



U9 HALF FIELD RULES

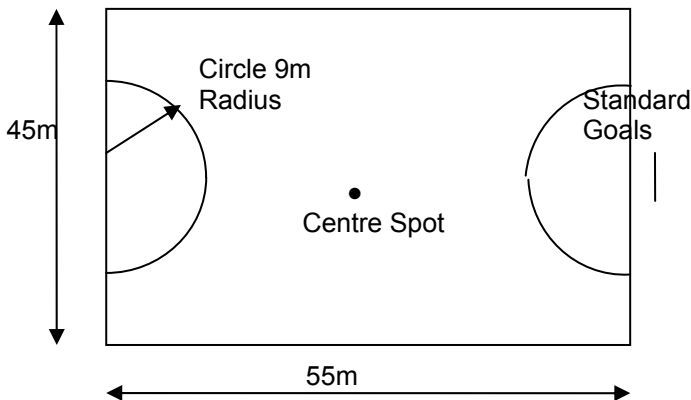
These rules are based on the HA Half Field Hockey booklet but, modified for the VJHA competition. Unless specifically over written, the rules from the AHA booklet apply.

(a) Facilities

There are two main advantages of over-marking existing grounds with half field hockey pitches running across each half. Not only are permanently marked grounds then available but, the half field circles, positioned on the sidelines near the 25 yard line, provide ideal practice circles to reduce wear on the main ground circle areas.

Field Markings:

- * Centre spot on field
- * Standard (3.66m) goals, if available, at centre of goal lines
- * Scoring circles 9m radius
- * Flags or witches hats to mark centre line across field
- * Penalty corner marks on the goal lines 6m from each goal post



(b) Equipment

There are no special half field hockey sticks. Players may use either minkey sticks, "senior" or "indoor" sticks where the need arises. The important consideration being that participants use a stick matching their physical development.

(c) Team Sizes

Half field hockey is basically a seven a side game. When played indoors, it can be reduced to six a side. One of these players may optionally be a goalkeeper. There may be any number of interchange players.

(d) Rules and Umpiring

The rules of the game of hockey shall apply except that:

1. There shall be no offside.
2. The stick may not be raised above the shoulder.
3. Lifting the ball above waist height to be discouraged and penalised under dangerous play provisions.
4. At the time of a free hit being taken no other player may be within three (3) metres of the ball.
5. The obstruction rule to be applied with discretion to discourage "playing for obstruction" and free hits.
6. For a deliberate breach within a players defensive half a penalty corner shall be awarded.
7. A modified "indoor" hockey penalty corner shall apply. An attacker shall push the ball out from one of the penalty corner marks. All other attackers shall be outside the circle. The ball must be stick stopped outside the circle before a shot at goal is taken. A shot at goal that raises above the eighteen inch back boards without being deflected by a defender will be disallowed.

Until the push at goal is taken the goalkeeper or kicking back shall stand inside the goal behind the goal line. Four (4) other defenders will stand behind the goal line outside the goal on the opposite side of the goal to where the ball is being pushed out. The remaining two defenders will stand on the centre line.

8. For a deliberate breach inside the circle a penalty corner will be awarded. There are no penalty strokes in half field.
9. When a ball goes over the goal line outside the goal, a free hit is awarded to the defending team at a point opposite where the ball went out and from the goal line (level with the top of the circle). If the ball is hit out deliberately by a defender see Rule 6. There are no long corners in half field.

(e) Umpiring

1. Two umpires are recommended but by mutual agreement one umpire may suffice.
2. All decisions should be explained.
3. No temporary suspension system.

(f) Duration

The duration of a game shall be two (2) halves of twenty five (25) minutes with a five (5) minute interval.