

2009/10 IIHF RULE EMPHASIS BULLETIN

IIHF OFFICIATING STANDARDS

The IIHF Rule Emphasis Bulletin is prepared annually and circulated to all member National Associations, Referees-in-Chief, IIHF Referee Supervisors, IIHF Instructors plus IIHF Council members and Staff to make all parties aware of the Officiating Standard and the emphasis on certain rules for the upcoming season in IIHF Championship Competitions. This season is particularly interesting as our events will also include the 2010 Olympic Winter Games Men's and Women's Tournaments.

Please be aware that there are no changes in the IIHF Officiating Guidelines or the IIHF policy concerning IIHF Officiating Standards.

This bulletin is based on research from all officiating calls in all of our competitions operated last season along with reports from IIHF Referee Supervisors and Directorate Chairmen assigned to these IIHF competitions. Maintaining and controlling the standard at which officiating operates allows the IIHF and its member national associations and their leagues to bring the game of ice hockey to a level where the skills of the players: goalkeepers, defensemen and forwards determine the outcomes of games plus promotes a strong image of our sport for the fans, media, spectators and the promotion of our sport for more people to participate.

The IIHF maintains that the IIHF Officiating Standard is not a 'Zero tolerance' policy in the assessment of the penalties. This is impossible to achieve. The IIHF goal is to strive for consistent implementation of the rules within the IIHF Rule Book in order to eliminate restraining fouls such as hooking, holding and interference plus dangerous types of actions such as checking to the head and neck area, checking from behind and low hits such as kneeling, clipping or tripping.

The rules that are applied to the game are intended to create a safe environment where players can apply their skills and enjoy the freedom to compete 'on a level playing surface' and follow the IIHF principle of 'Fair Play & Respect'.

The main principles of penalty assessment (OBI) shall be maintained:

- **O** Obvious; It is clear that the infraction has been committed
- **B** Benefit; One Team benefits from the infraction
- **I** Injury; An Injury results or could result from the infraction

The pages that follow are the major areas of Rule Emphasis for the 2009/10 season. Please ensure that your officiating staffs, leagues, coaches and players are aware that special emphasis will be placed on these rules and their application in all of our events in 2009/10 for the continued growth, development and interest of our sport.

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RULE EMPHASIS

Hooking

The stick should be used to propel, shoot or pass the puck or to check an opponent's stick that has control of the puck.

A player cannot use his stick against his opponent's body (puck carrier or not puck carrier) for the purpose:

- To gain positional or distance advantage or to slow him down by:
 - *Placing the blade or shaft of his stick in front of or on the side of the puck carrier's body and making no attempt to play the puck*
 - *Extending his stick on the opponent's body in front or aside to force the opponent to go around him skating backwards or skating forwards*
 - *Using the stick on the opponent's body from either beside or from behind to get an advantage while on a one-on-one dash for a loose puck by either player*
- To restrain or impede the progress of the opposing player
- To reduce the opponent's ability to pass or shoot the puck by placing the stick ("Poking", "Tagging" or "Jabbing") on the hands or arms of the puck carrier
- To reduce his playing skills by hooking the hands of the opposing player

Such actions shall be penalized as hooking.

Holding

A player is not allowed:

- To grab or hold the opponent with the free arm or hands or even with the stick hand that restrain or impede the opponent's movement or reduce his ability to advance
- To hold his opponent at the boards ("pin" or "pinning") with his body, arms, stick or knee restraining his movement and making no attempt to play the puck.
- To grab the opponent's jersey

The illegal tactics shall be penalized as holding.

A player may push away an opponent with the hand provided there is no grabbing or holding action.

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Interference

A player is entitled to the ice he occupies as long as he is able to maintain his own skating speed and body positioning between the opponent and the loose puck.

When a player deflects the pass of a teammate, he can be hit or checked immediately by an opposing player.

A player not in control or in possession of the puck may not be hit or checked by an opposing player using his body, stick or hand.

Where two players are attempting to gain possession of or skating to a loose puck and contact each other it is a part of the game and no penalty should be call for interference provided the one player does not attempt to take out the opponent.

In many situations the action may occur away from the area of the puck that prevents a player from attempting to reach a loose puck or position himself where he can receive a pass from a teammate or impedes his progress. Special attention will be given to the situations where the movement of a player trying to reach a puck is blocked or interfered by an opponent immediately after a faceoff

In Front of the Net

The player is not allowed to:

- Knock down the opponent when the opponent is not in control of the puck
- Grab the jersey and pull down the opposing player
- Place the stick between the legs of an opponent, “twisting” him or impeding the opponent’s movement
- Cross Check the opponent
- Slash the opponent’s legs (“Chop”)

The player is allowed to:

- Use his body strength to move an opposing player
- Use the shaft of the stick to move or direct an opposing player but not in a cross-checking action.

The illegal tactics could be classified as interference, cross-checking, hooking, holding, tripping or slashing, depending on the type of action and shall be penalized accordingly.

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Dangerous Actions

There are no changes in the IIHF Officiating Guidelines and IIHF policy concerning dangerous types of actions such as:

- Checking to the head and neck area
- Checking from behind
- Low hits

IIHF Game Officials will apply the rules in the IIHF Rule Book and penalize all of these actions listed above.

Also, for clarification, if the player, in the process of checking his opponent drives his shoulder, hand, forearm or hands with the stick in an upwards action in order to make a check to the head or neck area, this action should be classified as CHECKING TO THE HEAD AND NECK AREA and penalized accordingly.

Diving (Embellishment)

Any player who shall embellish any action during the normal course of the game shall be assessed a penalty for Diving. IIHF Game Officials will be watchful for such illegal actions when the play is intense and 'drawing' a penalty would be an advantage to the 'Diving' player's team.

Tripping Actions (Slew-footing)

The IIHF game officials will be instructed to penalize action of a player who uses his leg or foot to knock or kick an opponent's feet from under him, or pushes an opponent's upper body backward with an arm or elbow, and at the same time with a forward motion of his leg, knocks or kicks the opponent's feet from under him. ("Slew-footing")

Such actions will be classified as tripping and IIHF Game Officials according to IIHF Rule Book Rule 539 will penalize such actions.

Protection of the Goalkeeper

The guideline concerns the protection of the goalkeeper as well as allowing and disallowing goals are covered by Rule 470, 471 and 595 of 2006 IIHF Rule Book.

In addition to this IIHF game officials will be instructed to penalize illegal actions of the attacking players such as:

- Jabbing or slashing the goalkeeper's glove by an opponent after the Goalkeeper has completely covered the puck
- Knocking the goalkeeper's stick out of his hands by an opponent

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- Skating through the goalkeeper crease by an opponent as a 'short-cut' and contact is made with the goalkeeper while the Goalkeeper is in the crease area

Such actions will be penalized as slashing or interference.

A Minor Penalty for interference (Rule 534) shall be applied to a situation when an attacking player positions himself facing the opposition goalkeeper and engages in actions such as waving his arms or stick in front of the goalkeeper's face, for the purpose of interfering and/or distracting the goalkeeper as opposed to positioning himself to try to make a play. Such attacking player may be inside or outside the goal crease.

In situations where there is contact with the Goalkeeper by opponents, penalties shall be assessed for Goalkeeper Interference. Such situations include:

- Independent contact by a player (player not pushed or hit by an opponent) with the opposing Goalkeeper while the Goalkeeper is in his crease
- Obstructing the path or interfering with the Goalkeeper by an opponent when the Goalkeeper is skating to his Player's Bench for an extra attacker.

Incidental Contact with the Goalkeeper by an Opponent

In situations where the Goalkeeper is out of the crease area and contact with the Goalkeeper is made by an opponent where there has been an attempt by the opponent to avoid the goalkeeper or the opponent has not been in a position to see the goalkeeper, no penalty shall be assessed by such incidental contact.

In the situation where a Goalkeeper and an opponent are racing to reach a loose puck and the Goalkeeper and the opponent collide as they reach the loose puck, no penalty shall be assessed to the opposing player if the opponent is deemed to be playing the loose puck .

Abuse of Officials

Based on the reports received from IIHF Championships and competitions and in accordance with Rule 510 Supplementary Discipline, the IIHF Disciplinary Committee has the right to implement additional disciplinary sanctions to the players, coaches, team officials who have verbally and physically abused IIHF game officials when officiating at IIHF Championships and events.

On some of these incidents the IIHF received reports from the Referees, the Linesmen and the IIHF Referee Supervisors. From these reports the IIHF has acted and disciplinary actions were imposed on the perpetrators. For the upcoming season the IIHF will once more focus the attention of all IIHF Game Officials, IIHF Referee Supervisors, IIHF Game Supervisors and IIHF Directorate Chairmen to strictly follow the guidelines concerning the protection of IIHF Game Official described in the Rule 550 and 551 of the 2006 IIHF Rule Book.