



## **25 mm bow of the stick**

The following statement describes the approach that will be taken by tournament officials at 2007 NZ domestic tournaments with regard to this new rule.

The new rule relating to the total curvature of the stick requires that the rake or bow does not exceed 25 mm (see rule 2.3 k). In fact there are numerous specifications with regard stick design that the rule book outlines in Section 2. These specifications include head design, shape, dimensions and a maximum weight of 737 grams.

The rule was implemented by the FIH Rules Board to ensure the integrity of stick design. Previously, sticks with extreme curvature advantaged players who drag flicked at penalty corners. The rule change was brought about to ensure the drag flicking skill remained a 'flick' and not a 'slingshot' type action which becomes more likely as the curvature of the stick increases.

It is possible that a stick which is compliant when new, becomes non-compliant as the stick ages and the natural bow increases. Common sense would suggest that banning these sticks is not in the spirit of the new rule.

It is not the intention of Hockey NZ appointed tournament officials to specifically target sticks with regard to this rule. Likewise they will not be weighing sticks to check that they do not exceed 737 grams! However, sticks with excessive curvature, that are clearly non-compliant, may come under the scrutiny of the tournament Technical Delegate. In particular, players who are drag flickers in their respective teams, should ensure that their sticks are aligned with the spirit of the rule change.

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