

SECTION SIX
PLAYING RULES



Rule 601 Abusive Conduct

- (a) Any player who challenges or disputes the ruling of a Referee, attempts to incite an opponent or create a disturbance during the game shall be assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. If the player persists in such conduct, a misconduct penalty shall be assessed and any further persistence by the same player shall result in the assessment of a game misconduct penalty.
- In the case of a Coach or other Team Official, a bench minor penalty shall be assessed first and if such conduct continues, a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed.
- (b) Any player who shoots the puck after the whistle shall be assessed a minor penalty if, in the opinion of the Referee, the player had sufficient time after the whistle to refrain from taking the shot.
- (c) If any player does any of the following, the team shall be assessed a bench minor penalty:
1. In the vicinity of the players' bench, using obscene, profane or abusive language to any person.
 2. Throws anything onto the playing surface from the players' bench or penalty bench.
 3. Interferes with any Game Official, (non-physically) in the performance of their duties.
- (d) If any player does any of the following, a misconduct penalty shall be assessed:
1. Uses obscene, profane or abusive language to any person before, during or after the game.
 2. During a stoppage of play, intentionally shoots or throws the puck out of the reach of a Referee who is retrieving it.
 3. After being penalized, does not proceed directly to the penalty bench or dressing room when ordered to do so by the Referee. (Equipment shall be delivered to the penalty bench or dressing room by a teammate).

4. Enters and remains in the Referee's Crease, when asked to leave, except for the purpose of skating to the penalty bench.
 5. Physically or verbally threatens physical abuse to another player, Game Official, or Team Official.
- (e) If any player does any of the following, a misconduct or game misconduct penalty shall be assessed:
1. Touches or holds any Game Official with the hand or stick.
 2. Intentionally bangs the boards, playing surface, protective glass or goal with a stick at any time.
- (f) If any player does any of the following, a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed:
1. Persists in any course of conduct for which the player has previously been assessed a misconduct penalty.
- (g) If any player does any of the following, a match penalty shall be assessed:
1. Uses obscene gestures, or racial/ethnic slurs, anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.
 2. Deliberately inflicts or attempts to inflict, physical harm to a Game Official or a Team Official in any manner.
 3. Behaves in any manner which is critically detrimental to the conduct of the game including spitting at an opponent, Game Official or Team Official.
- (h) If any Team Official does any of the following, the team shall be assessed a bench minor penalty:
1. Bangs the boards with a stick or other instrument at any time.
 2. Uses obscene, profane or abusive language to any person.
 3. Throws anything onto the playing surface from the players' bench.

4. Interferes with any Game Official, (non-physically) in the performance of their duties.
 5. Attempts to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty.
- (i) If any Team Official does any of the following, a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed:
1. Persists in any course of conduct for which the Team Official has previously been assessed a bench minor penalty.
 2. Engages in any conduct listed under Rule 601(h) after the conclusion of the game.
 3. Enters the playing surface during play or during an altercation.
- (j) If any Team Official does any of the following, a match penalty shall be assessed:
1. Uses obscene gestures, or racial/ethnic slurs, anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.
 2. Deliberately inflicts or attempts to inflict, physical harm to a Game Official, a Team Official or a player in any manner.
 3. Behaves in any manner which is critically detrimental to the conduct of the game including spitting at an opponent, Game Official or Team Official.

Rule 602 Adjustment to Clothing and Equipment

- (a) Play shall not be stopped or delayed by reason of adjustment of clothing, equipment, skates, or sticks. For a violation of this rule a minor penalty shall be assessed.
- (b) The onus of maintaining clothing and equipment in the proper condition shall be upon the player. If adjustments are required, the player shall retire from the playing surface and play shall continue uninterrupted with a substitute.

- (c) No delay shall be permitted for the repair or adjustment of goalkeeper's equipment. If adjustments are required, the goalkeeper shall retire from the playing surface and be replaced by the substitute goalkeeper or another player immediately and no warm-up shall be permitted.

For a violation of this rule by a goalkeeper, a minor penalty shall be assessed.

Rule 603 Attempt to Injure

- (a) A match penalty shall be assessed to any player who deliberately attempts to injure an opponent, Referee, Coach, or Trainer in any manner, and the circumstances shall be reported to the League Authorities for further action. A substitute for the penalized player shall be permitted at the end of the fifth minute.

Rule 604 Body-Checking and Boarding

- (a) A minor penalty or major penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to any player who intentionally body-checks an opponent, with or without the puck.
- (b) A minor penalty or major penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to any player who makes physical contact with an opponent after the whistle has been blown, if, in the opinion of the Referee, the player had sufficient time to avoid such contact.
- (c) A minor penalty or major penalty, at the discretion of the Referee based upon the degree of violence of the impact with the boards, shall be assessed to any player who fouls an opponent in such a manner that caused the player to be violently thrown into the boards.
- “Rolling” an opposing puck carrier along the boards where the player is attempting to go through too small an opening is not boarding.
- (d) When a player injures an opponent as the result of “boarding” or “body-checking,” the Referee shall have no alternative but to impose a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.

Rule 605 Broken Stick

- (a) A player or goalkeeper whose stick is broken may participate in the game provided the broken stick is dropped immediately. A minor penalty shall be assessed for an infraction of this rule.

A broken stick is one which, in the opinion of a Referee, is unfit for normal play.

- (b) A replacement stick may only be obtained from the players' bench or from a teammate on the playing surface. For a violation of this rule, a bench minor penalty shall be assessed to the team of the offending player, unless a penalty has been assessed under Rule 601 for throwing articles onto the playing surface.

The intent of this rule is to provide for the assessment of one penalty for one illegal stick replacement.

- (c) A goalkeeper may not go to the players' bench for a replacement stick during a stoppage of play, but must receive a replacement stick from a teammate.

For an infraction of this rule, a minor penalty shall be assessed to the offending goalkeeper.

Rule 606 Charging and Checking from Behind

- (a) A minor penalty or major penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to a player who runs, jumps into, or charges an opponent.

If more than two steps or strides are taken, it shall be considered "charging."

- (b) A minor penalty or major plus a game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to a player who body-checks an opponent from behind. A major plus a game misconduct penalty must be assessed to a player who intentionally body-checks an opponent from behind into the boards or goal frame.

- (c) A minor penalty or a major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player who body-checks or charges a goalkeeper while the goalkeeper is within the goal crease or privileged area.

A goalkeeper is not “fair game” just because the goalkeeper is outside the privileged area. A penalty for interference or charging must be assessed in every case where an opposing player makes unnecessary contact with a goalkeeper.

- (d) When a player injures an opponent as the result of “charging” or “checking from behind,” the Referee shall have no alternative but to impose a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.

Rule 607 Cross-Checking and Butt-Ending

- (a) A minor penalty or major penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to a player who cross-checks an opponent.
- (b) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player who butt-ends an opponent.
A minor penalty or a major plus a game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the referee, shall be assessed to a player who attempts to butt-end an opponent but makes no contact. An attempt to butt-end shall include all cases in which a butt-end gesture is made.
- (c) When a player injures an opponent as the result of “cross-checking” the Referee shall have no alternative but to impose a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.
- (d) Butt-ending may also be treated as a match penalty under attempt to injure or deliberate injury to an opponent.

Rule 608 Deliberate Injury to Opponents and Head-Butting

- (a) A match penalty shall be assessed to a player who deliberately injures an opponent, Team Official or Game Official in any manner, and the circumstances shall be reported to the League Authorities for further action.

- (b) A match penalty shall be assessed to a player who deliberately head-butts an opponent, Team Official or Game Official, and the circumstances shall be reported to the League Authorities for further action.

Rule 609 Delaying the Game

- (a) A minor penalty shall be imposed on a goalkeeper or player while in their defending zone, who shoots the puck directly (non-deflected) outside of the playing area, except that no penalty shall apply if the puck inadvertently leaves the playing area in a location that is not protected by glass or screen.

This penalty shall also be assessed when it occurs during a stoppage of play.

- (b) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player or goalkeeper who delays the game by deliberately displacing the goal post from its normal position. Play shall be stopped immediately when the goal post has been displaced, unless in the referee's opinion, the goal post can be replaced without effecting play, in which case play shall be allowed to continue. If at anytime it becomes apparent that replacing the goal post would affect play or a potential goal is imminent, play shall then be stopped immediately.

If a player or a goalkeeper of the defending team deliberately displaces the goal post or deliberately removes the helmet or face mask during the course of a breakaway by the attacking team, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. The penalty shot shall be taken by the player last in possession of the puck. If the goalkeeper is off the playing surface, thereby preventing an obvious and imminent goal, a goal shall be awarded in lieu of a penalty shot.

If a player or a goalkeeper of the defending team deliberately displaces the goal post and, in the opinion of the Referee, the puck would have entered the goal had it not been displaced, thereby preventing an obvious and imminent goal, a goal shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

- (c) A bench minor penalty shall be assessed to any team which, after a warning by the Referee, fails to place the correct number of players on the playing surface, thereby causing a delay in any manner.
- (d) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player who, after a warning by the Referee, fails to maintain a proper position during the face-off.
- (e) Turning the blade over and using the tip of the blade to hold the puck to the surface and stickhandle is prohibited. Turning the stick over and using the butt-end to hold the puck to the surface and stick handle is prohibited. For a violation of this rule, play should be stopped immediately and the ensuing face-off shall take place at the defending end zone face-off spot of the offending team.
- (f) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player other than the goalkeeper who picks the puck up off the surface with the hand during play.
- (g) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who delays the game in any other manner not covered under this rule.

Rule 610 Elbowing and Kneeing

- (a) A minor penalty or major penalty shall be assessed to any player who uses the elbow or knee in such a manner as to foul an opponent, in any way.
- (b) When a player injures an opponent as the result of "elbowing" or "kneeing," the Referee shall have no alternative but to impose a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.

Rule 611 Face-Offs

- (a) The puck shall be "faced-off" by the Referee dropping the puck onto the playing surface between the sticks of the two players facing-off. Players facing off shall stand facing their opponent's end of the rink with the blade of their sticks in contact with the nearest white area of the face-off spot and

clear of the red center area of the spot. The attacking team player shall be the first player to place the stick on the playing surface.

If a player facing-off fails to take the proper position immediately when directed by the Referee, the Referee may order a replacement for that face-off by a teammate on the playing surface.

No other player shall be allowed to enter the face-off circle or come within 15 feet of the players facing-off the puck, and they must stand on-side on all face-offs.

When a player, other than the player facing-off, fails to maintain the proper position, the center of the offending team shall be ejected from the face-off.

For a second violation of any of the provisions of this rule, a minor penalty shall be assessed to the player who commits the second violation.

No substitution of players shall be permitted until the face-off has been completed and play has been resumed except when any penalty is assessed during the face-off.

At the conclusion of the line change procedure, the Referee conducting the face-off shall blow his whistle. This will signal each team that they have no more than five seconds to line up for the ensuing face-off. Prior to the conclusion of five seconds, the Referee shall conduct a proper face-off. If any player other than the players facing off fails to maintain a proper position, the center of that team shall be ejected from the face-off.

Playing time shall commence from the instant the puck is faced-off and shall stop when the whistle is blown.

- (b) If, after a warning by the Referee, either of the players fails to take the proper position for the face-off promptly, the Referee shall be entitled to conduct the face-off regardless of such default.
- (c) During the conduct of any face-off, no player shall make any physical contact with an opponent except in the course of playing the puck after the face-off has been completed.

For a violation of this rule the Referee shall assess a minor penalty to the player whose action caused the physical contact.

“Conduct of any face-off” commences when the Referee designates the spot of the face-off and takes up a position to drop the puck.

- (d) When a stoppage of play occurs between the end zone face-off spots and the near end of the rink, the ensuing face-off shall take place at the end face-off spot on the side where the stoppage occurred, unless otherwise provided in these rules.
- (e) When a violation of a rule has been committed, or a stoppage of play has been caused by any player of the attacking team in the Attacking Zone, the ensuing face-off shall take place at the nearest high zone face-off spot.

This includes a stoppage of play caused by a player of the attacking team shooting the puck onto the back of the defending team’s goal without any intervening action by the defending team.
- (f) When a violation of a rule has been committed or a stoppage of play has been caused by players of both teams, or when the game is stopped for any reason not specifically covered in these official rules, the puck must be faced off 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.

When an infringement of the rules causes a stoppage of play and the offending team gains a territorial advantage, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted where the stoppage of play occurred.
- (g) When a goal is legally scored, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the center face-off spot.

Rule 612 Falling on Puck

- (a) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player, other than a goalkeeper, who deliberately falls on or gathers the puck into the body or who holds the puck against any part of the goal or the boards.

Any player who drops to block a shot shall not be penalized if the puck is shot under the player or becomes lodged in any clothing or equipment. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who uses the hands to obtain such stoppage.

- (b) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a goalkeeper who falls on or gathers the puck into the body, when the body is entirely outside the boundaries of the privileged area or who falls on or gathers the puck into the body, when the body is entirely outside the goal crease and the puck is behind the goal line.

A minor penalty shall be assessed to a goalkeeper who holds the puck against any part of the goal or the boards.

- (c) No defending player, except the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to fall on the puck, hold the puck, or gather a puck into the body or hands when the puck is within the goal crease.

For a violation of this rule, play shall be immediately stopped and a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. However, if the goalkeeper has been removed from the playing surface when the infraction occurs, a goal shall be awarded to the non-offending team in lieu of the penalty shot.

This rule shall be interpreted so that a penalty shot shall be awarded only when the puck is in the goal crease at the instant the infraction occurs. However, in cases where the puck is outside the goal crease, Rule 612 (a) may still be applied and a minor penalty assessed, even though no penalty shot is awarded.

Rule 613 Fighting

- (a) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who is involved in a fight on or off the playing surface before, during or after the game.
- (b) A minor or a double minor penalty shall be assessed to a player who, having been struck, retaliates with a punch or an attempted punch. However, at the discretion of the Referee, a major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed if the player continues the altercation.

The Referee is provided with very wide latitude in regard to the penalties which may be assessed under this rule. This is done to enable the Referee to differentiate between the obvious degrees of responsibility of the participants either for, starting the fight, or persisting in continuing the fight.

Referees are directed to employ every means provided by these rules to prevent "brawling."

- (c) Any player receiving a major plus a game misconduct penalty for fisticuffs shall automatically be suspended for the next regularly scheduled game of that team.
- (d) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goalkeeper who is the first to intervene in a fighting altercation already in progress. This penalty is in addition to any other penalty incurred in the same incident.
- (e) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who resists the Game Officials in the discharge of their duties during an altercation.
- (f) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a goalkeeper who leaves the immediate vicinity of the goal crease to participate in an altercation. This penalty shall be in addition to any penalty incurred during the altercation.

Rule 614 Goals and Assists

(Note) It is the responsibility of the Referee to award goals and assists, and such decision is final.

In cases of an obvious error in awarding a goal or an assist which has been announced, it should be corrected promptly. Changes shall not be made on the scoring summary after the Referee has signed the Official Score Sheet.

- (a) A goal shall be scored when the puck has been put between the goal posts by the stick of a player of the attacking team from in front, below the cross bar and entirely across the goal line, before playing time expires.

A “goal” shall be credited in the scoring records to a player who shall have propelled the puck into the opponent’s goal. Each “goal” shall count as one point in the player’s record.

An “assist” shall be credited to the player or players taking part in the play immediately preceding the goal, but no more than two assists can be credited on any goal.

Only one point can be credited to any one player for any one goal scored.

- (b) A goal shall be scored if the puck is put into the goal in any way by a player of the defending team. The player of the attacking team who last played the puck shall be credited with the goal, but no assist shall be awarded.
- (c) If an attacking player kicks the puck and the puck goes directly into the goal or is deflected into the goal by any player, including the goalkeeper, the goal shall not be allowed.
- (d) If the puck is deflected into the goal from the shot of an attacking player by striking any part of any player, the goal shall be allowed. The player who deflected the puck shall be credited with the goal. The goal shall not be allowed if the puck has been kicked, thrown, or otherwise deliberately directed by an attacking player into the goal by any means other than a stick.
- (e) If a goal is scored as a result of a puck being deflected directly into the goal off an Referee, the goal shall not be allowed.
- (f) Should a player legally propel the puck into the goal crease of the opposing team and the puck becomes loose in the goal crease and available to a player of the attacking team, any goal scored on the play shall be allowed.
- (g) Any goal scored, other than as covered by the Official Playing Rules, shall not be allowed.

Rule 615 Gross Misconduct

- (a) A Referee may suspend from the game any Player or Team Official guilty of gross misconduct of any kind by assessing a Match Penalty and must report the incident to

the League Authorities. Such gross misconduct includes, but is not limited to, using racial or ethnic slurs or obscene gestures, biting or spitting on another person, deliberately inflicting physical harm to a Game or Team Official, or behaving in any manner which is critically detrimental to the conduct of the game.

Rule 616 Handling Puck with Hands

- (a) If a player, other than a goalkeeper, closes the hand on the puck, play shall be stopped and a face-off shall follow; however, if the puck is dropped immediately, play shall be allowed to continue.
- If a goalkeeper holds the puck with the hand for more than three seconds, play shall be stopped and a face-off shall follow; however, after an initial warning by the Referee, a goalkeeper who holds the puck unnecessarily shall be assessed a minor penalty for delaying the game.
- (b) A goalkeeper shall not intentionally drop the puck into the pads or onto the goal net nor deliberately pile obstacles at the goal that, in the opinion of the Referee, would tend to prevent the scoring of a goal.
- The object of this rule is to keep the puck in play continuously and any action taken by the goalkeeper which causes an unnecessary stoppage shall be penalized.
- For a violation of this rule, a minor penalty shall be assessed to the offending player.
- (c) The goalkeeper may not leave a stick, part thereof or any other piece of equipment in front of his goal. If he does and if the puck hits the obstruction, thereby preventing an obvious and imminent goal while the goalkeeper is on the surface, but in the act of leaving the surface, or off the surface, the Referee shall stop play and award a goal to the non-offending team. See Rule 621 (f), Interference.
- (d) If a goalkeeper throws the puck forward toward the opponent's goal and it is first played by a teammate, play shall be stopped and the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the nearest end zone face-off spot of the offending team.

- (e) If a defending player, other than the goalkeeper, picks up the puck in the goal crease from the playing surface with the hands, or holds the puck while it is in the goal crease, the play shall be stopped immediately and a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

If the above situation occurs while the goalkeeper is off the playing surface, a goal shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

- (f) A player shall be permitted to stop or “bat” the puck in the air with the hand, or push it along the playing surface with the hand, and play shall not be stopped unless the puck has been directed to or from a teammate in the Attacking Zone, in which case the play shall be stopped and the puck faced off at the nearest high zone face-off spot to where the “hand pass” originated from.

No territorial advantage can be gained from a team illegally batting the puck with the hand.

- (g) A goal that is scored as the result of the puck being propelled by the hand of an attacking player and entered the goal either directly or after deflecting off any player including the goalkeeper, shall not be allowed.

Rule 617 High Sticks

- (a) The carrying of the stick above the normal height of the shoulders is prohibited. The Referee shall assess a minor or a major penalty to any player who strikes an opponent with a stick so carried.
- (b) For any adult league where face-masks are not required, any minor penalty assessed for “high sticking” under rule 617, an additional misconduct penalty shall be assessed.
- (c) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be imposed on any player who injures an opponent by the use of a high stick.
- (d) A goal scored by an attacking player who strikes the puck with the stick which is carried above the height of the goal frame cross bar, shall not be allowed.

- (e) Batting the puck above the normal height of the shoulders with the stick is prohibited and when it occurs play shall be stopped and the ensuing face-off shall take place at an end zone face-off spot of the offending player's team unless:
 1. The puck is batted to an opponent, in which case the play shall continue.
 2. A player of the defending team shall bat the puck into the player's own goal, in which case the goal shall be allowed.

Rule 618 Holding an Opponent

- (a) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player who holds an opponent with the hands, legs, feet, stick, or in any other way.
- (b) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to any player who grabs or holds the face mask of an opponent with the hand.
- (c) When a player injures an opponent as the result of "holding the face mask," the Referee shall assess a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.

Rule 619 Hooking

- (a) A minor or major penalty at the discretion of the referee, shall be assessed to a player who impedes or seeks to impede the progress of an opponent by hooking with the stick.
- (b) When a player injures an opponent as the result of "hooking," the Referee shall have no alternative but to impose a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.

Rule 620 Illegal Clearing (Icing)

No such rule.

Rule 621 Interference

- (a) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who interferes with or impedes the progress of an opponent who is not in possession of the puck, deliberately knocks a stick out of an opponent's hand, prevents a player who has dropped the stick or any other piece of equipment from regaining possession of it, or shoots a stick or other object toward an opponent.

The last player to touch the puck shall be considered to be the player in possession.

- (b) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player on the players' or the penalty bench who, by means of the stick or body, interferes with the movements of the puck or an opponent on the playing surface during the progress of play.
- (c) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who, by means of the stick or body, interferes with or impedes the movements of the goalkeeper while the goalkeeper is in the goal crease area.
- (d) Unless the puck is in the goal crease area, a player of the attacking team may not stand on the goal crease line or in the goal crease or hold the stick in the goal crease. If the puck should enter the goal while such a condition prevails, a goal shall not be allowed. For a violation of this rule, while the attacking team has possession of the puck and in the opinion of the referee has a scoring opportunity, play shall be stopped and the ensuing face-off shall take place at the nearest high zone face-off spot.
- This rule shall not apply when the goalkeeper is out of the goal crease.
- (e) If a player of the attacking team has been pushed or otherwise physically forced into the goal crease by an opposing player, and the puck should enter the goal while the player so interfered with is still in the goal crease, the goal shall be allowed.

- (f) When the goalkeeper has been removed from the playing surface and any member of the same team not legally on the playing surface interferes by means of the body, stick, or any other object with the movements of the puck or an opposing player, the Referee shall immediately award a goal to the non-offending team.

(Note) The attention of Referees is directed particularly to three types of offensive interference which shall be penalized.

1. When the defending team secures possession of the puck in its own zone and the other members of the same team run interference for the puck carrier by forming a protective screen against forecheckers.
2. When a player facing-off obstructs an opponent after the face-off when the opponent is not in possession of the puck.
3. When the puck carrier makes a drop pass and follows through so as to make body contact with an opposing player.

Rule 622 Interference by Spectators

- (a) In the event of a player being held or interfered with by a spectator, the Referee shall immediately stop play, unless the team of the player being interfered with is in possession of the puck at the time, in which case the play shall be allowed to be completed. 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.
- (b) Any player who physically interferes with a spectator shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty and the circumstances shall be reported to the League Authorities for further action.
- (c) In the event that objects are thrown onto the playing surface which interfere with the progress of the game, the Referee shall stop play and 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.

Rule 623 Kicking Player

- (a) A minor penalty or a major plus a game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to any player who kicks an opponent. If, however, at the discretion of the Referee, in the attempt to free the puck, a player unintentionally kicks or appears to kick another player, no penalty shall be assessed.
- (b) When a player injures an opponent as a result of the “kick” the Referee shall assess a major plus game misconduct penalty.
- (c) Kicking may also be treated as a match penalty under attempt to injure or deliberate injury to an opponent.

Rule 624 Kicking Puck

- (a) Kicking the puck shall be permitted in all zones; however, a goal that is scored as the result of the puck being kicked by an attacking player and entered the goal either directly or after deflecting off any player including the goalkeeper, shall not be allowed.

In order for a goal to be disallowed under this rule, an intent to redirect the puck must be present.

Rule 625 Leaving Player or Penalty Benches

- (a) No player may leave the players’ bench or penalty bench at any time during an altercation or for the purpose of starting an altercation. Substitutions made prior to the altercation shall not be penalized under this rule provided the players so substituting do not enter the altercation.

For violation of this rule, a major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be imposed on any player who leaves the players’ bench or penalty bench during an altercation.

- (b) Except at the end of each period, or on expiration of a penalty, no player may at any time leave the penalty bench.
- (c) A penalized player who leaves the penalty bench before his penalty has expired, whether play is in progress or not, shall incur an additional minor penalty after serving his unexpired penalty.
- (d) If a player leaves the penalty bench before his penalty is fully served, the Penalty Timekeeper shall note the time and verbally alert the Referee who will stop play when the offending player's team has or gains possession and control of the puck.
- (e) In the case of a player returning to the playing surface before his time has expired through an error of the Penalty Timekeeper, he is not to serve an additional penalty, but must serve his unexpired time.
- (f) If a player of an attacking team in possession of the puck shall be in such a position as to have no opposition between him and the opposing goalkeeper, and while in such a position he shall be interfered with by a player of the opposing team who shall have illegally entered the game, the Referee shall impose a penalty shot against the offending player's team.

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.
- (g) If a Team Official steps onto the playing surface after the start of a half and before that half is completed without the permission of the Referee, the Referee shall assess a bench minor penalty to the team of the offending Coach.
- (h) If a penalized player returns to the playing surface from the penalty bench before his penalty has expired by his own error or the error of the Penalty Timekeeper, any goal

scored by his own team while he is illegally on the playing surface shall be disallowed, but all penalties imposed on either team shall be served as regular penalties.

- (i) If a player shall illegally enter the game from his own players' bench or from the penalty bench, including through an error of the Penalty Timekeeper, any goal scored by his own team while he or his replacement is illegally on the playing surface shall be disallowed, but all penalties imposed against either team shall be served as regular penalties.
- (j) During any face-off, if a team starts with fewer players than entitled to, any player subsequently entering the game shall not be eligible to play any puck coming from the Defending Zone while the player is in the Attacking Zone unless the puck is first played by another player in the Attacking Zone.

For a violation of this rule play shall be stopped and a face-off shall be conducted at the point where the puck was last legally played.

Rule 626 Off-Sides

No such rule.

Rule 627 Passes

- (a) The puck may be passed by any player to any player of the same team within any of the two zones into which the rink is divided and may be passed forward by a player in the Defending Zone to a teammate over the center red line.

Rule 628 Puck Must be Kept in Motion

- (a) The puck must be kept in motion at all times. Play shall not be stopped because the puck is frozen along the boards by two or more opposing players, unless one of the players falls onto the puck. If one player freezes the puck along the boards or if a player deliberately falls on the puck a minor penalty shall be assessed for delaying the game.

However, the Referee may stop the play along the boards if allowing play to continue shall lead to unnecessary contact surrounding the puck.

Rule 629 Puck or Player Out of Bounds or Unplayable

- (a) When the puck goes outside the playing area or strikes any obstacles above the playing surface other than the boards, glass or wire, it shall be faced-off 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.

When the puck becomes unplayable due to a defect in the rink, it shall be faced-off 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. However, if the puck is shot out of the rink by the attacking team, the face-off shall be at the nearest high zone face-off spot.

- (b) When the puck becomes lodged in the netting on the outside of the goal or if it is frozen between opposing players, the Referee shall stop play and face-off the puck at the nearest face-off spot to where it was last played unless, in the opinion of the Referee the stoppage was caused by a player of the attacking team, in which case the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the nearest high zone face-off spot.

The defending team and/or the attacking team may play the puck off the net at any time. However, should the puck remain on the net for longer than three seconds, play shall be stopped and the face-off shall take place at the nearest end zone face-off spot, except when the stoppage is caused by a player of the attacking team, in which case the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the nearest high zone face-off spot.

If the puck comes to rest on top of the goal frame, the play shall be stopped immediately.

- (c) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a goalkeeper who deliberately drops the puck on the goal netting to cause a stoppage of play.

- (d) If the puck comes to rest on top of the boards surrounding the playing area, it shall be considered to be in play and may be played legally by the hand or stick.
- (e) In temporary rinks, all players on the playing surface must remain within the confines of the playing surface while the puck is in play. The play shall be stopped immediately whenever a player jumps over the boundary and out of bounds.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, a player intentionally jumps out of bounds for the purpose of obtaining a stoppage of play, a minor penalty for delaying the game shall be assessed.

Rule 630 Puck Out of Sight and Illegal Puck

- (a) Should a scramble take place, or a player accidentally falls on the puck and it is out of the sight of the Referee, play shall be stopped immediately. 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 otherwise provided for in the rules.
- (b) If, at any time during play, a puck other than the one officially in play shall appear on the playing surface, which interferes with the progress of the game, the play shall be stopped immediately.

Rule 631 Puck Striking Referee

- (a) Play shall not be stopped because the puck touches an Referee anywhere on the rink.

Rule 632 Refusing to Start Play

- (a) If, when both teams are on the playing surface, one team for any reason shall refuse to play when ordered to do so by the Referee, the Captain shall be warned and the team so refusing shall be allowed 15 seconds to begin the game or resume play. If, at the end of that time the team shall still refuse to play, the Referee shall assess a bench minor penalty to the offending team.

The Referee shall then warn the Captain a second time and allow 15 more seconds to begin the game or resume play. If at the end of that time the team shall still refuse to play, the Referee shall have no alternative than to suspend the game and assess a match penalty to the offending Team Official or designated Head Coach of that game. In the case where the offending team has no Team Official or designated Head Coach, the Captain shall be assessed a match penalty.

- (b) If a team, when ordered to do so by the Referee, fails to go onto the playing surface promptly, it shall be assessed a bench minor penalty.

If the team shall still refuse to go onto the playing surface and start play within five minutes, the Referee shall have no other alternative than to suspend the game and assess a match penalty to the offending Team's designated Head Coach of that game. The circumstances shall be reported to the League Authorities for further action.

Rule 633 Slashing

- (a) A minor or major penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to any player who slashes or attempts to slash an opponent with the stick.

Referees should penalize as "slashing" any player who swings the stick at an opponent (whether in or out of range) without actually making contact, or when a player on the pretext of playing the puck makes a wild swing at the puck with the intent to intimidate an opponent.

- (b) When a player injures an opponent as the result of "slashing," the Referee shall have no alternative but to impose a major plus a game misconduct penalty to the offending player.
- (c) Any player who swings the stick at another player during the course of any altercation shall be subject to a match penalty, and the circumstances shall be reported to the League Authorities for further action.

- (d) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who makes stick contact with the opposing goalkeeper, in the goal crease, who has covered or caught the puck, regardless of whether or not the Referee has stopped the play.

Rule 634 Spearing

- (a) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player who spears an opponent.
A minor penalty or a major plus a game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the referee, may be assessed to a player who attempts to spear an opponent but makes no contact. An attempt to spear shall include all cases in which a spearing gesture is made.
- (b) Spearing may also be treated as a match penalty under attempt to injure or deliberate injury to an opponent.

Rule 635 Start of Game and Periods

- (a) The game shall start at the time scheduled by a face-off at the center face-off spot and shall be promptly resumed for the second half in the same manner.
- (b) Each team shall defend the goal furthest from its players' bench to start the game. The teams shall change ends after the first half only.
- (c) During the pre-game warm-up and before each half, each team shall confine its activity to its own end of the rink. All players must wear full equipment during warm-ups and during the handshake following the game.
- (d) It is recommended that when both teams are to leave the playing surface through a common exit, the team whose players' bench closest to the exit leave first. The home team should enter the playing surface first.
- (e) When a team fails to appear on the playing surface without a proper justification, an Referee shall warn the team that it must enter the playing surface immediately. If the team fails to do so promptly, the Referee shall assess a bench minor penalty for Delaying the Game.

Rule 636 Throwing Stick

- (a) When any player or Team Official of the defending team deliberately throws or shoots a stick or any other object at the puck in the Defending Zone, the Referee shall allow the play to be completed and if a goal is not scored, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. 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, however, the goal is unattended and the attacking player has no defending player to pass and has a chance to score on an "open goal," and a stick or any other object is thrown or shot at the puck by a member of the defending team, thereby preventing an obvious and imminent goal, a goal shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

For the purpose of this rule, an open goal is defined as one from which a goalkeeper has been removed for an additional attacking player.

- (b) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player on the playing surface who throws or shoots a stick or any other object in the direction of the puck in any zone except when such act has been penalized by a penalty shot or awarded goal.

When a player discards a broken stick by tossing it to the side of the rink (and not over the boards) in such a way that shall not interfere with play or an opposing player, no penalty shall be assessed for doing so.

- (c) A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who throws a stick or any part thereof outside the playing area. A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who deliberately throws a stick or any part thereof outside the playing area at or in the direction of any spectators.

Rule 637 Time of Match and Time-Outs

- (a) A game shall consist of two 12-25 minute halves. Leagues have the jurisdiction to set the length of each half (running time or stop time) based on the amount of time designated to complete the game.

If running time is used and the score is within two goals, or tied, stop time shall be played during the last two minutes of play. If play is stopped prior to the two minute mark, the clock shall continue to run until the two minute mark arrives, at which time the clock shall be stopped until play has resumed.

A two-minute rest period shall be permitted between halves, after which the teams shall change ends.

- (b) The team scoring the greater number of goals during the two halves shall be declared the winner, and shall be credited with two points in the standings.
- (c) The Referee may order the game to be suspended anytime the playing area is deemed to be in an unsafe condition. The game shall remain suspended until such condition is corrected. Referees are particularly cautioned about wet playing surfaces and should take the overly-cautious approach when determining whether or not playing conditions are safe.

(Note) Leagues shall have the authority to determine their own policies regarding weather related delays or cancellations.

If any unusual delay occurs during the first half, the Referee may order the intermission to take place immediately and the balance of the half shall be completed upon the resumption of play with the teams defending the same goals, after which the teams shall change ends and resume play of the second half without delay.

- (d) Each team shall be permitted to take one time-out of a one minute duration which must be taken during a stoppage of play. If running time is played, the clock shall be stopped during a time out. The clock shall be restarted upon the conducting of the ensuing face-off.

During a time-out, all players on the playing surface may proceed to their respective players' bench. Any penalized player must remain in the penalty bench during a time-out.

A time-out may not be used to warm-up a goalkeeper.

Rule 638 Tied Games

- (a) If, at the end of two halves, the score is tied, the game shall be declared a tie. No overtime period shall be played unless it is necessary to determine a winner.
- (b) In Tournament and Play-Off games in which it is necessary to determine a winner for advancement, the following shall take place:
1. A two minute rest period shall follow.
 2. The teams shall not change ends.
 3. An overtime period shall be played of regulation length.
 4. The game shall terminate upon the scoring of a goal and the team scoring the goal shall be declared the winner.
 5. Steps 1-4 shall be repeated until a winner is declared.
- (c) Any overtime period shall be considered to be a part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in force.

Rule 639 Tripping

- (a) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to any player who places the stick, leg, knee, foot, arm, hand, or elbow in such a manner that it causes an opponent to trip or fall.
- If, in the opinion of the Referee, a player is unquestionably poke-checking the puck and obtains possession of it, thereby tripping the opposing player, no penalty shall be assessed.

Accidental trips that occur simultaneously with the whistle shall not be penalized.

Any player who deliberately dives onto the playing surface, except to block a shot, contacts an opponent and causes the player to trip or fall, shall be assessed a minor penalty.

- (b) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be imposed on any player who injures an opponent as a result of a foul committed by tripping.
- (c) When a player, in possession and control of the puck in the Attacking Zone and having no opponent to pass other than the goalkeeper, is tripped or otherwise fouled directly or diagonally from behind, thus preventing a reasonable scoring opportunity, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. The Referee shall not stop play until the attacking team has lost possession and control of the puck to the defending team.

The intent of this rule is to restore a reasonable scoring opportunity which has been lost by reason of a foul from behind when the foul is committed on the opponent's side of the center red line.

"Possession and control" of the puck means the act of propelling the puck with a stick. If, while it is being propelled, the puck is touched by another player, hits the goal or goes free, the player shall no longer be considered to be "in possession and control" of the puck.

- (d) If, when the opposing goalkeeper has been removed from the playing surface, a player in possession and control of the puck is tripped or otherwise fouled with no opposing player to pass, thus preventing a reasonable scoring opportunity, the Referee shall immediately stop play and award a goal to the non-offending team.

Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

- (a) At the discretion of the Referee, a minor or double minor penalty may be assessed to any player who uses unnecessary roughness against an opponent.

- (b) A minor or double minor penalty for unnecessary roughness must be assessed every time an opposing player makes unnecessary physical contact with the player in possession of the puck.

It is not the intent to penalize incidental contact between two opposing players who are actively in pursuit of the puck. The act of riding an opponent off the puck shall not be considered to be roughing. However, this does not allow the player without the puck to throw their body into the opponent to achieve possession.