



## **Hockey Stick Maintenance and Repair**

Players themselves must be prepared to maintain their sticks when wear and tear occurs, and being expensive pieces of equipment, it is reasonable to expect the owner to take care of them. If one is not prepared to do so, one can expect to face problems quite soon. Lack of care cannot be blamed on the quality of the product therefore we have outlined below a guide for maintenance and repair.

By following the simple steps below, a stick's life can expect to be greatly prolonged.

### Stick Preparation and Care

1. Wrap cloth tape around 10-12cm at the lower end of the shaft. This not only protects against stick clashes but also assist ball-receiving skills. Remove when old and reapply new tape. Do not put tape on the curved head.
2. Do not apply linseed oil to your stick.
3. After use allow the stick to dry naturally (not near a heat source) and wipe off any excess moisture, sand or soil.

### **Stick Repair and Maintenance**

When head wear begins to show, use a stick repair kit to counter its effect. Used regularly it will prolong the life of ANY hockey stick, wooden or composite.

1. Allow the stick to dry thoroughly.
2. remove any loose material including old tape that may hinder resin application.

3. Use glass paper to smooth down any splinters or flaking fibres.
4. Apply repair resin as directed to re-establish “original” head shape.
5. When completely hardened use glass paper to smooth over rough edges.
6. Re-apply tape as required.

### **Edge or Argentinean Hitting**

Exposing a stick's edges to the extreme forces of this shot should be closely monitored and where damage occurs immediate remedial action is essential.

Follow carefully these step-by-step instructions:

1. Repeat steps 1-3 above in stick repair and maintenance.
2. Apply resin to the affected area.
3. Lay strip (s) of cloth tape lengthways over the damaged area allowing an extra 20mm. (approx.) to overlap at each end onto the solid shaft.
4. Tightly wrap cloth tape around the whole area.
5. Allow to harden for 24 hours.
6. Repeat as required if further damage occurs, stripping away all existing tape first and applying resin to any damaged areas.

## Edge Hitting - Rules, Warranties and Advice!

Edge hitting or as it is commonly known on the front edge, 'Blading' and on the reverse edge the 'Argentinian back-hand' shot are NOT good for your stick!

The forehand edge shot is now outlawed by the FIH (Hockey Rules Board) and despite the reverse edge shot still being legal, it will vastly reduce the life of your stick. The common misconception is that if it is permitted, it must be fine to do it. Unfortunately, when the FIH permitted the use of this shot, there was very little thought given to what the consequences may be for the stick. **Sticks are not designed to strike the ball with the edge.** The bottom line is that hitting the ball with either edge of the stick will continuously weaken the stick, eventually resulting in the shaft collapsing. Manufacturers are constantly looking at ways of reducing the damage caused, but due to the way that modern sticks are manufactured and the restrictions put upon them with regards to shape/style/materials etc. there is very little they can do to eradicate breakage entirely.

If you are going to use the edge of the stick to strike the ball, you do so at entirely your own risk. You are encouraged to add a good layer of stick magic to the edges and then apply cloth tape over the top. At least this way, the stick magic is more likely to chip away rather than the edge of the stick itself. However, you are reminded that any damage caused to the stick has been done by yourself and is not a fault of the product, nor is it covered by any manufacturers warranty/guarantee.