

UMPIRE DIRECTIVE

Raised Stick over the Head – Rule 9.2

As at Rd 4, 2009, umpires are directed to take action against players raising, waving or whipping their sticks over opponents' head or using their stick to push into opponents to attempt to force an obstruction. This is an extremely dangerous act and will not be tolerated at any level.

Recommended Action

- On the first sighting of any player waving their stick over the head of, or at an opponent, umpires should give a passive verbal warning to all players to immediately stop this action, even if there no is contact made to the body initially. Make it clear to all players on the ground, this will not be accepted.

For further breaches by either team, more action must be taken by the umpire, be it a free hit awarded against the player or a reversal of a free hit given to that team.

- If there is ANY contact, even accidental, to the head or the upper body of any player at any time, the offending player MUST be temporarily suspended.

If the action is considered by the umpire, to be severe and malicious, a red card MUST be issued. That carded player must leave the playing surface and must not remain in its surrounding area, as per the rules of hockey. Refer Rule 14.5.

There is no possible reason or excuse for this dangerous action, therefore it must be umpired out of the game. A passive approach is recommended initially but stronger action must be taken if the message doesn't get through. Please apply this directive with our usual common sense approach.

Please, if there are any queries, contact me on 0418 308 788, by email at dpringle@alphalink.com.au or via Hockey Victoria.

Derek Pringle

Hockey Victoria Officiating Committee Chairperson