



HOCKEY CANADA

INFORMATION BULLETIN D'INFORMATION

Bulletin No.: A1023

To: Referees-in-Chief
Branch Presidents
Directors
Officers
Branch Executive Directors
Life Members

Date: January 12, 2010

File:

From: Marcel Redekop, Chair, Officiating Committee

SUBJECT: HOCKEY CANADA OFFICIATING STANDARDS AT INTER-BRANCH PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In order to clarify and simplify some of the expectations of Hockey Canada in regards to officiating issues in Inter-Branch playoffs and at National Championships, it is expected that all teams involved in national championship play downs understand that the Hockey Canada Rulebook will be used for all Inter-Branch playoffs and National Championships.

During the course of a game, an official must use judgment in determining many infractions. However, there are numerous areas of the Rulebook which call for certain actions or rules to be followed that are not necessarily judgment calls, or critical to the playing of the game, but nonetheless are important to ensure a game is played in a "fair" and "safe" manner. By teams observing strict adherence to these "fringe" rules, the officials and teams can focus on the "playing of the game" rather than fringe issues that make up the Rulebook.

To that end, teams will be asked to abide by the following Hockey Canada rules, with the onus on the coaches to enforce these areas with their team, and that by abiding by these rules, the officials assigned to these games, will not have to penalize such infractions. However, should a team fail to abide by these rules, officials are required to assess the appropriate penalties as outlined in the Rulebook. This information is not new, and must be enforced at the Branch level throughout the season as well. These standards should be re-emphasized as playoffs approach.

The issues are:

1. Wearing of CSA approved helmets with chin straps securely fastened – as per rule below. This includes adherence during pre-game warm-ups. Hockey Canada directive indicates the maximum is 1" of distance between the strap and the chin when the helmet is worn properly.

Rule 3.6. Protective Equipment

(b) While on the ice, including pre-game warm-ups, all players, including goaltenders, shall wear a CSA approved hockey helmet, to which a CSA approved facial protector must be securely attached and not altered in any way. Any alteration to a CSA approved helmet or facial protector automatically destroys the certification. The chin straps of the helmet shall be securely fastened under the chin. The straps of the facial protector, when designed to allow such straps, shall also be securely fastened to the hockey helmet.

2. Removal of helmets to fight – as per rule below

Rule 3.6. Protective Equipment

(c) If a player deliberately removes his helmet to fight or to challenge an opponent to fight he will be assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty.

3. Proper wearing of Visors – as per rule below

Rule 3.6. Protective Equipment

(d) Where a player wears a helmet and/or facial protector in an offset position during play, play shall be stopped immediately and a warning issued to the team and any subsequent infraction by the same team would incur a Misconduct penalty will be assessed to the player.

The proper wearing of a visor: The visor shall extend down to cover the eyes and the lower edge of the nose in frontal and lateral projections.

4. Players not returning to players bench when fight occurs – as per rule below

Rule 6.7. Fighting and Roughing

a) A Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty shall be assessed any player who fights.

(5) When a fight occurs, all other players except the goaltender shall immediately retire to the front of their respective benches or to a neutral zone (should the fight occur in front of a players' bench) designated by the Referee and remain there until the Referee calls them back to resume play. The goaltenders must stay in their goal creases or proceed to a neutral zone designated by the Referee. Any player(s) refusing to do so after being instructed by the Referee shall be assessed a Misconduct penalty, plus

any other penalty she (they) may incur.

5. After whistle infractions

Officials will be encouraged to assess a DIFFERENTIAL in penalties - i.e. extra "2" minutes to the player who either starts the problem or enters into the fray to cause the problem after the whistle has been blown to stop play.

6. Protection of the Goaltender – as per rule below

Rule 7.3. Interference/Protection of the Goaltender

(b) A Minor penalty for interference with the goaltender shall be imposed on a player who, by means of his stick or his body, interferes with or impedes the movements of the goaltender by actual physical contact. The penalty should be announced as "Interference with the goaltender".

Note: A goaltender is not "fair game" just because he is outside the goal crease. A penalty for interference (Minor or, at the discretion of the Referee, a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty) or charging (Minor or, at the discretion of the Referee, Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty) shall be called where an opposing player makes unnecessary contact with the goaltender. Likewise, Referees should be alert to penalize goaltenders for tripping, slashing, or spearing in the vicinity of the goal.

A Minor penalty shall be assessed to an attacking player, who while his team has possession of the puck, is interfered with by a defending player, but fails to attempt to avoid making contact with the goaltender. In addition, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed.

A Minor penalty shall be imposed on an attacking player, not in possession of the puck, who is tripped or caused to fall and fails to attempt to avoid contact with the goaltender whether he is in or out of his crease.

A Minor penalty shall be imposed on any attacking player, who makes deliberate contact with a goaltender whether in or out of the goal crease. At the discretion of the Referee a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty may be imposed under Rule 6.3 (b) - Charging or Rule 8.1 (c) - Cross-checking.

Officials will be encouraged to assess a DIFFERENTIAL in penalties in the above situations to ensure the goaltender is protected, where possible.

7. Start of Period Procedure – as per rule below

Rule 10.15. Start of Game and Periods

(d) At the beginning of each period, only the players taking part in the actual face-off shall be allowed on the ice. All other players not taking part in the face-off shall go directly to their benches. For an infraction of this rule, a Bench Minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed the offending team.

This applies to the start of the second and third periods, and overtime. Hockey Canada permits all players to skate prior to the start of the game.

8. End of Period Procedure – as per rule below

Rule 10.15.Start of Game and Periods

- (e) At the end of each period, all players must remain on their respective players' or penalty bench until directed off by the Referee. The Visiting Team shall leave the ice first, unless otherwise directed by the Referee. Failure to comply shall result in a Bench Minor penalty. Any unusual circumstances shall be reported to the President.

9. Zippered / Torn Pants

Please note that pants with zippers on the inseam are designed to be worn with Zippers properly closed. Players who come onto the ice with zippers undone should immediately sent off the ice, are not to return until they can comply with this directive. Players with ripped pants which expose equipment should also be sent off the ice and are not able to return until corrected.(Bulletin 03/40)

10. Rules Emphasis and Standard of Play

- 2009/10 Rules Emphasis – Checking to the Head
- RESTRAINING FOULS

Hooking / Tripping
Holding / Interference

These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement.

Hooking/Tripping examples include;

- Tugs or hooks on the body or arms that has in anyway impeded the player.
- Locking on
- Hooks causing loss of balance, puck control and position or advantage of position.
- Tripping of a player will be penalized with a strict enforcement.
- The use of the stick between a player's legs (can-opener/corkscrew) for impeding progress, loss of balance or tripping is to be penalized.

Holding / Interference examples include;

- The use of the free arm/hand to clutch, grab, hold, hold the stick, pin or impede a player is to be penalized.
- Interference of a player will be penalized with a strict enforcement.
- The use of a "pick" or a "block" is no longer permitted.

- STICK FOULS

Cross-Checking
Slashing

The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck.

Sticks are not to be used to cross-check or slash opponents, these fouls will be penalized with a strict enforcement.

Cross-Checking/Slashing examples include;

- The use of a stick to slash an opponent's body or hands.
- Cross-checking an opponent will be penalized with a strict enforcement including fouls in front of the net.

Note that some Championships may have other rules that apply specifically to that particular championship (e.g. Royal Bank Cup – no crossing of center line in warm-ups) and these will be addressed specifically at pre-tournament meetings.

Intermission lengths are to be determined by the Host Committee, in conjunction with the Host Branch.

Any questions or concerns on the above should be addressed to your Branch Referee-in-Chief or the tournament Referee-in-Chief as appropriate, or to Todd Anderson, Manager, Officiating, Hockey Canada. Todd can be reached at (403) 777 – 4587 or via email at tanderson@hockeycanada.ca.

Yours truly,

Marcel Redekop
Chair, Officiating Policy Committee