

# IIHF OFFICIATING STANDARD



For the past ten years the IIHF has concentrated its efforts on eliminating restraining fouls and dangerous actions from our sport. In doing so, we have established the groundwork for the development of an IIHF Officiating Standard to be applied to all of our competitions.

This officiating standard is based on research from all officiating calls in all of our competitions operated for many seasons coupled with the reports of the IIHF Referee Supervisors and Directorate Chairmen assigned to 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. This promotes a strong image of our sport for the participants, fans, media and spectators and presents our sport in a manner which draws and recruits future participants.

During these ten years, the implementation of an officiating standard has continuously been evaluated and updated to stay current with the changes in our game. As such, the IIHF Officiating Standard is not a “one season” reaction but rather, one that has been developed over a long period of time and supports our principles of fair play and respect.

The rules that are applied to our sport 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 these principles.

The IIHF goal is to strive for consistent implementation in all of our competitions of the rules contained within the IIHF Rule Book. The aim is 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 kneeing, clipping or tripping.

Also, the basic elements 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 which all member national associations, national association’s referees-in-chief, game officials, national association officiating staff, leagues, coaches and players shall be aware and continuously work and implement.

As in the past this IIHF Officiating Standard will be implemented at all IIHF Championships and competitions for the continued growth, development and interest of our sport.

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## 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.

## **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 2010-2014 IIHF Rule Book.

In additional 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
- 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.

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

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- 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. 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 2010 - 2014 IIHF Rule Book.