

RULES CLARIFICATION.

HITTING THE BALL IN THE AIR.

I have been asked to clarify the situation so that we can all be consistent with this area of the rules.

The basic rule (9.9) is very simple:

“Players must not intentionally raise the ball from a hit except for a shot at goal”

Please note the word “Intentional” – intent is vital, but it is hard for you to judge this. Look at the player’s stick – is he “digging under” the ball to try to raise it, or is he squeezing it into a softer bouncier pitch in order to raise it. Does he keep on doing it? – it is unlikely that a player who repeatedly hits the ball in the air is doing it by accident.

Danger is an essential consideration – ALL forms of dangerous play are forbidden. Note that a raised hit (or flick) at goal is legal, but:

If there is a player within 5m in line with the hit, then it is deemed to be dangerous, and penalise the hitter / flicker.

If the hit is not on target, then it is not a “shot at goal” so is illegal so penalise the hitter / flicker.

If a defender deliberately moves into the path of a raised shot, they the defender is creating the danger, so they should be penalised.

Rule 9.6 (that players must not hit the ball hard on the forehand with the edge of the stick) is also relevant – “blading” is always an offence. This is probably the most common way to raise a hit. Note that even a shot at goal is illegal if it is “bladed”.

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