

# 2010-2011 WPIAL FIELD HOCKEY SCHEDULE

February 3, 2010 ~

(Updated **RULES RELEASE** end of page 2)

First Practice Date ~ August 16, 2010  
First Scrimmage Date ~ August 21, 2010  
First Play Date ~ September 3, 2010

**Maximum Contests ~ 18**  
**Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2**

**A copy of this schedule must be given to your coach.** WPIAL girls' field hockey section play will begin on **September 7, 2010 for AA teams and on September 14, 2010 for AAA teams** and must be completed according to the schedule. Please check your schedule carefully and notify the League Office of any errors at (412) 921-7181 or 1-800-297-9553.

**Coaches are advised that the PIAA require that the head coach attend a PIAA mandatory rules interpretation prior to each season. Rules meeting dates and times are available on the PIAA website, [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)**

1. Varsity games may be played prior to the JV game if a JV game is scheduled.
2. Substitutions must be made according to the National Federation Rule Book.
3. The spectator/fan area should be on the opposite side of the team bench area where possible.
4. Duration of the game shall be a maximum of sixty (60) minutes played in two equal halves. All games involving players below the ninth grade shall be a maximum of forty (40) minutes played in two equal halves.
5. All regular season games ending in a tie will be subject to the following Overtime Procedures:
  - a) Prior to the overtime period there shall be a 5-minute intermission.
  - b) The home team captain calls the coin toss and the winner chooses choice of goal or to take possession of the ball.
  - c) Teams will be limited to 6 (six) field players and a goalkeeper.
  - d) If a player was disqualified (red card) during the regulation game, that team must play short throughout the overtime. If a player was suspended (yellow card) the team shall play short until the suspension time is completed.
  - e) Only four defenders will be allowed behind the end line on a penalty corner.
  - f) The overtime will be **15 minutes "SUDDEN VICTORY"**.
  - g) Regular season games tied after the 15 minute overtime period **are recorded as a tie.**
  - h) There will be no team time-outs, even if a team has unused time outs.
  - i) There will be unlimited substitutions.
  - j) A player who received a red card in regulation play may not play in overtime.
  - k) If a player receives a red card in overtime, the team will play short.
  - l) If a player receives a yellow card in overtime, the team will play short until the 5 minutes expire.
6. Misconduct by coaches or team personnel will be addressed by game officials according to their severity or the number of occurrences in a game. The penalty may vary from a warning (given and recorded) to awarding a penalty stroke, removing the coach from the field, or forfeiting the game.

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7. Only PIAA Field Hockey officials may officiate. The WPIAL recommends the use of two officials for all league matches.
8. **The top two teams in each AAA section and the top four teams in the AA section will enter the WPIAL Tournament.** All playoff entries will be determined by section record only and will be determined by the following method: **Three points for a win and one point for a tie.** Ties for first place will not be broken and **ALL** tied teams will each receive a section winner's plaque. In the event of a multiple team tie for second, third, or fourth place, head-to-head competition will be used to break the tie.

### EXAMPLE:

- a) Team A is clearly first. Teams B, C, and D are all tied with identical section records for second place. In the head-to-head competition among the three teams, Team B is 3-1, Team C is 2-2, and Team D is 1-3. Team B is the second place team and is entered into the tournament.
- b) In AA Team A is first, Team B is second, Teams C, D, and E are tied for third. In head-to-head competition among the three tied teams, Team C is 3-1, Team D is 2-2, and Team E is 1-3. Team C is third and teams D and E are now tied for fourth with the process beginning all over with head-to-head competition being the determining factor.

Failure to break the tie by applying the point system will result in applying a point differential system to a plus or minus five (5) to all section games played. If this procedure does not break the tie, a playoff game will be held.

### 9. REPORTING SCORES:

The home team is obliged to phone all scores to:

Don Rebel @ MSA Sports Network (412/539-0360) [drebel@nauticom.net](mailto:drebel@nauticom.net)  
Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) [highschool@post-gazette.com](mailto:highschool@post-gazette.com)  
Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) [pschofield@tigerweb.com](mailto:pschofield@tigerweb.com)  
OR GRSB (1-800-690-8047) [jdipaolo@tigerweb.com](mailto:jdipaolo@tigerweb.com)

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.

### NOTE:

All Athletic Directors are responsible for reporting team standings to the League Office before the Pairings Meeting.

**PRESS RELEASE IS ON NEXT PAGE**

## Field Hockey Rules Committee Approves Self-Pass

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elliot Hopkins

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (February 18, 2010) — One of the most significant rule changes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Field Hockey Rules Committee makes a self-pass legal for several ball insertion situations. The changes, which were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors, will take effect with the 2010–11 season.

The changes will allow a team to use the self-pass as a means of inserting center passes, 16-yard hits, side-ins, free hits, long hits and all free hits awarded outside the 25-yard area. The defense must still remain 7 yards from the ball.

“The self-pass will improve the flow of the game and provide another option for schools,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Field Hockey Rules Committee. “It provides teams with some strategic choices.”

In an effort to help the umpire better distinguish the two teams on the field, short-sleeved or long-sleeved undergarments must either match the predominant color of the uniform or be white. In addition, Rule 1–5–1a states that all undergarments worn by a team’s players must be the same color.

“This gives the umpire an advantage when officiating to differentiate between players from both teams,” Hopkins said.

The committee also simplified the procedures in taking a bully, which will help expedite the restarting of the game.

Rule 5–2–1a says that, in taking the bully, each player must face her opponent with her back parallel to the sideline, left shoulder toward the attacking goal, feet parallel and stick to the right of the ball, touching the ground. After the whistle is blown, the two players must tap the faces of their sticks together once, after which either player is able to play the ball.

“This will simplify the process of taking a bully,” Hopkins said. “It will be easier to teach and to become more proficient and will help get the offense started.”

Following are other changes made by the NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee:

- A significant editorial change that will affect all sports requires that any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, including but not limited to loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, must be removed from the contest immediately and shall not return to play before being cleared by an appropriate health care professional.
- In addition, Rule 1–6–4, which concerns illegal bowed sticks, has lifted the requirement of having a visible and permanently labeled stick. The committee decided the concern of illegal bowed sticks has been resolved at the high school level, and because officials could more easily spot an illegal stick, the requirement could be dropped.
- Rule 5–1–3 was modified to require that all players except the player taking the center pass must remain at least 7 yards from the ball until it is played.

- Rule 10-1-1 was reorganized to clarify when a penalty corner is awarded and how it is taken. Penalty corners shall be awarded when the defense commits a foul within the circle and does not prevent the possible scoring of a goal, when the defense commits a deliberate foul inside the 25-yard line but outside the circle or when the defense intentionally hits the ball over the end line.

A complete listing of all rules changes approved by the committee is available on the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on “Athletics & Fine Arts Activities” on the home page, and select “Field Hockey.”

Field hockey is the 11<sup>th</sup>-most popular sport for girls at the high school level, according to the 2008-09 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS, with 64,563 participants nationwide. The sport ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in school sponsorship with 1,818 schools sponsoring the sport. In addition, 174 boys participate in field hockey at 98 schools.

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*This press release was written by Emily Newell, a spring intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department and a sophomore at Butler (Indiana) University.*

#### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and Rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing Rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.5 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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