



October 8, 2025

## NFHS Field Hockey Weekly Rule Interpretations

### Rule Reference: Rule 8-1v (Intentional Delay of Game During Penalty Corner)

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#### Rule Language

Rule 8-1v: *"Fouls include intentionally delay the game."*

Penalty: *For intentional delay of the game during a penalty corner, misconduct penalties (green/yellow/red card) may be assessed to the offending player, and the penalty corner shall be re-taken.*

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#### Interpretation

The intent of this rule is to ensure that penalty corners are executed promptly and fairly, without unnecessary disruption. Any deliberate act to waste time, interfere with ball placement, or prevent the restart of play violates this rule.

Officials must distinguish between normal game flow delays (such as quick equipment checks or minor confusion of positioning) and clear, intentional acts that disrupt play. Only purposeful attempts to waste time or interfere should be penalized.

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**Game Scenario:** Team A is awarded a penalty corner. After the official sets the ball, a Team B defender taps the ball away from the inserter twice, forcing the umpire to reset the corner. The umpire shall stop play, issue a misconduct penalty (green or yellow card, depending on the severity and repetition of the act), and order the penalty corner to be re-taken. **RULING:** Correct Procedure **COMMENT:** This ruling upholds the principle of fair play and risk minimization. Intentional delays compromise the integrity of the penalty corner opportunity and can create unnecessary safety concerns. By issuing a misconduct penalty and requiring the penalty corner to be re-taken, officials ensure that the offended team receives its rightful opportunity while discouraging future misconduct.

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#### Points of Emphasis for Officials and Coaches

Common tactics that constitute intentional delay during a penalty corner include:

- Defenders deliberately kicking or tapping the ball away from the inserter.
- Players taking excessive time to position themselves despite being directed by the umpire.
- Field players lingering behind the end line to stall the restart.
- Goalkeepers intentionally adjusting equipment at the penalty corner signal to buy time.
- Any other purposeful act designed to slow down the restart of the penalty corner.

Officials should be proactive in identifying these behaviors and applying the appropriate penalties consistently.