



## Referral System for the FHNS Summer League

Effective June 15, 2014, the following “Referral process” must be used for the FHNS Summer League.

### Background Information

1. Players complaining about a call or appealing for a call is not unique to our league. It also happens at international events. We need to find a way to manage how we deal with complaints/appeals so that we are being fair to the players AND umpires.
2. At international events,
  - a. Umpires use headphones to communicate with and assist each other with calls.
  - b. In addition, teams have a formal appeal process known as a “Team Referral” which they may use when the defense or offence feels that a decision, relating to a penalty corner or penalty stroke, is incorrect. In this case, a third umpire refers to video replays to assess the team’s appeal. Three outcomes may arise from the appeal:
    - I. If the appeal is upheld, the team retains their right to further appeals on subsequent situations
    - II. If it is denied, they lose their right to further appeals in the match
    - III. If a decision cannot be reached, the original call stands but the team does not lose their right to further appeals
  - c. Umpires may also call for an “Umpire Referral” if they need to validate a call they have made. This referral does not use up a team’s referral.

Although umpires have been right in a lot of cases, there have been times when they missed a call or made the wrong call.

3. Sometimes in our league, a player gets sent off for questioning a decision. The card is justified in some cases but not in others and may be unfair to the player. If a player points out that the umpire has missed a non-judgmental foul (foot, stick-check, etc.), the other umpire should be consulted – using an Umpire Referral or Informal Umpire Referral (explained further below).

### Purpose of this new process

1. Ensure that there is more collaboration between umpires. It is important that the controlling umpire make more use of the passive umpire by looking at him/her for more help.
2. Ensure that the correct call is made whenever possible when a decision may affect the outcome of the game
3. Minimize player complaints
4. Reduce players being sent off, sometimes unfairly, when they complain about a decision

## The Process

### Team Referral

1. Either the defending team or the attacking team may appeal a decision (or lack thereof) for situations relating to a Goal, Penalty Stroke, or Penalty Corner. The award of personal penalty cards may not be the subject of a Team Referral.
2. Although international events only allow one disallowed referral a match, we are permitting one referral per half since we do not have video and headphone technology.
3. The only types of appeals that we will allow are technical fouls - not judgmental decisions.

- a. Examples of technical fouls are stick check, foot, body contact, ball inside/outside the circle, etc.
- b. Examples of judgmental fouls are obstruction, danger, deliberate fouls, etc., which typically are left to the umpire's judgement. The umpire may choose to use an Umpire Referral to verify that their decision was correct. For example, how close the ball was to a defender may determine if the shot was dangerous.
4. Any team player, who is on the pitch at the time of the incident (rather than just the captain), can request a Team Referral.
5. This player must indicate to the Umpire that he wishes to use his Team Referral. The player must do so immediately after the incident or decision which is to be referred as well as confirming this verbally to the Umpire. The player requesting the Team Referral must inform the Umpire of the exact nature of the decision (or non-decision) that must be reviewed. No discussion between the team's players is permitted prior to launching the appeal.
6. If the whistle has not been blown and play is continuing, the player(s) should raise their hand indicating that a foul has occurred and launch the appeal as soon as the ball has exited the circle if play was in the circle or 23m area if play was in the 23m area.
7. When an appeal is launched the umpires will confer in person with each other to reach a decision.
8. Outcomes of the appeal could be:
  - a. If the other umpire agrees with the team that made the appeal, the decision is changed in favour of the appealing team and they do not lose their ability to make another referral in that half.
  - b. If the other umpire agrees with the umpire that made the call, the decision will stand and the team that made the appeal will lose their right to appeal for that half.
  - c. If the other umpire cannot help with the decision, the original call stands but the team does not lose their ability to make another referral in that half.

*The decision of the match umpires therefore remains final and no protest against this will be possible.*

## Umpire Referral

1. There are times when the controlling umpire makes a call but may choose to consult with the other umpire. This typically happens when the umpire wants to verify their decision with the other umpire who may have a better view. Examples:
  - a. how close a raised ball was to the defender may determine whether a raised ball was dangerous or not
  - b. whether the ball was going wide of the net for a shot at goal
  - c. body contact
2. This is an Umpire Referral and does not cost a team their referral.

*I expect that the above Team & Umpire Referrals will take up about 30 - 45 seconds of game time.*

## Informal Umpire Referrals

1. Umpires should be communicating with each other constantly. The following forms of communication are not new and should be happening a lot more.
  - a. Passive umpire: Issue a thumbs up supporting the other umpire's signal
  - b. Passive umpire: Make a hand signal when you see a foul that the other umpire may have missed
  - c. Passive umpire: if the other umpire looks to you for help and you did not see the foul, indicate this by waving your palm across eyes
  - d. Controlling umpire: look more often to the other umpire for verification of calls when questioned or unsure. There are times when a player may call for a foul or deny that they have committed a foul. By looking to the other umpire for help (recommended in most cases), this may save time since, if the other umpire agrees with you, the team may choose not to use their referral
2. Outcomes of the referral. If the other umpire:

- a. disagrees with the player – the call is reversed and a bully or appropriate penalty is called
  - b. agrees with the controlling umpire (thumbs up or same signal) - call stands and the signal is called again for emphasis
  - c. indicating that they did not see the foul - call stands
3. *This process is NOT meant to deal with persistent complaints by an individual. Umpires should warn players of the possible outcome (card) of such behaviour and deal with them with progressive penalties*

I expect that the Informal Umpire Referral will take 2 - 3 seconds since the umpires do not meet in person and simply signal to each other.

***In both the above referral processes, umpires will not tolerate swearing or abuse directed at the umpire or another player - even if the appealing player is correct. This behaviour will result in a green or yellow card for the offending player.***

## Time-Wasting

1. Since our matches are typically 45 – 50 minutes of playing time, it is important that as little time as possible is used for the referrals. To ensure that this happens,
  - a. Umpires must clearly indicate what the call was for (foot, stick-check, etc.)
  - b. The appealing player must be very specific as to what they are appealing for.  
Examples:
    - i. Ball did not hit our feet. Ball hit defender's foot.
    - ii. I played the ball first before stick contact
    - iii. Defender pushed the attacker
  - c. The appeal must be made immediately (within 5 seconds) of the whistle or as soon as the ball has exited the circle or 23m area.
2. Umpires can save time by looking at each other more often for help. This may prevent a Team referral or Umpire referral which takes up more time. Look at item 1 under Informal Umpire Referrals. This would take much less time than a Team or Umpire referral.