

## Specifications for the Hockey Stick

This information is provided as a briefing document for FIH Technical Officials.

The full specification of the stick is included in the Field and Equipment Specifications section of the Rules of Hockey.

The following notes indicate features which might occur which are not within the specifications. Reference is also made to testing which can be carried out at pitch-side. It is not feasible to test the full specification at pitch-side (eg to test that there are no metallic components or to test the ball/head speed ratio). However, if a prime facie check indicates doubt about a particular stick, a note should be made of the manufacturer and model description for report to the FIH Technical Manager.

### Rough or Sharp Parts

Specification 2.3.a requires that “the entire stick must ... not have any rough or sharp parts”. Rough or sharp parts are a danger to other players so such sticks should not be permitted for use.

### Flat Playing Side

Specification 2.3.f requires that “the flat playing side of the head of the stick ... must be smooth”. “Smooth” means that the surface must be even and regular, free from perceptible projections or indentations and not rough, wrinkled, pitted or scored. Textured surfaces or raised patterns are not permitted.

It is also specified that “the flat playing side of the head of the stick ... must be ... in a single plane”. A twist or twists along the playing side are not permitted.

Further, “the flat playing side of the head of the stick” may have a “convex or concave deviation across” the plane of that side measuring “no more than 4 mm in any direction”. A single convex or concave deviation is permitted but not both. Grooves or similar indentations are not permitted on the flat playing side of the stick. If necessary, the convex or concave deviation can be measured by placing a straight-edge across the flat playing side and using a generic depth gauge.

### Stick Dimensions

Item 2.3.g specifies that “inclusive of any additional coverings used, the stick must be able to pass through a ring with an interior diameter of 51 mm”. A “stick ring” with an internal diameter of 51mm is provided at FIH events to test this requirement. The stick must pass completely through the ring. It is not permitted to add additional coverings after this test has been conducted without re-testing the stick.

### Curvature and Bow

Specification 2.3.k requires that “any curvature along the length of the stick (the rake or bow) must have a continuous smooth profile along the whole length”. Curvature solely at one end of the stick (eg the head) or multiple curves are not permitted.

With effect from 1 January 2006 the extent of this rake or bow is limited to 25mm for sticks used in international competitions. (However, it should be noted that National Associations have discretion to decide the date of implementation at national level.)

The rake or bow is measured by placing a stick on a flat surface with its flat playing side facing downwards. The surface must be long enough to accommodate the whole length of the stick; no part of the stick should overhang the surface. The stick must be in its natural resting position; the stick must not be held in a particular position. A cylinder with a diameter of 25mm will be supplied at FIH events to test the rake/bow. If the cylinder passes completely under the stick at any point without touching it, the stick does not comply with the specification. Pictures of sticks being tested using a cylinder are attached as an appendix to these notes.

### **Edges and Back**

Specification 2.4.b stipulates that “the edges and the non-playing side must be rounded and must have a continuous smooth profile”. Flat sections along the edges or back of the stick are therefore not permitted. Some sticks have smooth and shallow undulations or indentations on the back of the stick. Because these shapes do not appear to have any effect on the playing characteristics of the stick they are currently permitted.

### **Use of Tapes and Resins**

Specification 2.7.b permits “the application of tapes and resins ... provided that the stick surface remains smooth and that it conforms to the stick specifications”. All checks and tests must therefore be conducted before the application of tapes or other materials.

### **Traditional Shape**

More generally, specification 2.8 says “the FIH reserves the right to prohibit any stick which, in the opinion of the Hockey Rules Board, is unsafe or likely to have a detrimental impact on playing the game” and 2.1 says that “the stick has had a traditional shape which will be retained” and “the introduction of extreme shapes or designs ... will not be permitted”.

An example of a stick with a “non-traditional” shape but which also does not meet the specification in other respects is shown in the appendix. Any concerns about a stick with a non-traditional shape should be reported to the FIH Technical Manager.

### **Summary**

The comments above all relate to the published stick specification and it should be noted that they are identical for both indoor and outdoor (field) hockey. There is no difference in the specifications for each game although designs tend to vary within the overall parameters (eg lighter indoor sticks).

The specification of the stick is unavoidably technical but these notes should help to interpret important parts of it. If there is any doubt about a particular stick or about any part of the stick specification, reference should be made to the FIH Technical Manager.

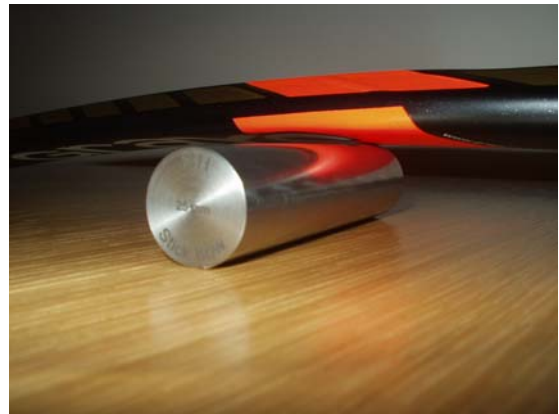
**Roger Webb**  
**FIH Technical Manager**  
**January 2006**

## Specifications for the Hockey Stick: Appendix

*Rake/bow: a non-compliant stick*



*Rake/bow: a compliant stick*



***Non-traditional shape: also not compliant because the non-playing side is not “rounded” and because the edge does not have a “continuous smooth profile” (2.4.b)***

