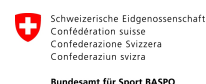


Our Partners

Technical Rules Directives

Field Season 2026/27

We would like to remind clubs and umpires that the competition matches planned by Swiss Hockey for the championship operations of the upcoming 2026/27 field season are conducted in accordance with the official rules of the game – see [Rules of Hockey 2026](#).

Below are two points listed in particular that have raised questions in the past. It is the responsibility of the clubs and umpires to familiarize themselves with the details of these rules and to comply with the provisions set out therein without exception during championship operations.

- **Mandatory Masks at Short Corners**

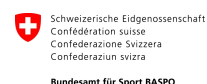
At short corners, all field players of the defending team must wear a protective mask. This change will be added as a new article in the next revision of the Rules of Competition, but has already applied since the start of the 2025-26 field season.

The mask requirement also applies to any additional field player replacing the goalkeeper, which is permitted in the following leagues: Women's NLA, Men's NLA Master and Challenge, 1st League. Each team must therefore have 4 or 5 protective masks ready behind their own goal. Please note that in the Women's NLB and in all junior leagues, the goalkeeper may not be replaced by an additional field player.

Instructions for implementing the rule:

- **Putting on the additional protective equipment**
Teams must be given sufficient time to put on the additional protective equipment (e.g. mask) – this may take longer than 30 seconds, up to and including the U15 category.
- **Time-wasting when putting on protective equipment**
If a team is found to be deliberately wasting time, it must be warned the first time. If the time-wasting is repeated, the player who is not ready receives a green card. The defending team may not replace the penalized player with another player when defending the following short corner.
- **Removing the protective equipment – Change for the 2026/27 Season**
If, while removing the additional protective equipment after a short corner, a player of the opposing team, an umpire, or another person outside the field of play is struck at or above the knee, the offending player receives a yellow card and a 5-minute time penalty. The short corner is retaken.

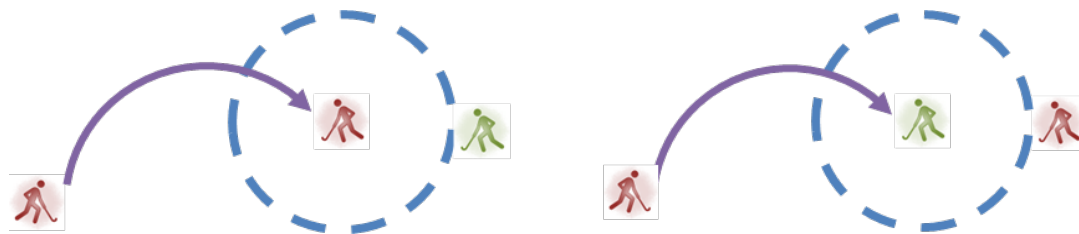
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• Receiving Aerial Balls / Aerials

When receiving a high, dropping ball, no opposing player may be within a **5-metre protection circle** until the ball has been touched by the receiving player.

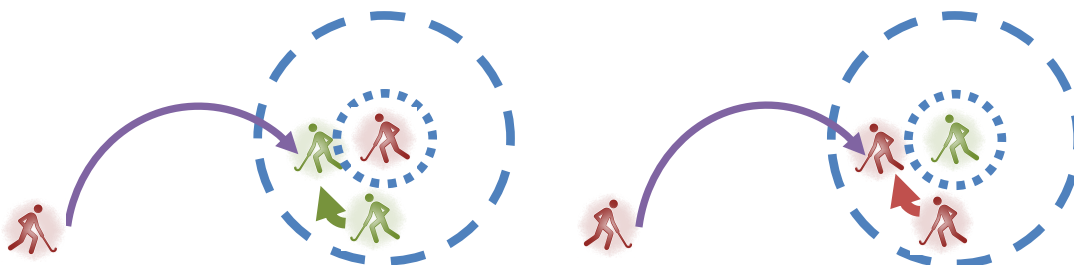
If players from both teams are within the protection circle of the dropping ball, the team that played the ball high must concede it to the opposing team (see Pictures 1 and 2).



Pictures 1, 2: 5-metre protection circle (blue dashed circle) for the ball-receiving player

Interception: An opposing player is, however, permitted to enter the 5-metre protection circle of a receiving player from the side and intercept the high ball ('interception'). In doing so, they must maintain a **1-2 metre playing distance** from the opponent and must not create dangerous play when receiving the ball (see Pictures 3 and 4).

Note: In such a game situation, the first-receiving player may not make any movement towards the dropping ball in order to shorten the playing distance.



Pictures 3, 4: Interception by the intercepting player is possible within the 5-metre protection circle, provided the 1-2 metre playing distance (blue dotted circle) is not entered and the play does not become dangerous as a result of the interception.

Horw, 6 August 2026
Head Office / mz