



**To National Associations**

**June 2003**

**Specification of the Stick: its Rake or Bow**

We are aware that sticks have been developed which have a significant bow or rake along their length.

The Executive Board of the FIH has set a specific limit to any rake or bow. Stick manufacturers have been notified of this and we believe that all current designs are within the limits set. However, it seems that some sticks are also being adapted individually after manufacture.

Formally the specific limit on the extent of any bow or rake will be included in the Rules of Hockey applicable from 1 January 2004. However, as this is essentially a clarification of the current Rules it should already apply to sticks used.

Please therefore note that the depth of bow or rake along the length of a stick should not exceed 50 mm. (If necessary this can be tested using a pointed wedge the point of which is 50 mm from the flat base. The stick is laid playing side down on a flat surface. The wedge must not pass completely under the stick at any place along its length.)

An associated issue is that some players are changing their stick during a match in particular to take part in a penalty corner. This is within the current Rules of Hockey as long as there is no time wasting. However, it is questionable whether or not this is within the spirit of the game. Please therefore note that the Hockey Rules Board will be considering this issue at its meeting in August.

If you have any comments on the subjects referred to in this circular and in particular on whether or not players should be allowed to change their stick during a match phase contact, Mr Roger Webb, Secretary of the Hockey Rules Board. The Hockey Rules Board is keen to receive comments on any Rules related matter from National Associations.

If anything in this circular requires clarification please contact:

**Kind regards**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Cohen'.

**Peter Cohen**  
**Hon. Secretary General**

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