially a concern for free pushes within 3 metres of the circle.

Feedback

As noted above, a form is available for feedback on these trials. To enable the Hockey Rules Board to consider possible next steps, please provide feedback (if necessary in an interim report if trials are continuing) by **31 December 2007**.

If there any questions or comments about these trial rules, please contact:

- Roger Webb, FIH Technical Manager, email: roger.webb@worldhockey.org