GHK FACE MASK Policy

The following Policy has been written in respect of the use of face mask for outfield players when defending Penalty Corners. In line with the FIH rules of hockey (4.2) Scottish and English Hockey strongly recommend that face masks should be worn across all age groups and playing formats when defending a Penalty Corner. GHK also supports this view and strongly advises all players to use face masks in game and in training situations.

**Guidance for All Players at GHK**

The guidance note below sets out GHK’s position regarding the use of face masks during hockey play and their availability to players. It is important that all members (and, in the case of U18s, their parents or guardians) read this guidance and, where necessary, take steps to comply.

It is the personal responsibility of all players (and, in the case of players under 18 years of age, their parents or guardians) to provide their own protection equipment for playing the game of hockey. In line with the recommendation of Scottish Hockey that face masks are worn at penalty corners to help prevent serious injury GHK strongly advises all players to use face masks in game and in training situations.

There is no standard for face masks and as such the club cannot recommend any particular make.  Any provided by the club are bought from reputable manufacturers but the club is NOT responsible for any faults in the face masks, either through manufacturing, transport or wearing.

All players must recognise that playing hockey does have dangers and serious injuries can occur, fortunately rarely.  Personal safety devices (gum shields, shin pads, face masks, etc) can mitigate the risks, but even with them injuries can occur.

Senior Club Players

Senior club players are permitted to make an informed personal decision whether to follow guidelines and wear a face mask or not. If they decide not to wear a face mask, GHK shall have no responsibility for their safety at penalty corners.

GHK provides 2 Grill face masks (and 2 PC Gloves) to its 1XI Performance Level Team. This is to ensure protective measures are available specifically against international level drag flickers, flicking at any height and at high speed, with some serious injuries in both men and women's games over the years. Now that drag flicking is improving and increasing in the women's game in Premiership, the club committee has agreed to provide this as necessary club equipment for the 1XI. This is not currently a concern in lower leagues – but is something that will be continually monitored by captains and coaches.

This equipment is provided to the 1XI Captain and the responsibility of the 1XI Captain. If they are unavailable during the game or damaged then it is for the senior player to make a personal decision in respect of defending a Penalty Corner or not. If this PC protective equipment is not available for any reason, or deemed to be damaged but is still used, GHK shall have no responsibility for player safety at penalty corners.

Should the 1XI Captain deem the face masks to be damaged they should seek a replacement via the Club Treasurer. If they are lost it is for the 1XI Captain to seek replacements at their own expense in a timely manner.

The responsibility for providing and using face masks within other squads remains with the player and/or their parents or guardians. We therefore recommend that all senior players purchase a face mask for defending penalty corners during a match or training.

Each squad will have access to a couple of standard masks in the event that a player has forgotten their own mask. These will be provided to each squad Captain and will remain the responsibility of those Captains. If they are unavailable during the game or damaged then it is for the senior player to make a personal decision in respect of defending a Penalty Corner or not. If this PC protective equipment is not available for any reason, or deemed to be damaged but is still used, GHK shall have no responsibility for player safety at penalty corners.

Should the Captain deem the face masks to be damaged they should seek a replacement via the Club Treasurer. If they are lost, it is for the Captain to seek replacements at their own expense in a timely manner.

**GHK Committee**