

**SECTION FOUR**  
**PENALTIES**



**Rule 401 Penalties**

- (a) Penalties shall be actual playing time and shall be divided into the following classes:
1. Minor Penalties
  2. Bench Minor Penalties
  3. Major Penalties
  4. Misconduct Penalties
  5. Match Penalties
  6. Penalty Shot
- (b) When play is not actually in progress and an offense is committed by any player or Team Official, the same penalty shall apply as though play were actually in progress.

**Rule 402 Minor Penalties**

- (a) For a "MINOR PENALTY," any player, other than a goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the playing surface for two minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted.

When running time is being played, the penalty will start at the moment the ensuing face-off is conducted. If a minor or bench minor penalty terminates during a stoppage of play, allowing the team to have an additional player on the playing surface, the player so penalized shall remain on the penalty bench until the ensuing face-off is conducted.

- (b) For a "BENCH MINOR PENALTY" one player of the penalized team shall be ruled off the playing surface for two minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted. Any non-penalized player, other than a goalkeeper, may be designated to serve the penalty by the Coach or Manager and such player shall immediately serve the penalty.

- (c) If the opposing team scores a goal while a team is shorthanded by one or more minor or bench minor penalties, the first of such penalties shall automatically terminate.

“Shorthanded” means that the team must be below the numerical strength of its opponents on the playing surface at the time the goal is scored. Thus, if an equal number of players from each team are serving an equal number of minor penalties, neither team is “shorthanded.”

This rule shall not apply when a goal is scored on a penalty shot or an awarded goal.

- (d) When the minor penalties of two players of the same team terminate at the same time, the Captain of that team shall designate to the Referee which player shall return to the playing surface first and the Referee shall instruct the Penalty Timekeeper accordingly.
- (e) When a player receives a major penalty and a minor penalty at the same time, the major penalty shall be served first by the penalized player except if the major penalties are coincident, in which case the minor penalty shall be served first.
- (f) When coincident minor penalties are assessed to players of both teams, the penalized players shall take their place on the penalty bench and such players shall not leave the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play following the expiration on their respective penalties. Immediate substitutions shall be made for an equal number of minor penalties or coincident minor penalties of equal duration to each team so penalized and the penalties of the players for whom substitutions have been made shall not be taken into account for the purpose of a delayed penalty (see Glossary for definition of Coincident Penalties.)
- g. When a player receives one or more non-coincidental minor penalties and one or more coincidental minor penalties at the same stoppage, the penalized player must serve all of the penalty time assessed that is not terminated early by a goal. A substitute must also be placed on the penalty bench with the penalized player.

The substitute player shall return to the surface upon termination of the non-coincidental penalty and the penalized player will remain in the penalty bench to serve the coincidental penalty. A player's coincidental penalties may not start until all non-coincidental penalties to that player have terminated.

### **Rule 403 Major Penalties**

- (a) For a "MAJOR PENALTY," the offending player shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty and the offending team shall be short-handed for five minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted.
- (b) When coincident major penalties or coincident penalties of equal duration including a major penalty are assessed to players of both teams, the offending team(s) shall place a substitute player(s) on the penalty bench and such penalized players shall not leave the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play following the expiration of their respective penalties.

Immediate substitutions on the playing surface shall be made for an equal number of major penalties or coincident penalties of equal duration including a major penalty to each team so penalized and the penalties of the players for which substitutions have been made shall not be taken into account for the purpose of a delayed penalty.

Where it is required to determine which of the penalized players shall be designated to serve the delayed penalty under Rule 408, the penalized team shall have the right to make such designation not in conflict with Rule 402.

- (c) When coincident penalties of unequal duration (each including one major penalty) are assessed to one player of each team, the penalized players shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty and a substitute player shall serve any additional penalties other than the coincidental major penalty.

The penalties which create the disparity in total penalty time shall be served first in the normal manner by the penalized players. Immediate substitutions on the playing surface shall be permitted for the major penalties of each player.

### **Rule 404** Misconduct Penalties

- (a) A "MISCONDUCT PENALTY" involves the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, for a period of 10 minutes, but another player is permitted to immediately replace a player so removed. A player whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain in the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.

Unless immediate substitution is permitted under coincident penalty rules 402 and 403, when a player receives a minor or major penalty and a misconduct or game misconduct penalty at the same time, the penalized team shall immediately place an additional non-penalized player, other than a goalkeeper, on the penalty bench and such player may not be changed.

Any violation of this provision shall be treated as illegal substitution under Rule 205.

- (b) A "GAME MISCONDUCT" penalty involves the suspension of a player for the balance of the game, but a substitute is permitted to replace the player so removed.
- (c) The Referee is required to report all game misconduct penalties and all surrounding circumstances to the League Authorities immediately following the game. The League Authorities shall have full power to impose further penalties.

For all game misconduct penalties regardless of when assessed, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player.

- (d) A Team Official who is assessed a game misconduct may not sit near the team bench, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of the team.

### **Rule 405** Match Penalties

- (a) A "MATCH PENALTY" involves the suspension of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game. The offending player shall be ordered to the dressing room immediately. Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincident penalty rules 403 and 405, the

penalized team shall immediately place a non-penalized player, other than a goalkeeper, on the penalty bench to serve the five-minute time portion of the penalty and such player may not be changed.

The player shall also serve any additional minor or major penalty assessed to the offending player or Team Official unless immediate substitution is permitted under coincident penalty rules 402 and 403.

A Team Official who is assessed a match penalty may not sit near the team bench, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of the team.

The Referee is required to report all match penalties and all surrounding circumstances to the League Authorities immediately following the game. The League Authorities shall have full power to impose further penalties.

For all match penalties, regardless of when assessed, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player.

- (b) When coincident match penalties have been assessed or when any combination of coincident major and match penalties have been assessed to a player or players of both teams, rule 403 covering major penalties shall be applicable with respect to player substitutions.
- (c) A player or Team Official who has been assessed a match penalty shall be suspended from participating in any games or practices until the case has been dealt with by the League Authorities.

A mandatory hearing shall be held and a decision made relative to any further disciplinary action within 30 days of the incident. If circumstances prevent the League Authorities from conducting the hearing, the suspension shall be automatically terminated after 30 days.

It is recommended that league and tournament officials establish a disciplinary committee to conduct such hearings in an efficient and timely manner. The composition of all disciplinary committees and conduct of all hearings should conform to Section H of the USA Hockey InLine Rules and Regulations, which can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

**Rule 406 Penalty Shot**

- (a) Any infraction of the rules which calls for a “Penalty Shot” shall be taken as follows:

The Referee shall identify the player entitled to take the shot (as appropriate) and shall then place the puck on the center face-off spot. The player taking the shot shall, on the whistle of the Referee, play the puck and shall attempt to score on the goalkeeper. Once the player taking the shot has touched the puck, it must be kept in motion towards the opponent’s goal line and once it is shot, the play shall be considered complete.

No goal can be scored on a rebound of any kind and any time the puck crosses the goal line the shot shall be considered complete.

Only a player designated as a goalkeeper or substitute goalkeeper may defend against a penalty shot.

- (b) The goalkeeper must remain in the goal crease until the Referee blows the whistle to start the penalty shot and the player taking the shot touches the puck with their stick. In the event of violation of this rule or any foul committed by a goalkeeper the Referee shall allow the shot to be taken and if the shot fails the Referee shall permit the penalty shot to be taken again.

The goalkeeper may attempt to stop the shot in any manner except by throwing the stick or any other object, in which case a goal shall be awarded.

- (c) In cases where a penalty shot has been awarded under Rule 609 (b) deliberately displacing goal post or removing helmet/facemask during a breakaway and under Rule 639 (b) for fouling from behind, the Referee shall designate the player who has been fouled as the player who takes the penalty shot.

In cases where a penalty shot has been awarded under Rule 612 (c) falling on the puck in the goal crease, Rule 616 (d) picking up the puck from the goal crease area, Rule 625 (c) illegal entry into the game, and Rule 636 (a) for throwing a stick, the penalty shot shall be taken by a player selected by the Coach, or in the absence of the

Coach, the Captain of the non-offending team from all non-penalized, non-injured players, excluding goalkeepers, on the team. Such selection shall be reported to the Referee and cannot be changed.

If by reason of injury the player designated by a Referee to take the penalty shot is unable to do so, the shot may be taken by a player selected by the Coach, or in the absence of the Coach, the Captain of the non-offending team from all non-penalized, non-injured players, excluding goalkeepers, on the team. Such selection shall be reported to the Referee and cannot be changed.

- (d) Should the player in respect to whom a penalty shot has been awarded, commit a foul in connection with the same play or circumstances, either before or after the penalty shot has been awarded, the player shall be first permitted to take the shot before being sent to the penalty bench to serve the penalty, except when such a penalty is for a game misconduct or match penalty in which case the penalty shot shall be taken by a player selected by the Coach, or in the absence of the Coach, the Captain of the non-offending team from all non-penalized, non-injured players, excluding goalkeepers, on the team.

If, at the time a penalty shot is awarded, the goalkeeper of the penalized team has been removed from the playing surface for another player, the goalkeeper shall be permitted to return to the playing surface before the penalty shot is taken.

- (e) While the penalty shot is being taken, all players of both teams except those involved with the taking of the penalty shot, must withdraw from the playing surface onto their respective players' bench.
- (f) If, while the penalty shot is being taken, any player of the opposing team shall interfere with or distract the player taking the shot, a goal shall be awarded.
- (g) If the goal is scored during a penalty shot, the puck shall be faced-off at the center spot. If a goal is not scored, the puck shall be faced-off at either of the end face-off spots in the zone in which the penalty shot was taken.

- (h) Whether or not a goal is scored from a penalty shot, if an infraction for which the penalty shot was awarded was such to incur:
  1. a major, match or misconduct penalty, the penalty shall be assessed in addition to the penalty shot.
  2. a minor or bench minor penalty, a further penalty to the offending player shall not be applied.
- (i) If the foul upon which the penalty shot is based occurs during actual playing time, the penalty shot shall be awarded and taken immediately following the normal stoppage of play.

The time required for the taking of a penalty shot shall not be included in the regular playing time.

### **Rule 407** Goalkeeper Penalties

- (a) A goalkeeper shall not be sent to the penalty bench for an infraction which incurs a minor, major or misconduct penalty, but instead the penalty shall be served by a teammate who was on the playing surface at the time the infraction was committed. Such player shall be designated by the Coach and shall not be changed.
- (b) When a goalkeeper incurs a game misconduct penalty, the position shall be taken by a teammate, or by a substitute goalkeeper who is available, and such player shall be allowed the goalkeeper's full equipment.
- (c) When a goalkeeper incurs a match penalty, the position shall be taken by a teammate or a substitute goalkeeper who is available, and such player shall be allowed the goalkeeper's equipment. However, any additional penalties specifically called for by the individual rules covering match penalties shall apply, and the offending team shall be penalized accordingly. Such additional penalty shall be served by another member of the team who was on the playing surface at the time the infraction was committed. Such player is to be designated by the Coach through the playing Captain and shall not be changed.

- (d) All penalties assessed to a goalkeeper, regardless of who serves the penalty, or any substitution, shall be charged in the records against the goalkeeper.
- (e) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a goalkeeper who participates in the play in any manner beyond the center line.

**Rule 408 Delayed Penalties**

- (a) If a third player of any team is penalized while two players of the same team are serving penalties, the penalty time of the third player shall not commence until the penalty time of one of the two players already penalized has elapsed. Nevertheless, the third player penalized must immediately proceed to the penalty bench and may be replaced by a substitute until such time as the penalty time of the penalized player shall commence.

- (b) When any team shall have three players serving penalties at the same time and because of the delayed penalty rule a substitute for the third offender is in the playing surface, none of the three penalized players on the penalty bench may return to the playing surface until play has been stopped. When the play has been stopped, the player(s) whose full penalty has expired may return to the playing surface.

The Penalty Timekeeper shall permit the return to the playing surface in the order of expiration of their penalties, of a player or players when by reason of the expiration of their penalties the penalized team is entitled to have more than three players on the playing surface.

- (c) In the case of delayed penalties, the penalized players whose penalties have expired shall only be allowed to return to the playing surface when there is a stoppage of play.

When the penalties of two players of the same team shall expire at the same time, the Captain of that team shall designate to the Referee which player shall return to the playing surface first and the Referee shall instruct the Penalty Timekeeper accordingly.

### **Rule 409** Calling of Penalties

- (a) Should an infraction of the rules be committed by a player of the team in possession of the puck, the Referee shall immediately stop play and assess the penalty(s) to the offending player(s).
- (b) Should an infraction of the rules be committed by a player of a team not in possession and control of the puck, the Referee shall signify the calling of a delayed penalty by raising the arm and on completion of the play by the team in possession, shall immediately stop play and assess the penalty to the offending player.

There shall be no signal given by the Referee for a misconduct or game misconduct penalty under this section.

“Completion of the play by the team in possession” in this rule means that the puck must have come into the possession and control of an opposing player, or has been “frozen.” This does not mean a rebound off the goalkeeper, the goal or the boards or any accidental contact with the body or equipment of an opposing player.

- (c) The ensuing face-off shall take place at the nearest point along the imaginary lines on each side connecting the end zone face-off spots to where the puck was last played, unless the stoppage occurs in the Attacking Zone of the player penalized, in which case the face-off shall be conducted at the nearest high zone face-off spot.
- (d) If the penalty to be assessed is a minor penalty, and a goal is scored on the play by the non-offending team, the minor penalty shall not be assessed, but all other minor, major or match penalties shall be assessed in the normal manner regardless of whether or not a goal is scored.
- (e) If, after the Referee has signaled a penalty, but before play has been stopped, the puck enters the goal of the non-offending team as the direct result of the action of a player of that team, the goal shall be allowed and the penalty signaled shall be assessed in the normal manner.

- (f) If the Referee signals an additional minor penalty(s) against a team that is already short-handed because of one or more minor or bench minor penalties, and a goal is scored by the non-offending team before the whistle is blown, the goal shall be allowed, the delayed penalty(s) shall be assessed and the first minor penalty being served which caused the team to be short-handed shall terminate automatically.
- (g) Should the same offending player commit other fouls on the same play, either before or after the Referee has stopped play, the offending player shall serve such penalties consecutively.
- (h) All minor and bench minor penalties occurring after a goal has been scored or during the stoppage of play when a penalty shot is being attempted, shall be served in the normal manner under this rule.

**Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline**

- (a) In addition to the suspensions assessed under these rules, the League Authorities may, at the conclusion of the game, at their discretion, investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any game and may assess additional suspensions for any offense committed before, during or after any game by a player or Team Official, whether or not such offense had been penalized by the Referee.
- (b) Suspensions assessed during a USA Hockey InLine State, District or Regional Play-Off or National Championship, must be served during that same tournament. If the length of the suspension carries beyond that tournament for an advancing team, the Discipline Committee of the following tournament shall be the sole authority in determining the eligibility of the individual(s).