

## Video Umpire Protocols – Briefing Paper Updated 16 May 2024

The primary purpose of the Video Umpire Referral system is to assist umpires in their decision making and to help reduce major errors which could materially impact upon the result of a match.

The Video Umpire will utilise existing TV camera coverage. The Video Umpire will be located in a private room. High resolution TV monitors will be used for reviewing incidents and replays, utilising EVS software solutions.

The regular font text below is taken from the Tournament Regulations; notes are added in italics to provide additional information for this briefing paper. Changes to recent previous versions of the Briefing are indicated in red text.

### 1. **POWER TO REFER DECISIONS TO THE VIDEO UMPIRE**

- 1.1 The Match Umpires are the only persons who can refer decisions to the Video Umpire either directly or after a request from a team.
- 1.2 Referrals cannot be made as a result of protests, queries or pressure from players, Team Managers or Coaches on any decision. Teams (and their captains) will be held responsible for any violation or abuse of the Video Umpire protocols.
- 1.3 No one other than the Match Umpires, can stop the match to request a referral, e.g., the Video Umpire or Technical Officials at the Technical Table cannot stop a match.

*The only persons who can refer decisions to the Video Umpire are the Match Umpires. No one else, including the Video Umpire or Officials at the Technical Table, can stop the match to request a referral.*

### 2. **UMPIRE REFERRAL**

- 2.1 The Match Umpires may refer decisions to the Video Umpire when they are not convinced that they have taken, or are able to take, the correct decision relating to the awarding or disallowing of goals; the award / non-award of penalty stroke decisions; **or Serious Misconduct incidents anywhere on the field of play.**
- 2.2 Referrals shall only relate to whether or not a goal has been legally scored, or if a penalty stroke has been awarded correctly or not awarded, **or if Serious Misconduct has or has not occurred.**
- 2.3 The match Umpires are therefore entitled to request the Video Umpire to assist in making decisions which include, but are not restricted to:
  - a whether the ball crossed the goal line (within the area bounded by the goal posts and crossbar).
  - b whether the ball was legally played or touched inside the circle by the stick of an attacker and did not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the crossbar.
  - c whether the ball travelled outside the circle before it entered the goal from a shot by an attacker during the taking of a penalty corner.
  - d whether a breach of the Rules has been observed within the attacking 23 metre area in the play leading to the awarding or disallowing of a goal. It is then for the Match Umpire to take any breach into account in reaching their decision.
  - e whether an offence has been committed by a defender in the circle which prevents the probable scoring of a goal, or there has been an intentional offence in the circle by a defender against an opponent who has possession of the ball or an opportunity to play the ball.

- f whether any Serious Misconduct, dangerous or reckless foul has been committed, on or off the ball, anywhere on the pitch.

***The final decision remains with the match Umpire and not with the Video Umpire.***

- 2.4 The Match Umpire requests Video Umpire assistance using the “television-screen” signal; she/he relays by radio to the Video Umpire whatever information is necessary.

### 3. UMPIRE REFERRAL PROCESS

- 3.1 The Video Umpire calls for as many replays from any camera angle as necessary to reach a decision.

***If possible, the engaged Umpire signals the decision they consider to be correct.***

*Play and time should be stopped before referring to the Video Umpire.*

*The engaged Umpire indicates that assistance is required from the Video Umpire by a clear hand signal (rectangular television-screen shape).*

*The engaged Umpire (or her/his colleague) communicates with the Video Umpire through radio contact clearly explaining what she/he wishes to be advised upon.*

*The Video Umpire confirms that the request has been received and understood.*

*At an Umpire Referral, no players may either approach or remain close to the Umpires. If any players interfere with the referral process, this will be considered as ‘crowding’ with the offending players liable to green card personal penalties. Repeat offences may result in yellow card personal penalties.*

*Video Umpires should be aware of the time taken when requesting different replays.*

- 3.2 Within the shortest time frame possible, (ideally 60-90 seconds), if it is possible for the Video Umpire to provide advice, then they should use the phrase “I have advice for you” when communicating with the on-field umpire, followed by the appropriate phrase from the list below:

- ‘Goal’
- ‘No Goal’
- ‘Penalty Stroke’
- ‘No Penalty Stroke’
- ‘Serious Misconduct’ – the Video Umpire advice may include whether a temporary or permanent suspension should be awarded.
- ‘No Serious Misconduct’
- plus, advice on any observed breach of the Rules.
- If it is not possible for the Video Umpire to provide any advice, they should simply use the phrase ‘No Advice Possible’ on its own when communicating with the on-field umpire (for clarity, they should not state “I have advice for you. There is no advice possible”).

*These are the only possible outcomes of Umpire Referrals.*

- 3.3 If a breach of the Rules is observed and advised to the Match Umpire, **it is then for the Match Umpire to take into account the breach in reaching her/his final decision.**
- 3.4 In the case of ‘No Advice Possible’ (if the video footage is inconclusive, including through not

having the correct replays available, the ball never being in shot in the replays, the footage being of insufficient quality to permit a decision or technical problems with the referral equipment) the original decision of the Match Umpire stands. **If there was no decision given before the referral, then the final decision is 'No Goal' or 'No Penalty Stroke' or 'no Serious Misconduct'** (depending on the type of referral).

*In general, for an Umpire Referral, the Video Umpire will provide the Match Umpires with information as follows:*

- *advice and recommendation regarding the decision*
- *indicate how the play should be re-started (if this is not already clear).*

*The match Umpire should repeat back the Video Umpire's advice and recommendation, if necessary, to ensure that it has been correctly heard and understood.*

- 3.5 An umpire referral that has already been adjudicated upon may not be the subject of a subsequent team referral.

#### 4. TEAM REFERRAL

- 4.1 Each team is allowed one team referral request (which must be made through the Match Umpires) during regulation time in any match subject to articles 5.4a and 5.4b below of this Regulation and one team referral request during a shoot-out competition, subject to articles 5.4a and 5.4b below:

*Referrals remaining from regulation time are not carried over into the shoot-out competition.*

*Team Referrals provide for a wider range of referral possibilities than for the Umpire Referrals but are restricted to decisions within the 23 metres area relating to the award (or non-award) of: Goals, Penalty Strokes or Penalty Corners.*

*Teams may NOT ask for a referral outside of the 23m areas, even if they believe Serious Misconduct has occurred.*

*During a Shoot-out competition, the decisions will be related to the award (or non-award) of Goals, Penalty Strokes and Shoot-out re-takes.*

- a team referrals will be restricted to decisions within the 23 metre areas relating to the award (or non-award) of goals, penalty strokes and penalty corners and, during a shoot-out competition, whether a shoot-out should be re-taken. The award of personal penalty cards may not be the subject of a team referral.
- b any team player, on the field of play at the time of the incident, can request a team referral.
- c this player must indicate to a Match Umpire that she/he wishes to use their team referral. She/He must do so **immediately** after the incident or decision which is to be referred by using the 'T' signal as well as confirming this verbally to the Umpire.
- d the Match Umpires will not disallow any request for a team referral provided the 'T' signal has been used by a player and seen by the umpire.

*Umpires should not engage in any discussions as to the merits of referring, in order not to be perceived as trying to talk players out of making a referral.*

*Once the 'T' signal has been received, no player other than the one making the referral (with the possible exception of one further player to assist with the question for language difficulties only) may either approach or remain close to the Umpires. If any other*

*players interfere with the referral process, this will be considered as ‘crowding’ with the offending players liable to green card personal penalties. Repeat offences may result in yellow card personal penalties.*

- e the player requesting the team referral must inform a Match Umpire of the exact nature of the decision (or non-decision) that their team wishes to be reviewed within a maximum of 20 seconds.
- f if no question is received within 20 seconds the team referral will automatically default to a review of the last decision or non-decision relating to the award (or non-award) of a goal, penalty stroke, penalty corner or re-take of a shoot-out.
- g the Match Umpire then requests Video Umpire assistance using the “television-screen” signal, followed by a ‘T’ signal to denote a team referral; she/he relays by radio to the Video Umpire whatever information is necessary.

## 5. TEAM REFERRAL PROCESS

- 5.1 The Video Umpire calls for as many replays from any camera angle as necessary to reach a decision.
- 5.2 Within the shortest time frame possible, **(ideally 60-90 seconds)**, if it is possible for the Video Umpire to provide advice, then they should use the phrase “I have advice for you” when communicating with the on-field umpire, followed by the appropriate phrase from the list below:
  - ‘Goal’
  - ‘No Goal’
  - ‘Penalty Stroke’
  - ‘No Penalty Stroke’
  - ‘Penalty Corner’
  - ‘No Penalty Corner’
  - ‘Serious Misconduct’ – the Video Umpire advice may include whether a temporary or permanent suspension should be awarded.
  - ‘Shoot-out to be re-taken’
  - ‘No Shoot-out re-take’
  - plus, advice on any observed breach of the Rules.
  - If it is not possible for the Video Umpire to provide any advice, they should simply use the phrase ‘No Advice Possible’ on its own when communicating with the on-field umpire (for clarity, they should not state “I have advice for you. There is no advice possible”).

*These are the only possible outcomes of Team Referrals.*

*If a Team Referral is in respect of whether a defender crossed the backline or goal-line before permitted at a penalty corner, then the Video Umpire should advise whether the penalty corner should be taken again AND advise whether the re-taken penalty corner must be defended with one fewer player or not.*

*If, during open play in the circle, a Penalty Corner is awarded which the defending team refer, and the decision is found in their favour that there was no breach of the rules by the defending team, they will keep their referral and a bully will be the restart and not a defending free hit as has been the case previously (the attacking team have also not committed a breach of the Rules so should not automatically lose possession). The bully will be taken no closer than 5 metres from the circle and as close to 15m from the backline as possible.*

*If play is stopped during a Penalty Corner because of a decision by the Match Umpire*

*before the Penalty Corner has been completed, then in accordance with Rule 6.5 of the Rules of Hockey, if the Video Umpire advises that play has been stopped without any valid reason and the Penalty Corner was not completed, then the Penalty Corner should be re-taken. This includes when an umpire has awarded a re-take of a Penalty Corner without any valid reason (e.g., umpire awards a re-taken Penalty Corner because of a defender's foot, however the ball hit only the player's stick). Therefore, if play is stopped and a re-taken Penalty Corner is awarded, the defending team can only refer the decision if they believe there was a breach of the Rules by the attacking team. If they are correct, a free hit to the defence can be awarded and they keep their referral. However, if there was no breach of the Rules by either team, then the Penalty Corner will be re-taken but the defending team will not lose their referral, as there was no breach of the Rules by them. If a Team Referral was made by the attacking team either against the decision of the Match Umpire, or that causes play to be stopped before the Penalty Corner has been completed, and the referral decision is in their favour, then the match will restart with a Penalty Corner and the attacking team will retain their referral. However, if the referral decision is not in their favour, then a free hit to the defence will be awarded and the attacking team will lose their referral.*

- 5.3 If a breach of the Rules is observed and advised to the Match Umpire, it is then for the Match Umpire to take into account the breach in reaching his/her final decision.

*If during reviewing the replays it is observed that, immediately before the incident which led to the referral, the ball travels over the backline or side-line (and no prior breach of the Rules is observed), the Video Umpire will advise the Match Umpire accordingly, with the recommendation for the appropriate re-start. On this basis, the referring team do not lose their right to refer, since the ball was out of play prior to them attempting to refer the subsequent incident.*

*If during reviewing the replays it is observed that, immediately before the incident which led to the referral, there is a breach of the rules, the Video Umpire will advise the Match Umpire accordingly, with the recommendation for the appropriate re-start. On this basis, the referring team do not lose their right to refer, since the breach occurred prior to them referring the subsequent incident*

- 5.4 Implications for the retention or loss of team referral rights:

- a in the event that the referral is upheld the referring team retains its right of referral.

*The attacking team will retain their right to refer if:*

- *A no decision and play on referral results in a Penalty Corner, Penalty Stroke or Goal*
- *A free hit referral for an intentional offence in the 23m results in a Penalty Corner*
- *A Penalty Corner referral results in a Penalty Corner, Penalty Stroke or Goal*
- *A Penalty Stroke referral results in a Penalty Stroke or Goal*
- *A Penalty Stroke referral results in a Penalty Corner when the original decision was either play on or a free hit (because the original decision has been upgraded in the attacking team's favour)*
- *A Goal referral results in a Goal*
- *A Shoot-out re-take referral results in a Shoot-out re-take, Penalty Stroke or Goal*
- *A Shoot-out Penalty Stroke referral results in a Penalty Stroke or Goal*
- *A Shoot-out Goal referral results in a Goal*

*The defending team will retain their right to refer if:*

- *A referred Penalty Corner decision results in a corner, free hit, 15m hit/bully or*

*sideline ball*

- *A referred Penalty Stroke decision results in a Penalty Corner, corner, free hit, 15m hit or sideline ball*
- *A Penalty Corner is re-awarded with the defence not having to defend it with one fewer player*
- *A referred Goal decision results in a Penalty Stroke, Penalty Corner, corner, free hit, 15m hit or sideline ball*
- *A referred Shoot-out decision referral results in no Shoot-out re-take or a defensive free hit*
- *A referred Shoot-out Penalty Stroke decision results in a Shoot-out re-take, no Shoot-out re- take or a defensive free hit*
- *A referred Shoot-out Goal decision results in a Penalty Stroke, Shoot-out re-take, no Shoot- out re-take or a defensive free hit*

- b in the event of 'No Advice Possible' (if the video footage is inconclusive, including through not having the correct replays available, the ball never being in shot in the replays, the footage being of insufficient quality to permit a decision or technical problems with the referral equipment), the referring team retains its right of referral.

*The referring team retains its right of referral if their referral is upheld or if the conclusion of the Video Umpire is "No Advice Possible".*

- c if there is no clear reason to change the Match Umpire's original decision, the referring team loses its right of referral.

*The attacking team will lose their right to refer if: -*

- *A no decision and play on referral does not result in a Penalty Corner, Penalty Stroke or Goal*
- *A free hit referral for an intentional offence in the 23m does not result in a Penalty Corner*
- *A Penalty Corner referral results in a corner, free hit, 15m hit or sideline ball*
- *A Penalty Corner is re-awarded where the defence not having to defend it with one fewer player*
- *A Penalty Stroke referral results in a Penalty Corner, corner, free hit, 15m hit or sideline ball*
- *A Goal referral results in a Penalty Stroke, Penalty Corner, corner, free hit, 15m hit or sideline ball*
- *A Shoot-out re-take referral results in no Shoot-out re-take or a defensive free hit*
- *A Shoot-out Penalty Stroke referral results in a Shoot-out re-take or a defensive free hit*
- *A Shoot-out Goal referral results in a Penalty Stroke, Shoot-out re-take or defensive free hit*
- *A referral is not for a valid reason*

***The defending team will lose their right to refer if:***

- *A referred Penalty Corner decision is unchanged or upgraded to a Penalty Stroke or Goal (including any additional breach seen, even if their original question is correct)*
- *A Penalty Corner is re-awarded with the defence having to defend it with one fewer*

player

- A referred Penalty Stroke decision is unchanged or upgraded to a Goal (including any additional breach seen, even if their original question is correct)
- A referred Goal decision is unchanged
- A referred Shoot-out re-take decision is unchanged or upgraded to a Penalty Stroke or Goal
- A referred Shoot-out Penalty Stroke decision is unchanged or upgraded to a Goal
- A referred Shoot-out Goal decision is unchanged
- A referral is not for a valid reason

**d if the on-field umpire does not agree with the advice given by the Video Umpire and chooses to maintain their original decision, the referring team retains its right of referral.**

5.5 A team referral that has already been adjudicated upon may not be the subject of a subsequent referral by the opposing team.

*In general, for a Team Referral, the Video Umpire will provide the Match Umpires with information as follows:*

- *advice and recommendation regarding the decision*
- *indicate how the play should be re-started (if this is not already clear)*
- *update the Team Referral status in the light of the decision (if this is not already clear); in the event of No Advice Possible, this will be communicated by the Match Umpires to the teams on the pitch via the referring player / team captain as appropriate.*

*The Match Umpire should repeat back the Video Umpire's advice and recommendation, if necessary, to ensure that it has been correctly heard and understood.*

*As specified in the Tournament Regulations, it is emphasised that no protest may be made to or considered by the Technical Delegate from a decision of an Umpire or Video Umpire during a match or Shoot-out competition.*

## 6. FOR UMPIRE AND TEAM REFERRALS

- 6.1 **The final decision, including any matter of interpretation, remains with the Match Umpire and not the Video Umpire.**
- 6.2 All other decisions remain with the Match Umpires.
- 6.3 Substitutions may not take place during the stoppage of play for a video referral; substitution may take place on the resumption of play subject to the Rules of Hockey.

*At previous FIH Competitions, some referrals were received which were neither what the Video Umpire Referral system was introduced for, nor in the spirit of the game.*

*Managers, coaches and players are therefore advised that Referrals related to re-starts of play, where a minor infringement gives no significant advantage, are unlikely to be successful. Examples include:*

- *the penalty corner injector's foot not being completely outside the field of play.*
- *at a penalty corner, the feet or the sticks of attacking and defending players not being completely outside the circle or behind the goal line.*
- *the ball not being exactly on the side-line or back-line to re-start play.*

- *the ball not being exactly on the right spot at a free hit.*
- *players being within 5 metres of an attacking free hit in the 23 metres area and who are not playing or attempting to play the ball or influencing play.*

*Referrals will not be accepted either where a team has been asked if they wish to refer, has confirmed that they will not and then change their mind and/or try to refer once replays have been shown on the stadium public screen.*

*Referrals will not be accepted regarding an incorrectly awarded free hit or side-line ball prior to the play leading to the award of a Goal, Penalty Stroke or Penalty Corner.*

*In general, referrals involving matters of interpretation are less likely to be successful; teams may still refer but must understand that they risk losing their right to refer.*

## **DEFINITION**

In this Appendix "Serious Misconduct" refers to:

- (a) any conduct which may be considered to be a Level 2 or Level 3 offence under the FIH Code of Conduct; or
- (b) any serious and/or physical offence as referred to in the Rules of Hockey; or
- (c) when a player intentionally misbehaves in a serious manner as referred to in the Rules of Hockey

For the avoidance of doubt, (a), (b) and (c) above can be read jointly or separately.