

GHK FACE MASK POLICY

The following Policy has been written in respect of the use of face masks for outfield players when defending Penalty Corners. In line with the updated FIH rules of hockey (4.2), Scottish Hockey has made face masks MANDATORY for all Penalty Corners and therefore they should be worn across all age groups and playing formats when defending a Penalty Corner. This includes both training and games.

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 2025 update of FIH rules that face masks are mandatory at penalty corners to help prevent serious injury GHK requires 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 donated and were 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 Team Players

No Senior Team player will be allowed to take part in a Penalty Corner unless wearing a face mask. This is in accordance with updated FIH rules.

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 currently has access to a couple of standard masks in the event that a player has forgotten their own mask. These are provided to each squad Captain and will remain the responsibility of those Captains. Any provided by the club are bought from reputable manufacturers. 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.

GHK Committee