



Ice Hockey Australia

2022-2023 Rules Emphasis and Officiating Standards



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1. Introduction

1.1. Fair Play and Respect

It is imperative that all participants and spectators have respect for all players, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators, and the sport of hockey. Hockey is a game demanding high levels of concentration and skill. Taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct directed at opponents or officials will not be tolerated.

Ice Hockey Australia (IHA) does not tolerate any abusive behaviour, including racial and other derogatory slurs directed at players, coaches, and officials. All participants are reminded that any language that is hateful or discriminatory in nature will be penalised appropriately.

Abuse of officials is a continuing problem at all levels of play, and in all youth sports, and as a result the retention of officials has become a significant issue that affects the quality and number of available officials. IHA has in place a Zero Tolerance Policy towards unsportsmanlike behaviour. Officials are required to strictly enforce all actions that are deemed to be abusive in nature to help change the culture of what is deemed to be acceptable behaviour when it comes to respect for officials.

1.2. Principles of Contact in Ice Hockey Australia Events

Intimidation tactics have no place in ice hockey. These tactics include any contact to the head of the opponent, checking from behind and late body checks to an opponent who is no longer in control of the puck. Officials are instructed to enforce these rules to a high standard and assess the appropriate penalty when these actions occur. In addition, officials are expected to strictly enforce any avoidable contact occurring after the whistle – including during scrum situations around the goal.

The principles of enforcing penalties when body checking takes place include the following:

- The purpose of a body check is to gain possession of the puck.
- Proper body checking technique starts with stick on puck, therefore the stick blade of the player delivering the check must be below the knees.
- Only the trunk (hips to shoulders) of the body shall be used to deliver a body check.
- The check must be delivered to the trunk (hips to shoulders) and directly from in front or the side of the opponent.
- The onus is on the player delivering the check to avoid placing a vulnerable or defenceless opponent in danger of potential injury.

1.2.1. Non-Body Checking Competitions (13U, AWIHL, Women's, OiHAN)

In Non-Body Checking competitions, legal competitive contact shall be allowed, and players can compete using proper body position skills. However, any deliberate body check shall be penalised accordingly.

1.2.2. Modified Body Checking Competition (15U)

The primary focus of the check shall be to gain possession of the puck and officials should strictly penalise any illegal actions such as boarding, charging, cross checking, and a late body check to a player who is no longer in control of the puck.

No check delivered by a player to an opponent travelling in opposite directions will be considered legal and must be penalised (excluding contact made in the act of a poke/stick check). A defender travelling backwards while defending against an attacking player may legally arrest their momentum by 'standing up an opponent' and use their torso to contact the attacking player to prevent that player's progress. Should the defending player arrest their momentum and take a step forward into the attacking player, a penalty must be assessed.

1.2.3. Body Checking Competitions (18U, Men's, AIHL)

The primary focus of the check shall be to gain possession of the puck and officials should strictly penalise any illegal actions such as boarding, charging, cross checking, and a late body check to a player who is no longer in control of the puck.

2. IIHF Rule Interpretations

2.1. Rule 9 Uniforms

Rule 9.7 Facial Protection has been modified to "All Players must wear, as a minimum, a visor as a facial protection.", subject to any equipment rules associated with specific age category players.

2.2. Rule 27 Goalkeeper's Penalties

Rule 27.8 Goalkeeper Restricted Area cannot be enforced in IHA events unless all rinks participating in the event have a trapezoidal area marked on the ice surface, known as the "Goalkeeper Restricted Area".

2.3. Rule 37 Video Review

Rule 37 Video Review will not apply in IHA events.

2.4. Rule 38 Coach's Challenge

Rule 38 Coach's Challenge will not apply in IHA events.

2.5. Rule 41 Boarding

A player cannot commit any infraction, including body checking, for the purpose of intimidation or punishment that causes their opponent to go dangerously into the boards. Examples include:

- accelerating through the check to a player who is in a vulnerable or defenceless position off the boards resulting in the opponent going dangerously into the boards.
- driving an opponent excessively into the boards with no intent to gain possession of the puck.
- any other infraction (tripping, cross-checking, charging etc.) that causes the opponent to go dangerously and excessively into the boards.

2.6. Rule 42 Charging

2.6.1. Modified Body Checking Competitions (15U)

A penalty for Charging must be assessed in the following scenarios:

- A player delivers a body check to an opponent travelling in the opposite direction.
- A defending player travelling backwards arrests their momentum and takes a step forward into an attacking player

2.7. Rule 51 Roughing

Co-incident minors are not an effective game management tool to deter scrums and player altercations. During scrums and player altercations, officials must look for instigating or aggressor actions, and assess a differentiating penalty to act as a deterrent.

2.8. Rule 54 Holding

A player cannot wrap their arms around an opponent or use a free hand to clutch, grab or hold the stick, jersey, or body on the opponent in a manner that impedes their progress. Examples include:

- wrapping one or both arms around the opponent along the boards in a manner that pins them against the boards and prevents them from playing the puck or skating.
- grabbing the opponent's body, stick or sweater with one or both hands.
- using a free arm/hand to restrain or impede the opponent's progress.

2.9. Rule 55 Hooking

A player cannot use their stick against an opponent's body (puck carrier or non-puck carrier) to gain a positional advantage. Examples include:

- using the stick to tug or pull on the body, arms or hands of the opponent which causes the space between the players to diminish.
- placing the stick in front of the opponent's body and locking on – impeding the opponent's progress or causing a loss of balance.
- placing the stick on the hand/arm that takes away the ability for the opponent to pass or shoot the puck with a normal amount of force.



2.10. Rule 61 Slashing

The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck. Any stick contact, because of a slashing motion, to the hands, arms or body of the opponent will be strictly penalised. In addition, hard slashes to the upper portion of the stick (just below the hands) of an opponent, with no attempt to legally play the puck, shall also be penalised.

2.11. Rule 76 Face-Offs

The standard for a face off is “fast and fair”.

2.12. Rule 201 Men’s Junior Hockey – Specific Playing Rules

Rule 201 Men’s Junior Hockey – Specific Playing Rules applies to 13U and 15U in addition to 18U and AJIHL.

2.13. Rule 202 Facial Protection – Men’s Junior Hockey “Under 18” – Age Category

Rule 202 Facial Protection – Men’s Junior Hockey “Under 18” – Age Category applies to 13U and 15U.

2.14. Rule 202.6 Neck- And Throat Protectors – Men’s Junior Hockey “Under 18” – Age Category

Rule 202.6 Neck- And Throat Protectors – Men’s Junior Hockey “Under 18” – Age Category applies to 13U and 15U.

2.15. Rule 202.8 Helmet / Ear-Protection – Men’s Junior Hockey “Under 18” – Age Category

Rule 202.8 Helmet / Ear-Protection – Men’s Junior Hockey “Under 18” – Age Category applies to 13U and 15U.

3. Specific Equipment Rules Summary

3.1. 13U and 15U Age Category

No older than thirteen (13) years of age (13U), and no older than fifteen (15) years of age (15U), on December 31:

- Must wear full-face protection (full-visor or cage).
- Must wear certified Neck and Throat Protection.
- Must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.



3.2. 18U Age Category

Must be eligible to compete as a male athlete of the male gender, no younger than fifteen (15) years of age, and no older than eighteen (18) years of age, on December 31:

- Must wear full-face protection (full-visor or cage).
- Must wear certified Neck and Throat Protection.
- Must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.

3.3. 20U Age Category

Must be eligible to compete as a male athlete of the male gender, with age restrictions as per the AIJHL regulations:

- Players 18 and younger must wear full-face protection (full-visor or cage).
- Players 19 or older must wear at least a visor.
- All Players who wear a visor must wear a Mouth Guard.
- Must wear certified Neck and Throat Protection.
- Must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.

3.4. Men's Senior

Male players 21 years and over (no younger than twenty-one (21) years of age on December 31):

- Must wear at least a visor.

3.5. Women's Under 18 and Under-aged Category

Must be eligible to compete as a female athlete and be no younger than fifteen (15) years of age, and no older than eighteen (18) years of age, by December 31:

- Must wear full-face protection (full-visor or cage).
- Must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.
- Must wear certified Neck and Throat Protection.

3.6. Women's Senior

Must be eligible to compete as a female athlete and be at least eighteen (18) years old by December 31. Players who do not meet the minimum age requirements, but who will have their 16th or 17th birthday, may participate:

- Must wear full-face protection (full-visor or cage).
- Must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.

4. Penalty Summary

Rule	Infraction	Minor	Bench Minor	Double Minor	Misconduct	Major	Major and Automatic Game Misconduct	Game Misconduct	Match Penalty	Penalty Shot	Awarded Goal	Disallowed Goal
39	Abuse of Officials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
40	Physical Abuse of Officials							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
41	Boarding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
42	Charging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
34	Checking from Behind						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
44	Clipping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
45	Elbowing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
47	Head-Butting			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
48	Illegal Check to the Head or Neck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
49	Kicking								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
50	Kneeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
52	Slew-Footing								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
53	Throwing Equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
54	Holding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
55	Hooking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
56	Interference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
57	Tripping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
58	Butt-Ending			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
59	Cross-Checking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
60	High-Sticking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
61	Slashing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
62	Spearing			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
63	Delaying the Game	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
64	Diving / Embellishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
65	Equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
67	Handling Puck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
68	Illegal Substitution		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
69	Interference on the Goalkeeper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
70	Leaving the Bench		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
73	Refusing to Start Play		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				



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Rule	Infraction	Minor	Bench Minor	Double Minor	Misconduct	Major	Major and Automatic Game Misconduct	Game Misconduct	Match Penalty	Penalty Shot	Awarded Goal	Disallowed Goal
74	Too Many Players on the Ice		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
75	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
76	Face-Offs		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
78	Goals											<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
80	High-Sticking the Puck											<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
82	Line Change		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
83	Off-side											<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
85	Puck Out of Bounds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
86	Start of Game and Periods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
101	Illegal Hit in Women's Hockey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Appendix 1 – Definitions (extracted from IIHF Official Rule Book)

Body Checking: A legal body check is one in which a Player checks an opponent who is in possession of the puck, by using their hip or body from the front, diagonally from the front or straight from the side. Legitimate body checking must be done for the purpose of separating the opponent from the puck, only with the trunk of the body (hips and shoulders) and must be above the opponent's knees and at or below the shoulders.

Competitive Contact: Body contact between two or more Players who are in the immediate vicinity of the puck and who are trying to gain possession of the puck. These Skaters are reasonably allowed to push and lean into each other provided that possession of the puck remains the sole object of the contact.

Control of the Puck: The act of propelling the puck with the stick, hand or feet. Control of the puck is not lost when contact with the puck is made by an opponent, the Boards or the net, provided the Player in control of the puck continues propelling the puck. Control means extended possession of the puck.

Late Hit: A late hit constitutes reckless endangerment of a Player who no longer has control or possession of the puck. Any Player who is in the process of abandoning or losing control or possession of the puck is subject to a bodycheck so long as the aggressor is in the immediate vicinity of the Player with the puck. If the aggressor moves to the Player and makes forceful contact, the aggressor risks turning a body check into a late hit by virtue of the vulnerable position of the opponent and the degree of force of the hit.

Possession of the Puck: The last Player to physically touch the puck with their stick or body shall be considered in possession of the puck. A Player can have possession of the puck without control, but they cannot have control of the puck without possession.

Vulnerable Position: A Skater is considered to be in a vulnerable position when they are no longer in control or possession of the puck, and they are either not aware of an impending hit or they are not prepared for the hit. A bodycheck to an opponent who is vulnerable is automatically considered reckless even if that bodycheck would be considered legal to a non-vulnerable opponent.