

HOCKEY CANADA

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The rules which are contained in this book are the only rules which are to be used in the playing of hockey under the jurisdiction of Hockey Canada. Branches or leagues choosing to play outside these rules will be subjected to discipline and will at a minimum, forfeit the right to Hockey Canada's Insurance Program. However, during internal branch competition, branches may make variations to Hockey Canada Official Rules, providing these variations are more restrictive than the rules as written.

A game should be refereed strictly in accordance with the rules. In individual cases, Referees may feel that the rules are in some respect not satisfactory. However, it is not up to an individual to decide if a rule should or should not be applied. Rules are approved by Hockey Canada's membership and are to be changed only through the democratic process at given periods of time. Referees are directed to thoroughly apply the rules of the Association and of their branch.

If a Referee has difficulty in the interpretation of any rule, the Referee should consult with the Branch Referee-in-Chief. If such person cannot give a satisfactory interpretation, Hockey Canada's Referee-in-Chief should be contacted.

It is understandable that in a country of the geographic expanse of Canada, a uniform interpretation of the rules may prove somewhat difficult. That, however, is the goal which is to be aimed at, and if the rules are strictly adhered to in all parts of Canada, it should not be hard to come near achieving that goal.

These playing rules become effective with the commencement of the 2003-2004 season.

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Amateur hockey in Canada is played by men, women, boys and girls from coast to coast. Within this publication the alternating of gender in both photographs and grammar is utilized. Any masculine reference shall also apply to female hockey and any feminine reference shall apply to male hockey. This is to encourage the widest possible involvement in our great game!

Shared Respect

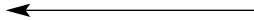
players•coaches•officials•parents

REFEREE'S SIGNALS

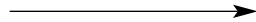


BOARDING

Striking the clenched fist of one hand into the open palm of the opposite hand in front of the chest.



BODYCHECKING
Open palm of the non-whistle hand, with fingers together, comes across body on to the opposite shoulder.



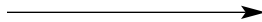
BUTT-ENDING

A cross motion of the fore-arms, one moving under the other

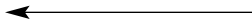


Referee's Signals**CHARGING**

Rotating clenched fists around one another in front of the chest.

**CHECKING FROM BEHIND**

A forward motion of both arms, with the palms of the hands open and facing away from the body, fully extended from the chest at shoulder level.

**New CHECKING TO THE HEAD**

Patting flat (open palm) of the non-whistle hand on this side of the head.

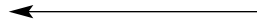


Referee's Signals**CROSS-CHECKING**

A forward and backward motion of the arms with both fists clenched, extending from the chest for a distance of about one foot.

**DELAYED OFF-SIDE**

Non-whistle arm fully extended above the head. To nullify a delayed off-side the Linesman shall drop the arm to the side.

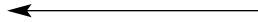


Referee's Signals**DELAYED CALLING
PENALTY**

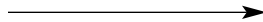
Extending the non-whistle
arm fully above the head.

**ELBOWING**

Tapping either elbow with
the opposite hand.

**GOAL SCORED**

A single point directed at
the goal in which the puck
legally entered.



Referee's Signals**HIGH STICKING**

Holding both fists clenched, one immediately above the other at the height of the forehead.

**HOLDING**

Clasping either wrist with the other hand in front of the chest.

**HOLDING THE STICK**

Two stage signal involving the holding signal (shown above) followed by a signal indicating you are holding onto a stick with two hands in a normal manner.



Referee's Signals**HOOKING**

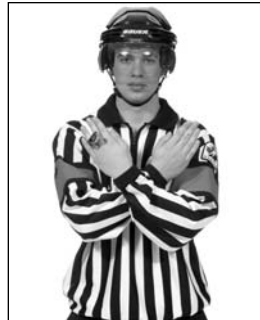
A tugging motion with both arms as if pulling something from in front toward the stomach.

**ICING THE PUCK**

The back Referee or Linesman signals a possible icing by fully extending either arm over her head. The arm should remain raised until the front Referee or Linesman, either blows the whistle to indicate an icing or until the icing is washed out. Once the icing has been completed, the back Referee or Linesman will then point to the appropriate face-off spot and skate to it.

**INTERFERENCE**

Crossing arms stationary in front of the chest.



Referee's Signals

KNEEING

Slapping either knee with the palm of the hand, while keeping both skates on the ice.



MATCH PENALTY

Patting flat of the hand on the top of the head.



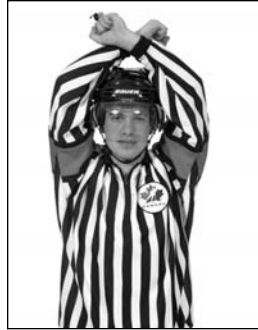
MISCONDUCT

Both hands on hips.

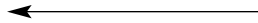


Referee's Signals**PENALTY SHOT**

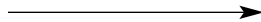
Arms crossed above the head. Give the signal upon stoppage of play.

**RED LINE OFF-SIDE PASS**

The back Linesman or Referee who is positioned at or near the blue line will signal if the pass originated inside the blue line with the following signal: With arms extended at shoulder level, the official will point toward the centre red line.

**ROUGHING**

Fist clenched and arm extended out to the front or side of the body.



Referee's Signals**SLASHING**

A chopping motion with the edge of one hand across the opposite forearm.

**SPEARING**

Jabbing motion with both hands thrust out immediately in front of the body and then hands dropped to the side of the body.

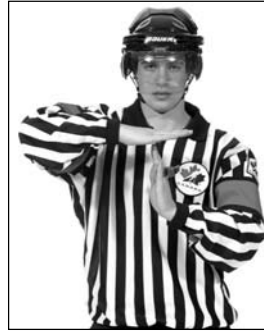
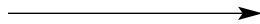
**TRIPPING**

Striking leg with either hand below the knee, keeping both skates on the ice.



Referee's Signals**UNSPORTSMANLIKE
CONDUCT**

Using both hands to form
a "T" in front of the chest.

**WASH OUT**

A sweeping sideways motion of both arms across the front
of the body at shoulder level with palms down. This signal is
used:

- (a) by the Referee to signal "no goal";
- (b) by the Linesman to signal "no icing" and in certain
situations "no off-side".



Shared Respect

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GLOSSARY

Aggressor:

Player attempting to continue a fight by throwing or attempting to throw punches or again by continuing the grappling action with his opponent with the intent of intimidation or punishment of that opponent. The aggressor may or may not be the instigator of the fight.

Altercation:

Altercation is defined as any incident involving players leading to a penalty or penalties.

Attempt to or Deliberate Injury:

An action by a player or team official who by the use of a stick, skate or other object, or by using her body, hits or attempts to hit an opposing player or team official, or game official with the intention of causing injury.

Breakaway:

A player in full control of the puck in the neutral or attacking zone, and having no opposing player between himself and the opposing goaltender (or goal, if the goaltender has been removed).

Broken Stick:

A stick that in the opinion of the Referee is unfit for normal play.

Butt-Ending:

The action whereby a player uses the shaft of the stick, above the upper hand, to check an opposing player in any manor or jabs or attempts to jab an opposing player with this part of his stick.

Butt-Ending Hooking:

New The action whereby a player uses the shaft of the stick above the upper hand to hold or hook an opponent.

Captain:

A player, other than a goaltender, who is selected or named by the team, to represent the team with the officials. Wherever the word "Captain" appears in the Rule Book, it defines those players who have been designated as Captain or Alternate Captain on the Official Game Report.

Glossary**Charging:**

The act of taking more than two steps or strides to contact an opposing player.

Checking From Behind:

Any action where a player is intentionally pushed, body-checked, high sticked, cross-checked or hit in any manner from behind.

Coach:

A person primarily responsible for directing and guiding the actions and efforts of his team. Along with the Manager, he is responsible for the conduct of the players before, during and after the game in the arena.

Control:

A player actually propelling the puck with her stick, skate(s) or glove(s).

Creases:

Identifies enclosed space designated for the protection of the goaltender and the use of the Referee in the discharge of their respective duties. The lines which designate this space are to be considered part of the crease.

Cross-Checking:

The action of using the shaft of the stick between the two hands to check an opponent at any height.

Delayed Off-Side:

A situation where an attacking player (players) has (have) preceded the puck across the attacking blue line, but the defending team is in a position to bring the puck back out of its defending zone without any delay or contact with an attacking player.

Encroachment

This occurs when a player other than the centre stands with a skate either inside the face-off circle, on the face-off circle or in the area between the hash marks prior to the dropping of the puck. It is acceptable for the player's stick to be inside the face-off circle but not in the area between the hash marks.

Glossary**Face-Off:**

The action of the Referee or Linesman in dropping the puck between the sticks of two opposing players to start or resume play. A face-off begins when the Referee indicates the location of the face-off and the officials and players take their appropriate positions. It ends when the puck has been legally dropped.

Game:

A meeting of two teams playing for a specific length of time, for the purpose of declaring a winner through the scoring of goals. The game consists of regular playing time and overtime, if such is required.

Game Ejection:

When a player has been removed from the game for three or more stick infraction penalties, this player must leave the area of the players' bench and must in no way direct, coach or assist the team in any manner for the remainder of the game.

Gathering:

When one or more players of one team come in close contact with one or more opposing players in such a manner as to create the possibility of a penalty or penalties against one or more of the players.

Goaltender:

A person designated as such on the Official Game Report, who is identified by the use of special and legal equipment and privileges to prevent the puck from entering the net.

Goaltenders' Skates:

Skates specifically designated for use by goaltenders. The blade of the skate is closed at both ends and is specially constructed so as to prevent the puck from passing through the blade.

Heel of the Stick:

The point where the shaft of the stick and the bottom of the blade meet.

High Sticking:

The action of the player carrying the stick or any part of the stick above the normal height of the shoulder.

Glossary**Holding:**

Any action by a player that retards the progress of an opposing player whether or not she is in possession of the puck.

Hooking:

The action of using the blade of the stick in a “pulling or tugging” motion to impede the progress of an opponent. The hooking action may apply to any part of an opponent’s body or stick.

Instigator:

The player responsible for starting a fight by throwing or attempting to throw the first punch(es).

Kicking:

The action of a player deliberately using his skate(s) with a kicking motion to contact an opponent, with no intent to play the puck.

Kick Shot:

The action of placing the blade of the stick behind the puck and then propelling the puck by kicking the stick.

Off-Ice Officials:

Officials appointed to assist the On-Ice Officials in the conduct of the game. They are under the control of the Referee during the game, and include: Official Scorer, Game Timekeeper, Penalty Timekeeper, and two Goal Judges.

On-Ice Officials:

The On-Ice Officials are the Referee and Linesmen.

Penalty:

The result of an infraction to the rules.

Players:

The members of the team physically participating in a game. Except where special rules apply to him, the goaltender is to be considered a player.

Players in Uniform:

Players duly registered on the Official Game Report and attired in the appropriate protective equipment in order to participate in the game.

Glossary**Possession:**

The state of a player other than a goaltender who is the last one to have come in contact with the puck.

President:

Where the word "President" is used in the Rule Book, it shall refer to the President of Hockey Canada Branch or his duly appointed representative for games under the jurisdiction of the branch; otherwise it shall refer to the President of Hockey Canada.

Protective Equipment:

The equipment worn by a player for the sole purpose of protecting against injury.

Shorthanded:

Shorthanded means that a team is below the numerical strength of its opponent on the ice.

Slashing:

The action of hitting an opponent with a stick while holding the stick with one or both hands. Tapping the stick of the puck carrier is not considered slashing if it is for the sole purpose of taking the puck. A player who swings his stick at an opponent and makes no contact shall still be guilty of slashing.

Slew Footing:

The action of tripping a player by knocking a player's skates out from behind with a kicking or leg dragging motion.

Spearing:

The action of poking or attempting to poke an opponent with the toe of the blade of the stick while holding the stick with one or both hands.

Team Official:

The five people clearly identified on the Official Game Report which may include the Coach, Manager, Trainer, Stick Boy, Team Doctor, President and other members of the executive of the team.

Time Penalty:

A penalty which at any time results in a team playing with less than six players on the ice. i.e., Minor, Bench Minor, Major or Match penalty.