

# 2007 / 2008 IIHF RULE EMPHASIS BULLETIN



## IIHF OFFICIATING STANDARDS

Since the 2005/2006 season the IIHF has continuously evaluated, updated and implemented in all IIHF Championships and competitions an Officiating Standard, which has been established by IIHF with the aim to reduce the restraining and dangerous fouls in the game of ice hockey.

IIHF game officials implementing this Officiating Standard in IIHF Championships and competitions help the IIHF to bring the game of ice hockey to a level where the skills of the players: goalkeepers, defenders and forwards determine the winner and create memorable performance on the ice for the spectators.

Games played under this standard show that players, coaches and game officials have accepted and implemented these standards and have allowed the IIHF to show a more exciting sport for the viewing audience.

The IIHF continuously advocate that the standard does not mean the implementation of the principle of “Zero tolerance” 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, 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 atmosphere where players can have the opportunity to use their skills and enjoy the opportunity to compete using legal methods and follow the principle of “Fair Play & Respect”.

Please be advised that there are no changes in the IIHF Officiating Guidelines nor the IIHF policy concerning IIHF Officiating Standards as this is not a “one season” action but rather, a long term IIHF strategy for eliminating our sport of these unwanted fouls. For this reason there is no change to this IIHF Officiating Standard for the upcoming 2007/2008 season. It will be once again applied in all IIHF Competitions and events operated under the jurisdiction of the IIHF.

The main principles of penalty assessment 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

### 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.

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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.

## **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.

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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.

## **In Front of the Net**

The player is not allowed to:

- Knock down the opponent not in control of the puck
- Grab the jersey and pull down the opposing player
- Place the stick between the legs “twisting” him or impeding a player’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.

## **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 according to IIHF Rule Book will penalize all these actions.

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.

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## **Tripping Actions**

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 2006-2010 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 after he has covered the puck
- Knocking the goalkeeper's stick out of his hands

Such actions will be penalized as slashing or interference.

## **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 - 2010 IIHF Rule Book.