

# 2020-2021 Playing Rules SUMMARY

APPROVED MOTIONS & EDITS



# Gender Neutral Terminology

Hockey Canada has changed all references to “his, her, him, she and he” to neutral pronouns. The term Linesman and Linesmen has been changed to Linesperson and Linespersons.



# Added Definitions

## **BODY CONTACT**

Incidental contact of two opposing players in pursuit of the puck on the ice in the same direction. Body contact occurs as a result of movement by the offensive player.

## **BODY-CHECKING**

An attempt by a player to gain an advantage on the opponent with the use of the body. Body-checking results when two opposing players collide while skating in opposite directions or when positioning and angling allow the checker to use the force of the body to gain the advantage. Body-checking may result in a penalty if used in a division of hockey that does not allow for body-checking.

## **DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR**

Behaviour that is rude, unpleasant, inappropriate and unprofessional that is found to be offensive to others.

# Changes to Signals

The following signals have been deleted:

- Elbowing (penalty also deleted)
- Penalty Shot

# The following wording was added

To the following Rules;

Rule 6.3 (a) - Charging

Rule 6.6 (a) - Kneeing

Rule 7.3 (a) - Interference

Rule 8.2 (a) - Cross-Checking

Rule 8.3 (a) – High-Sticking

A Minor penalty, or at the discretion of the Referee and a Major penalty and Game Misconduct **based on the degree of violence of impact....**

*This creates consistency in wording surrounding the criteria for assessing a Major penalty at a ‘Referee’s discretion’.*

# Rule 3.1 (c) – Adjustment of Equipment Case Situation

Added

3) A goaltender goes to the bench during a delayed penalty and begins to return to their net following the stoppage of play. Part way to the net, the goaltender realizes that their stick is broken or that a piece of equipment requires repair or adjustment. Can the goaltender return to the bench if they have not yet realized their goal area?

Answer:

No.

Once the goaltender begins to return to their net, they must continue, and is now governed by Rule 3.1 (c).

# Rule 3.1 (d) - Adjustment of Equipment

In Junior and Senior hockey, a Minor penalty shall be assessed to any player not wearing a tie-down who is involved in a fight. Additionally, should their jersey come up above the height of the shoulder blades or they are unable to remove their arm from the jersey, even if the tie-down is still attached, then the Minor penalty shall still apply, granted they continue to participate in the fight under these conditions.

Should the player's arm come free while the tie-down is still attached but they stop fighting immediately, no penalty shall be assessed. Should it be clear that the jersey tie-down breaks or tears during the fight, thus resulting in the jersey coming up to the height of the shoulder and they stop fighting immediately, no penalty shall be assessed.

# Rule 4.2 – Minor Penalties

- a) For a Minor penalty, any player, except a goaltender, shall be ruled off the ice for two minutes actual playing time, during which time no substitutes shall be permitted.

**NEW Note:** *Should a player be penalized by way of a time penalty and the on-ice officials neglect to place the penalized player (or the penalized player's substitute) in the penalty bench to serve the penalty, the officials shall have the team place the correct player(s) in the penalty bench at the next stoppage of play. Should there be no stoppage prior to the expiration of the penalty, then the officials should stop once the short-handed team gains possession and control of the puck in order to return the team to full strength.*

# Rule 4.2 – Minor Penalties New Situation 21

Between the second and third periods, the resurfacing machine has cleaned the ice. When the teams return to the ice, one team has all of its players skating in their defending zone.

The Referee assesses a Bench Minor penalty to the team as per Rule 10.15 (d)

The head coach does not agree with the penalty and persistently challenges the Referee; the coach had already been given a warning for this during the first period.

The Referee has no other choice than to assess a Bench Minor penalty under Rule 9.2 (a), thus resulting in two Bench Minor penalties being assessed to the offending team.

Question:

Does the offending team play 5-on-3 for two minutes? OR

Does the offending team play 5-on-4 for four minutes?

Answer: The offending team will play 5-on-3 for two minutes.

# Updates to 4.7 – Gross Misconducts

The following case situations were relocated:

Rule 4.7 (b) Situation 1 – now is Rule 9.2 (f) Situation 9

Rule 4.7 (b) Situation 2 – now is Rule 6.7 (g) Situation 22

Rule 4.7 (b) Situation 3 – is now Rule 9.2 (f) Situation 10

# Rule 4.9 (h) – Penalty Shot

Should a goal be scored from a Penalty Shot, a further penalty to the offending player shall not be applied unless the offense for which the Penalty Shot was awarded was such as to incur a Major or Match penalty, in which case the penalty prescribed for the particular offense shall be assessed. If the offense for which the Penalty Shot was awarded was such as would normally incur a Minor penalty, then regardless of whether the Penalty Shot results in a goal or not, no further Minor penalty shall be served.

Should the infraction resulting in the Penalty Shot normally result in a Double Minor penalty (e.g. Spearing), then the Penalty Shot shall be in lieu of one Minor penalty and the second Minor penalty shall be assessed, regardless of the result of a goal being scored on the Penalty Shot.

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Multiple Situation edits due to naming changes , removal of Situation #1 and subsequent renumbering and updates to rule references within situations.

# Rule 5.3 (d) - Linespersons

Rule 6.6 (a) Kneeing (double minor) added to list of reportable penalties by a Linesperson.

Added Kneeing to the question in Situation 4.

*Question: Can a Linesperson report a double Minor penalty for **Kneeing**, Spearing, Butt-ending, Head-butting, or situations calling for a Minor penalty for grabbing of hair, facial protector, helmet or chin strap?*

# Rule 6.1 Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury

**This rule has been revised with the wording from the 2016-18 Hockey Canada Playing Rules.**

(a) A Match penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who deliberately attempts to or deliberately injures an opponent, official, team official or spectator in any manner not otherwise covered within the playing rules.

(b) A double Minor penalty shall be assessed any player who head-butts or attempts to head-butt an opponent but no injury results. A double Minor penalty and a Gross Misconduct shall be assessed any team official who head-butts or attempts to head-butt an opponent but no injury results. A Match penalty shall be assessed any player or team official who head-butts or attempts to head-butt an opponent with force or who injures an opponent with this action.

(c) A Match penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official that attempts to kick or deliberately kicks an opponent.

(d) A player who grabs an opponent's hair, facial protector, helmet or chin strap, but does not use it to gain an advantage or to inflict punishment or injury shall be assessed a Minor penalty or at the discretion of the Referee a Major and a Game Misconduct penalty. A player who pulls an opponent's hair or who grabs the facial protector, helmet or chin strap of an opponent and uses this to gain an advantage or to inflict punishment or injury shall be assessed a Match penalty.

(e) A Match penalty shall be assessed any player who uses their facial protector as a weapon.

# 6.1 - Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury Situation Relocations

Situation 7 has been moved to Butt-Ending Rule 8.1 Situation 1

Situation 8 has been moved to Spearing Rule 8.5 Situation 1

Situation 9 has been moved to Butt - Ending Rule 8.1 Situation 2

# Rule 6.4 – Checking From Behind

Added new wording:

6.4 (a) A Minor penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty or a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty at the discretion of the Referee, **based on the degree of violence of the impact**; shall be assessed any player who intentionally pushes, body checks, **cross-checks while in motion, or otherwise** hits an opposing player from behind, anywhere on the ice.

# Rule 6.4 – Checking From Behind

Added new wording:

6.4 (b) Where a player is high-sticked, cross-checked, body-checked, pushed, hit or propelled in any manner from behind into the boards or goal, in such a way that the player is unable to protect or defend themselves, a Match penalty could also be assessed under this rule if the Referee believes that there was a deliberate attempt by the offending player to cause injury to the opponent.

# Rule 6.5 (e) – Head-Contact

The reference to assessing a Match penalty removed , 8.2 (b) has been relocated here and is now 6.5 (f) and old 6.5 (f) becomes (g) with Match Penalty specified.

# Rule 6.6 - Kneeing

The removal of the term Elbowing was approved.

The penalty has changed from a Minor to a double Minor

- (a) A **double Minor** penalty or, at the discretion of the Referee, a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty **based upon the degree of violence of impact shall be assessed to any player who makes initial contact with their opponent's knee.**
- (b) A Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent by kneeling.
- (c) **A Match penalty shall be assessed to any player who deliberately injures an opponent by kneeling or deliberately attempts to injure an opponent with their knee.**

# Rule 6.7 – Fighting and Roughing

Addition of Goaltender and new (n)

(h) Any player **or goaltender** joining in a fight or acting as a peacemaker shall be considered a subsequent player participating in a fight and be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty plus any other penalties incurred.

(i) Any player **or goaltender** taking part in another or subsequent fight during the same stoppage of play will be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty plus any other penalty the offender incurs under the rules.

**(n) When a goaltender leaves their crease during a fight, they shall be assessed a Minor penalty, plus any other penalties they incur.**

**These changes resulted in the deletion of Rule 4.11 (c) and (d)**

# Rule 6.7 (b) Case Situation 21 & 22 added

In the event that a player makes no attempt to retaliate, other than to protect or defend themselves and in the opinion of the Referee does not engage in the fight, then their opponent will be the only player to be assessed a Major penalty and Game Misconduct for Fighting. The player protecting themselves may receive a Minor penalty for Roughing or perhaps no penalty at all. In this situation the player receiving the Major penalty and Game Misconduct for Fighting will also receive an additional Minor penalty as the instigator of the fight under Rule 6.7 (b) Note 3.

Rule 4.7 (b) Situation 2 – now is Rule 6.7 (g) Situation 22

*Where a player on the ice or on the bench becomes involved in a fight with a team official or a spectator, the player shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct. See Rule 6.1, Situations 3, 4 and 5, and Rule 6.7, Situation 6.*

# Rule 7.3 (a) - Interference

Added a new wording

a) A Minor penalty for Interference or, at the discretion of the Referee, a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty **based on the degree of violence of impact**, shall be assessed to any player who:

Added a new Note 3

**Note 3: Regarding the finishing of a check, a player must make immediate contact with an opponent upon the release of the puck for that contact to be legal. Immediate contact can best be described as contact occurring within a maximum distance of an arm and stick length between the puck carrier and the player delivering the check.**

Addition of new (f)

**(f) A Match penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent or deliberately attempts to injure an opponent by interference.**

# Rule 8.1– Butt-Ending

Situations relocated from 6.1

## Situation 1 Rule 8.1

Any hooking or restraining action using the shaft of the stick above the upper hand is penalized under Rule 7.2(c) – Hooking. Butt-end hooking is a type of hooking and is not considered a stick infraction for the purposes of Rule 8.6 – Game Ejection.

## Situation 2 Rule 8.1

If the butt-ending action is forceful, violent or vicious, or if injury results, a Match penalty must be assessed. The double Minor penalty is not to be used in lieu of the Match penalty if the Match penalty is warranted. Referees should utilize the double Minor penalty for borderline butt-ending infractions which have previously gone unpenalized.

# Rule 8.2 (b) – Cross-Checking

Has been relocated to Rule 6.5 (f) – old 6.5 (f) now becomes (g).

# Rule 8.5 – Spearing

Situation relocated from 6.1

## Situation 1 Rule 8.5

The severity of the spearing action and/or the area of the body where the spear is directed should serve as guides to the type of penalty to assess (Match or double Minor). If the spearing action is directed at the groin, stomach, chest or head of an opposing player, a Match penalty would surely be warranted. If the spearing action is violent or vicious, a Match penalty shall be assessed, regardless of the area of the body where the spear is directed. If the player speared is injured as a result of that infraction, regardless of the area of the body involved, a Match penalty must be assessed to the player guilty of the spearing infraction. If the spearing action is directed at the leg or ankle area, or if the spear does not make contact, then a double Minor penalty may be assessed.

# New Rule 8.6 (a) - Three or More Stick Infractions

A Game Ejection shall be assessed to any player who incurs a total of three or more stick infraction penalties during the same game. For the purpose of this rule, only High-sticking, Cross-checking, Slashing, Butt-ending and Spearing are considered stick infractions. Players penalized under this rule shall be ordered to the dressing room for the remainder of the game.

Note: a double Minor penalty is to be considered as one infraction towards the accumulation of stick infractions for the purpose of this rule.

# Rule 8.6 (a) Case Situation 1

*A player must have committed three or more stick infractions and not three or more penalties.*

## **EXAMPLE A:**

*A player receives a Minor penalty for High-sticking, a Minor penalty for Slashing and a Minor penalty for Butt-end hooking.*

## **RULING:**

*The Game Ejection penalty does not apply.*

## **EXAMPLE B:**

*A player receives a Minor penalty for High-sticking and a double Minor for Spearing.*

## **RULING:**

*The Game Ejection penalty does not apply. The player has received three Minor penalties, but has only committed two stick infractions.*

## **EXAMPLE C:**

*A player has received two stick infraction penalties. There is an obvious third stick infraction committed by this player and the Referee has the penalty on delay. The non-offending team scores a goal to nullify this penalty.*

## **RULING:**

*The Game Ejection penalty does not apply.*

# Rule 8.6 (a) Case Situation 1 – cont'd

## EXAMPLE D:

*A player has received two stick infraction penalties. There is an obvious third stick infraction committed by this player and the Referee has the penalty on delay. The offending team is already shorthanded and is serving a Minor penalty. The non-offending team scores during the delayed calling of the stick infraction penalty.*

## RULING:

*The scoring of the goal nullifies the penalty being served and the stick infraction penalty is assessed along with the Game Ejection penalty.*

## EXAMPLE E:

*A player has received two stick infraction penalties. There is an obvious third stick infraction committed by this player that calls for a double Minor penalty and the Referee has the penalty on delay. Subsequently, the non-offending team scores.*

## RULING:

*The first of the double Minor penalties is nullified by the goal. The second penalty is assessed and the Game Ejection penalty applies*

# Rule 9.2

Rule Name has changed to:

Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Harassment of Officials

# Rule 9.2 (b) - Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Harassment of Officials

A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed on any player who:

- 1) Uses **disrespectful** language or **gestures** to any person.

Note 2 : For the purpose of this rule, “disrespectful” is defined as actions or words deemed rude, unpleasant, inappropriate or unprofessional and found to be offensive to others that have not escalated to the criteria of abuse or obscenity outlined within Rule 9.2 (f).

# Rule 9.2 (c) - Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Harassment of Officials

If the Referee is unable to identify the person responsible for the use of **disrespectful** language or **gestures**, a Bench Minor penalty shall be assessed.

# Rule 9.2 (e) - Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Harassment of Officials

Removal of wording:

A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who shows any course of conduct ~~including threatening and abusive language or gestures or similar actions~~ designed to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty.

# Rule 9.2 (f) - Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Harassment of Officials

(f) Any player or team official who engages in verbal taunts, insults or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds (race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, language) shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty and the Referee shall report full details of the incident to the President.

Notwithstanding the above, at the discretion of the Referee, a Gross Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official **that conducts themselves in a manner as to make a travesty of the game by using obscene, profane or threateningly abusive language, gestures or actions towards any person with discriminatory or otherwise malicious intent. Such actions may also be described as verbal or physical taunts or gestures that intend to humiliate, demean, belittle, cause offense to or harm the reputation of the person or group targeted.**

## 9.2 Situations added from 4.7

Rule 4.7 (b) Situation 1 – now is Rule 9.2 (f) Situation 9

Whenever a Referee has reasonable grounds to believe that a player or team official is impaired by **alcohol and/or drugs**, such player or team official is encouraged to voluntarily withdraw from the game. However, should a further incident occur requiring penalties that entail a written report, the possible use of alcohol and/or drugs should be noted in the Official Game Report.

Rule 4.7 (b) Situation 3 – is now Rule 9.2 (f) Situation 10

When a player or team official sprays water out of a drinking bottle on **or at any person**, the Referee is directed to assess a Bench Minor penalty. If the player or team official guilty of such action can be identified, a Gross Misconduct shall also be assessed.

# Rule 9.5- Leaving the Players' or Penalty Bench

## Revisions to the wording

(a) No player may leave the players' or penalty bench at any time during a fight on the ice, or for the purpose of starting a fight. ~~Substitutions made prior to the fight shall be permitted, provided the players substituting do not enter the fight.~~

(b) For a violation of Rule 9.5 (a), a double Minor penalty shall be imposed on the player of the team who was the first to leave the players' or penalty bench during **or to start** a fight. If players of both teams leave their respective benches at the same time, the first identifiable player of each team to do so shall incur a double Minor penalty. A Game Misconduct penalty shall also be imposed on any player penalized under this section, plus any other penalties they may incur. Refer to Section (d).

**Situation 16 moved to Situation 1**

# Rule 9.5 New Situation added

## Situation 2 Rule 9.5 (a)

No player may leave the players' bench for the purpose of starting a fight.

EXAMPLE:

During the play, Team A9 comes off the players' bench on a player change and goes directly to an opposing player and is involved in a fight.

QUESTION:

What penalties are assessed if:

- i) Team A9 initiates or instigates the fight and both players fight or is deemed a one player fight to A9.
- ii) A fight takes place with both players being willing participants.
- iii) A fight takes place with Team B6 being the instigator.

RULING:

- i) A9 double Minor plus Game Misconduct for leaving players' bench for purpose of starting a fight, plus Minor for Instigating, plus Fighting Major and Game Misconduct. B6 receives a fighting Major plus a Game Misconduct if involved in the fight or no penalty if they do not fight.
- ii) A9 would not receive the Instigating Minor. All other penalties would remain the same as in (i) above.
- iii) A9 would only receive a Fighting Major and Game Misconduct. B6 would receive a Minor for Instigating, plus a Fighting Major plus a Game Misconduct.

# Rule 9.5 New Situation 23 - Added

In some arenas, the players' and penalty benches are side by side with no physical barrier between them. If when a player's penalty expires they do not proceed to their player's bench by way of the ice, that player shall be assessed a Bench Minor penalty as per Rule 2.5 (c) and (e) and the penalty is to be served by that offending player in accordance with Rule 4.3 (b).

Question:

A player on the penalty bench leaves the penalty bench early on their own accord without proceeding by way of the ice to their players' bench with five (5) seconds remaining in their original penalty. What penalty or penalties do you assess to the player?

Ruling:

A Minor penalty will be assessed to the offending player for a violation of Rule 2.5 (c) and (e), a minor penalty for a violation of Rule 9.5 (d), in addition to the five (5) seconds remaining in the original penalty for a total of 4:05 minutes.

Note: should the player leave the penalty bench early in the above situation upon error of the time keeper than only the minor for not proceeding to the players' bench by way of the ice will be assessed, in addition to the unserved time from the original penalty.

# Rule 10.2 New Situation 23 - Added

*The Linesperson signals a delayed off-side. Despite the Linesperson's clear call, the offending player continues and goes directly to the net and forces the goaltender to freeze the puck. Where does the face-off take place?*

*Ruling: The face-off takes place at the face-off spot outside the defending team's blue-line.*

# Rule 10.17 (f) – Time of Game Update to Situation 1

Added clarification wording:

## *TIME-OUT GUIDELINES*

- 1. Each team may have one 30-second time-out per game. This includes any overtime.*
- 2. Both teams may take their time-out during the same stoppage of play.*
- 3. All players, including goaltenders, may go to their respective benches during the time-out.*
- 4. The Referee must advise the Timekeeper of the time-out and the Timekeeper will indicate when the time-out is over.*
- 5. The Referee shall allow the calling of a time-out after a stoppage of play at any time up to the point **the official blows the whistle to initiate the face-off procedure.***
- 6. Subsequent to the time-out, the line change procedure shall recommence.*

# Rule 10.5 - For Junior & Senior Supplement only

## Line Change on Icing

A team that is in violation of icing shall not be permitted to make any player substitutions prior to the ensuing face-off. Should the offending team elect to utilize their team time-out at this stoppage of play, they are still not permitted to make any player substitutions. However, a team shall be permitted to make a player substitution to replace a goalkeeper who had been substituted for an extra attacker, to replace an injured player, or when a penalty has been assessed which affects the on-ice strength of either team. The determination of players on ice will be made when the puck leaves the offending player's stick. If the offending team purposely tries to make a change, a warning will be given to the coach and if it occurs again a delay of game penalty will be assessed.

# For Junior & Senior Supplement only

## High Stick – Disallowed Goal

When an attacking player causes the puck to enter the opponent's goal by contacting the puck above the height of the crossbar, either directly or deflected off any player, the goal shall not be allowed. The determining factor is where the puck makes contact with the stick. If the puck makes contact with the stick at or below the level of the crossbar and enters the goal, the goal shall be allowed. A goal scored as a result of a defending player striking the puck with their stick, carried above the height of the crossbar of the goal frame into their own net shall be allowed.