

Chapter

29 Hockey

Hockey is played between two teams having 11-member each, using sticks with a hook at the end. The aim is to hit a ball into the opponent's goal.

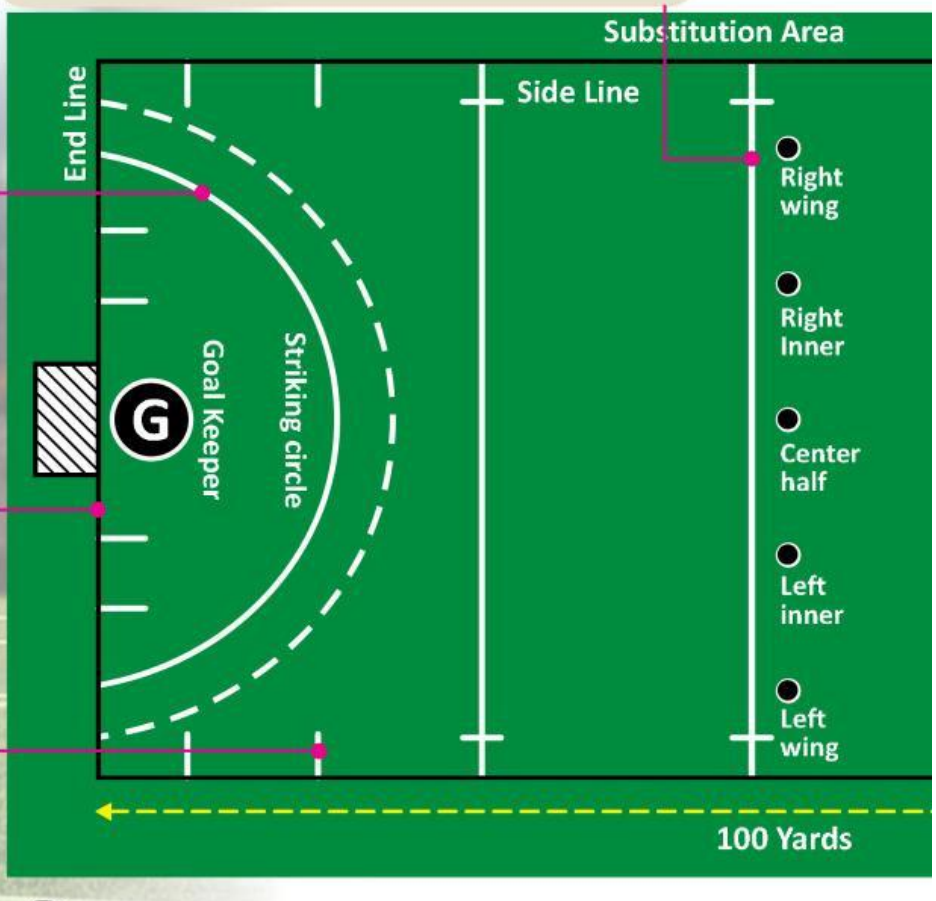
In a game of hockey, there are usually two 35-minute halves with a 5-minute interval in between. At the start of each half, as well as after each goal is scored, the game is started with other in the centre of the field. To passback, two opposing team members face each times, and then try to gain control of the ball and hit it to a teammate.

Center Line
Line dividing the field into two zones, one for each team.

Striking Circle
Semicircle located in front of the goal; a goal can only be scored when the attacker hits the ball inside the opponent's striking circle.

Goal Line
Line marking the ends of the playing field the ball must cross this line for it to count as a goal.

Side Line
Line marking the sides of the playing field when the ball crosses this line, the opposing team puts it back into play at the same place.



BOOST UP

Instead of the traditional grass fields, hockey competitions are now mostly played on artificial surfaces called astroturf. Astroturf was introduced for the first time in the 1970s.

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Starting with the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, for the next six successive games spanning 28 years from 1928-1956, the Indian team retained the gold medal for the hockey event. It also won gold medals in 1964 and 1980.

Dhyan Chand, a former Indian hockey player, is considered as one of the world's greatest players. He was a part of the gold winning India team in the 1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin Olympics.



Dhyan Chand of India playing against France in the 1936 Olympic Final

Raising the hockey stick above the shoulder, undercutting the ball to lift it, interference with the stick, or hitting the ball with the hand or stopping it with the feet or body results in a foul. Only the goalkeeper may use his hands or body to stop the ball.

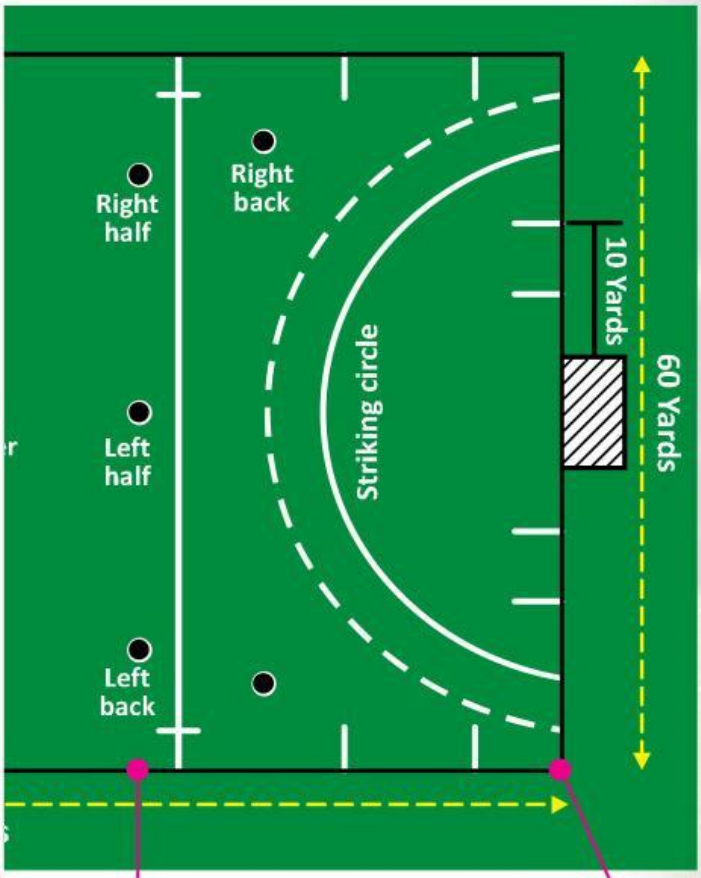
Identify the picture of the famous hockey players :











A game similar to hockey was played thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt and Persia. Since the 19th century, associations have been formed to make decisions regarding the rules of the game. The first field hockey club, Blackheath, located in Southeast of London, was founded before 1861.

Referee

The referee conducts the game in a free and fair manner. He follows and strictly implements the rules laid down.

Corner Flag

Small post with a flag on top; it marks the intersection of the goal line and the side line.

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