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## OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

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### **Decision in the hearing of breach of the Code of Conduct by India player Shivendra Singh (18) in the match Pakistan v India 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010.**

In the 39<sup>th</sup> minute of the match Pakistan v India on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Pakistan player Fareed AHMED (9) was in possession of the ball. India player Shivendra Singh (18) successfully jab tackled Fareed and move off on the counter attack. As he moved past Fareed he lifted his stick and struck Fareed above the eye causing a small cut.

Shivendra viewed the video of the incident and showed his team video frame by frame. At the time the stick was lifted the ball was ahead of Shivendra on the ground and away from the players. These facts were agreed to by Shivendra at the hearing.

Shivendra argued at the hearing that the stick was lifted when he put his second hand on the stick. It was argued that an accident happened. Shivendra stated that he had no intention to hit Fareed after the jabbing and just wanted to run faster and for that to hold his stick in both hands.

I reject this argument. There was no need for the stick to be lifted. I find that the stick was deliberately raised and that the behaviour of Shivendra was reckless as to the safety of Fareed.

I was asked to take into account the fact that Shivendra commenced to represent India in 2006 and played in the 2006 world cup. He has played 110 games without suspension. I was told that he has not had a single card in his career, that he is a very disciplined player on and off the ground.

The attitude of Shivendra at the hearing was respectful and I take this into account in his favour together with his past record.

The guidelines put this as a level 2 offence – physical assault without serious injury.

The penalty suggested is a minimum of 2 matches. In my view this is not a case to apply the minimum because the ball remained on the ground at all times and was clear of the players when the Fareed was struck. The action of lifting the stick was deliberate. A 4 match suspension is appropriate but given the history of this player I consider that a suspension of 3 matches is appropriate. As no penalty was incurred by Shivendra during the match there can be no discount under 4 (iii) of the Guidelines to Tournament Director's.



## **Decision**

My decision is that India player Shivendra Singh (18) is suspended for the matches:

India v Australia 2<sup>nd</sup> March,  
Spain v India 4<sup>th</sup> March and  
England v India 6<sup>th</sup> March.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ken Read'.

**Ken Read**

**Tournament Director**

**Hero Honda FIH World Cup 2010.**