

Rule Book Clarification - 2021

At the end of 2019, the Executive Umpires reviewed games, incidents, playing records and agreed to clarify the interpretation of the rules to reduce dangerous playing situations. A number of other changes were made and all changes have been made to the Rule Book and are contained in the following material.

Rule 6 – Restart



- (a) If for any reason the game is stopped other than for a foul, injury or external influence (e.g. safety), if no player has possession it shall be re-started by the umpire throwing the ball in from the nearest boundary line (see Rule 31). If a player is in possession of the ball, re-start with Penalty 1 where play was stopped to the team in possession.

What's changed?

Restart may be necessary due to an external influence (e.g. safety)

Rule 11 – Substitution of horse or player

- (a) If a player or horse is injured, a period of up to 10 minutes may be allowed for recovery otherwise a named horse/rider or a substitute horse/rider shall take their place. The Captain of the affected side may immediately re-organise the players of the affected section. The original horse or player may be replayed if considered fit by the tournament HWO or a paramedic/doctor. In the event of a player falling unconscious they must obtain the approval of a doctor before being allowed to play again in that tournament. If a substitute horse/player is not available within the 10 mins the game to recommence with the affected section playing with 2 players.
- (b) In either case the section shall continue to play in that configuration for the remainder of the chukka (UKPA Rule).
- (c) **Grading of Substitute Player** When a substitute player is played, such substitute player must not be of a higher grade than the player they are replacing and no more than 3 grade points below (UKPA Rule). **The substitute player may play an alternative horse (UKPA Rule).**
- (d) **Substitute of Players Within a Tournament**
In tournaments (unless conditions of the tournament provide otherwise) if a player having taken part in the tournament for any reason is unable to play, or if a bona-fide member of a team be unable through sickness or accident to take part in the earlier parts of the tournament, they may be replaced by a player who by the rules is qualified. In all instances under this rule the tournament organisers must be consulted.



What's changed?

A substitute player may play an alternative horse – this is to ensure that the player rides a suitable and safe horse for them

Rule 14 – Dimensions of Pitch



Safety Lines: 'Spectator exclusion areas'

Side line to Spectator Line – Minimum 5 metres,

Ends of Field – Minimum 12 metre clearance

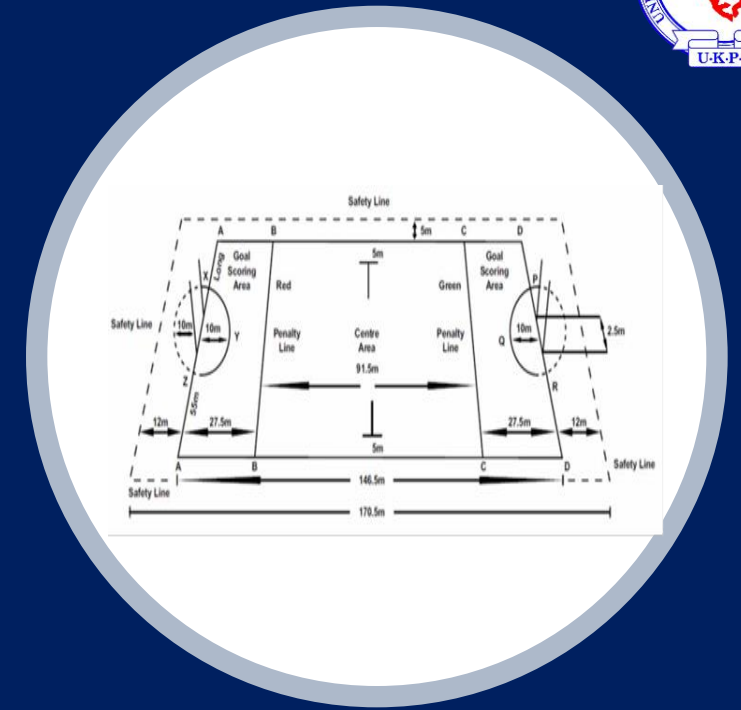
Only the two (2) Goal Umpires are allowed in this area

Between fields – Minimum 10 metres

Fields end-to-end – Minimum 24 metres

Fields end-to-side – Minimum 22 metres

Where there is no physical barrier at the end of a pitch, extending the exclusion area to 30 metres is recommended.



What's changed?

Increased exclusion area at the end of a pitch (if no physical barrier) to protect players and spectators

Rule 41 – Crossing - Penalty 1, 2, 3 or 4, 6 or 7



No player may cross another player except at such a distance as does not involve the possibility of collision or danger to either player.

Any player leaving the field has no automatic right of way when returning to the field.

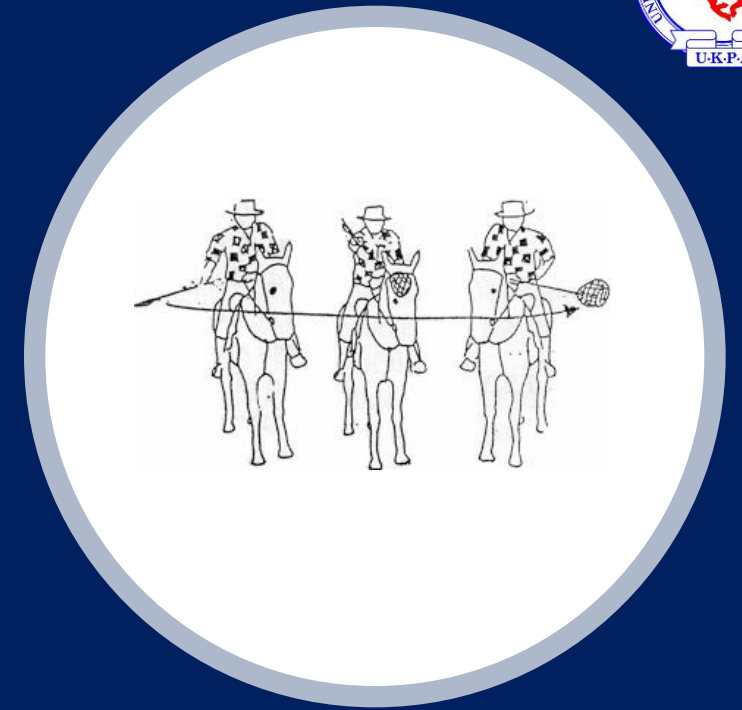
We expect that almost all crossing will result in a penalty 4, 6 or 7 given it is dangerous

Guidance:

The speed of the horses and the horses stride will influence whether there is sufficient distance to avoid a horse being tripped.

In trot, this might be half a horses distance from horses rump to the rear horses chest. At a canter/gallop this distance should increase to a full length.

Minimum is that the horse does not need to lift its head to get past the other horse



What's changed?

Provided clarification that crossing is dangerous and should be penalised appropriately

Rule 43 – Dangerous Riding - Penalty 4, 6 or 7



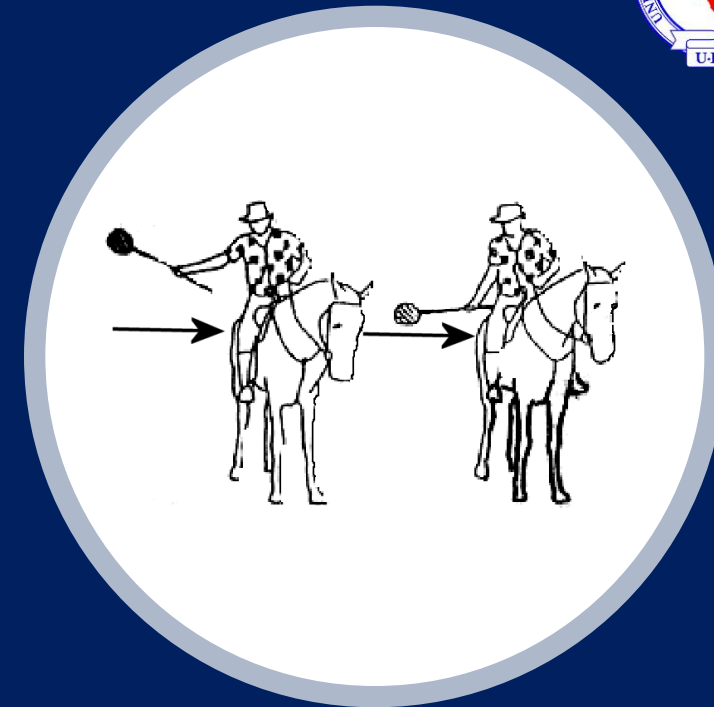
No player shall ride dangerously as, for example:-

- (a) Bumping at an angle dangerous to a player or their horse.
- (b) Pulling across or over a horse's forelegs or hindquarters in such a manner as to risk tripping the horse.
- (c) Bumping with sufficient force to dislodge a horse from its line of travel.
- (d) Pushing across a horse's loins or neck.
- (e) Jostling or bumping during time-off.
- (f) Intentionally losing contact with the reins during play.

Acceptable Horse Contact:

- Riding off is allowed provided that contact is made with the horses facing in the same direction and pushing shoulder to shoulder.
- When horses are facing in opposite directions, pushing is permitted sideways provided that horses are kept parallel and either player does not push across the other horse's loins or back or under the opposing horse's neck.

We expect that all dangerous riding is penalised sufficiently using Penalty, 4, 6 and 7



What's changed?

The penalty for dangerous riding has increased and there is more clarity on what is acceptable horse contact

Rule 45 – Swinging Stick - Penalty 2, 3,4, or 6

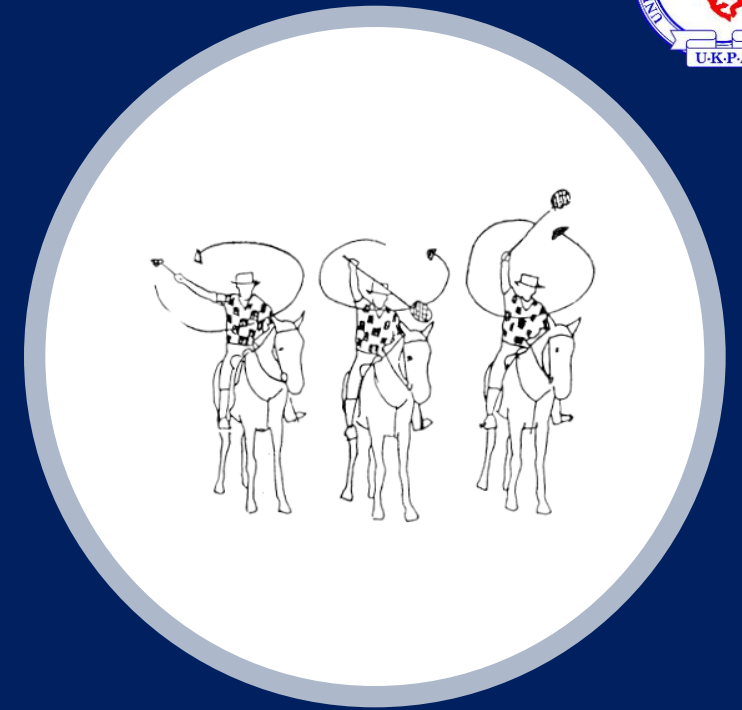
- (a) No player shall swing their stick wildly so as likely to intimidate or injure horse or rider. Any attempt to hit an opponent's stick which in the umpire's opinion constitutes vicious swing shall be deemed dangerous play – **penalty 4 or 6.**

The swing must commence;

- I. In a forward direction no higher than the rump of the horse.
- II. In a backwards direction no higher than the horse's rump

The swinging of the stick in more than one consecutive circle constitutes dangerous play.

- (a) No player shall be allowed to swing at an opponent's stick whilst coming from behind, until the player's body is level with the opponent's horse's hip and no further forward than the horse's shoulder for a backward swing but at all stages players must be within reach of an opponent's stick before attacking the racquet.
- (b) **Hit to Player or Horse – Penalty 4 or 6** Any wild or uncontrolled hit with a stick to the player or horse shall not be permitted.
- (c) **Hit to Horse or Player While Shooting at Goal.- Penalty 4, 6 or 7** Should an "Attack" No.1 player be awarded a goal for a strike to themselves or their horse whilst in the act of throwing a shot at goal (**this include any hit to horse or player whilst moving directly towards the goal to shoot within the penalty area or over the penalty line**) which succeeds, both the goal and the penalty goal shall stand (UKPA Rule).



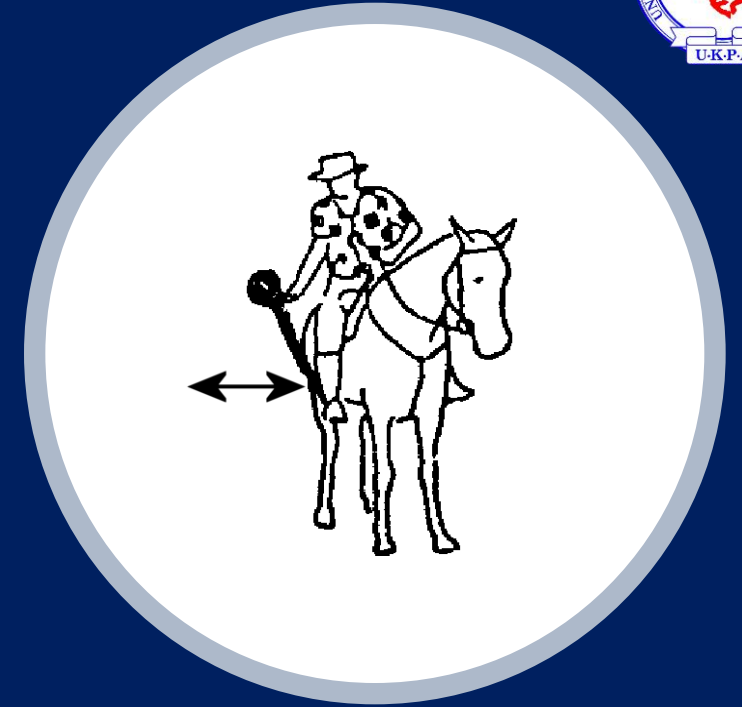
What's changed?

Increased penalties for vicious stick swinging and hit to horses or players when shooting at goal.

Rule 46 – Injuring a horse by stick, whip or spurs



- a) **Striking horse with stick - Penalty ~~1,2,3~~,4 or 6.** No player shall be allowed to intentionally hit a horse (including their own) with a polocrosse stick.
- b) **Wrongful use of spurs or whip - Penalty 1,2,3,4 or 6.** No player shall use their whip, stick or spurs to intimidate or injure any horse (including their own) or rider. **Wrongful use includes**
 - a. **Use of the whip when ball is not in play**
 - b. **Using the whip more than once without allowing the pony to react to the aid**
- c) **Removal of spurs or Whip** The Umpire may order a player to remove spurs or whip for injury to their horse and prevent them from using any spurs or whip for part or the remainder of the game.



What's changed?

Striking a horse with a stick is penalised with penalty 4.
Wrongful use of whip has been included and will be penalised

Rule 61 – Bad or Foul Language – Penalty 4 and if persistent penalty 6 or 7



Any player using foul or bad language, in the umpire's opinion, during the course of the game shall be penalised.

Penalised with penalty 4 and if persistent, penalty 6 or 7

What's changed?

Significant penalty increase for bad or foul language – it's not needed!

Penalty 7



7

At the time that an Umpire issues a Penalty 7, then an Executive Umpire is asked to ratify the decision before the player is sent off for the remainder of the game

What's changed?

The involvement of an Executive Umpire is needed ahead of issuing a Penalty 7