

## BRISBANE WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INC JUNIOR SECTION - UNDER 9 ROOKEY (HALF FIELD) RULES

Half Field Hockey introduces rules that will be new to U9 Rookey players but the rules learnt in U7 Rookey still apply.

These new rules are:

1. A player who is over the age of six (6), and who has not reached the age of nine (9) by the first of January of the current year is eligible to play in the U9 Rookey - Half Field hockey fixtures.
2. Teams are increased to nine (9) players and **teams are encouraged to introduce a fully equipped goalkeeper with pads, kickers, helmet etc and allow each player to try this position at least once during the season.** The goalkeeper is permitted to use the body including hands to stop the ball. The goalkeeper is allowed these privileges only inside the defending circle. If the goalkeeper uses them outside the circle, a penalty corner is awarded. **BWHA strongly discourages the practice** but if a team chooses not to have a Goalkeeper – no player can act in a Kicking Fullback role, and the team will have nine field players.
3. Teams are encouraged to have similar positions to those used in U7 Rookey. Please note diagram below for suggested format:-

|                        |                |                 |                        |                          |                |                 |                        |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>GK</b>              |                |                 | <u>1 - GK</u>          | <b>Sweeper/ Fullback</b> |                |                 | <u>3 - HB/ Def</u>     |
| <b>Halfback</b>        |                | <b>Halfback</b> | <u>2 - HB/ Def</u>     | <b>Halfback</b>          |                | <b>Halfback</b> |                        |
| <b>Centre Midfield</b> |                |                 |                        | <b>Centre Midfielder</b> |                |                 | <u>3 - Midfielders</u> |
| <b>Midfield</b>        |                | <b>Midfield</b> | <u>3 - Midfielders</u> | <b>Midfield</b>          |                | <b>Midfield</b> |                        |
| <b>Striker</b>         | <b>Striker</b> | <b>Striker</b>  | <u>3 - Strikers</u>    | <b>Striker</b>           | <b>Striker</b> | <b>Striker</b>  | <u>3 - Strikers</u>    |

4. Players may now hit, push, flick or scoop the ball.
5. The ball should not be raised above waist height. This is a logical progression from the knee-high rule in U7 Rookey.
6. **Rough or dangerous play such as raising the stick above the shoulder when another player is within playing distance is not permitted. Breaches for dangerous play must be penalised immediately to eliminate the risk of injuries.** In all divisions of Junior Hockey, "**DANGEROUS STICKS**" will be penalised under the **FIH** Rules: "*Players on the field must hold their stick and not use it in a dangerous way.*" and "*Players must not intimidate or impede another player*"

7. For a deliberate breach by a defender inside the circle, the attacking team shall be awarded a modified penalty stroke. The modified Penalty Stroke applied is:
  - Only the goalkeeper is permitted to defend the penalty stroke.
  - All other defenders stand beyond the 9m goal circle.
  - The goalkeeper can stop the ball with any part of the body or the flat side of the stick.
  - The penalty stroke taker must push or flick the ball only once from the 6m penalty spot.
  - **If there is no equipped goalkeeper (with helmet) no defender shall be in the goal box to defend the stroke.**
  
8. For an accidental breach by a defender inside the circle, an U9 Rookey penalty corner will be awarded to the attacking team. The U9 penalty corner applying is:
  - An attacker shall push or hit the ball out from the penalty marks on the back line.
  - All other attackers shall be outside the circle until the ball is played from the back line.
  - The ball must pass outside the circle, and then be brought back into the circle for a shot at goal to be taken.
  - A hit at goal that rises above **eighteen inches when crossing the goal line** without being deflected by a defender will be disallowed.
  - Until the hit out is taken the goalkeeper shall stand inside the goal box **behind** the goal line. Four other defenders will stand behind the goal line **outside the goal box** on the opposite side of the goal to where the ball is being pushed out. The remaining defenders will stand on the centre line until the hit out is taken.
  - **If there is no equipped goalkeeper (with helmet) no defender shall be in the goal box to defend the penalty corner. The fifth player must stand outside the goal behind the goal line with the other defending field players (as above)**
  
9. If a defender deliberately plays the ball over the goal line, a penalty corner should be awarded. When the ball is played accidentally over the goal line by a

defender or by an attacker a free hit is awarded to the defending team level with the top of the circle at the point opposite to where the ball went out.

10. Playing time is divided into twenty-minute halves with a five-minute half time interval.
11. The Ball used should be a regulation hockey ball.
12. Umpires/ Team Officials are to contact the BWA Office immediately to report any problems or potential problems during a fixture; this includes dangerous or inappropriate behaviour by any player, official or spectator. Junior Management will send someone to the field to take any necessary action. **NO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE GAME – TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.**