



CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

Executive Memorandum

November 26, 2022

To: To the Attention of All CAHL Member Associations

Re: Hockey Canada Maltreatment Rule 11 and its impacts

After looking at trends and outcomes of the season to date in the CAHL, we are seeing a pattern of reactions to Rule 11 issues and as well in games assessments and allegations. I want to share the rule with you and also ask for your help in curbing some of this behavior and reactions.

Firstly, it is clear that some participants in the CAHL have not read Rule 11 in the Hockey Canada Playing Rules for this season. Some of it has been updated and also significant re-organization has happened with some of you noticing the old rules have moved around in the book gaining a new Rule Number.

In an effort to improve this I am attaching the Rule 11 contents to the end of this letter and also here are several links to help with this information. Please take a moment to look at the Playing rules section listed to the right and also the links we have provided for additional information.

- [Hockey Canada News Release of the rule change](#)
- [Hockey Canada Playing Rules](#)
- [Hockey Canada Maltreatment policy](#)
- [Hockey Alberta Maltreatment Statement](#) and [Hockey Alberta Maltreatment Policy](#)
- [Hockey Alberta Maltreatment Investigation and Decision Making Process](#)
- [Hockey Canada Coaching Maltreatment Resource](#)

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It is also clear that participants do not understand the impacts of their actions as we would not see multiple Rule 11 penalties or Indefinite Suspensions issued during a single incident if they did. Additionally, actions on social media that also fall under this rule are starting to be more apparent. More work is needed here from feedback we are getting at present.

What can you do to help?

- Review this list of material and ensure all participants in your association are aware of the Rule 11 scope and its potential impacts.
- Ensure that all Game participants including guests are aware that any activity before, during or after games (including social media activity) can fall under these Rules and the CAHL Code of Conduct Policy.
- Stop thinking that once a Rule 11 penalty or allegation is assessed you can "get in front of it" by submitting a CAHL complaint to discredit the Referee or the opponents in these cases. If it has additional information we need to know, great submit the complaint. If its only purpose is to discredit the sources, then please stop and not submit the complaint for the obvious reasons.
- Be aware that Social Media and Code of Conduct Review has happened and the same behaviors listed in Rule 11 will be investigated with the same outcomes or suspensions now being issued for Rule 11 instances listed in the Hockey Alberta minimum suspension guidelines.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am available if you would like to discuss any of this. Judging by the number of instances of Rule 11 infractions and as well the volume of suspensions received there is some work here to do and the sooner it starts the better.

Sincerely Yours,

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SECTION 11 – MALTREATMENT

Hockey Canada is committed to contributing to the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual health of individuals of varying abilities, backgrounds, and interests. Hockey Canada firmly believes that only when sport environments are safe and inclusive can these values be realized. Maltreatment includes volitional acts that result in harm or the potential for physical or psychological harm. Maltreatment in all its forms is a serious issue that undermines the health, well-being performance and security of everyone associated with the game of hockey and is incompatible with the core values that lie at the heart of Canadian sport. Participants in Hockey Canada's programming should have the reasonable expectation that it will be in an environment that is accessible, inclusive and is free from all forms of Maltreatment.

Team officials will always be responsible for their conduct and that of their players. They must endeavour to prevent disorderly conduct before, during or after the game, on or off the ice and any place in the rink. The Referee may assess penalties to any team officials for failure to do so and will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Rule 11.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike Conduct includes, but is not limited to, any player or team official challenging or disputing an official's decision, or displaying any other form of unsportsmanlike behaviour towards any person.

This may include, but is not limited to, the following actions, which will be penalized at the discretion of the Referee:

- i. Deliberately spraying snow from their skates into an opponent's face (e.g. "spraying" the goaltender).
- ii. Shooting the puck at or near the goal after the whistle.
- iii. Shooting the puck out of the playing area, after the whistle.
- iv. Diving or embellishing in order to draw a penalty.
- v. Engaging in any inappropriate or unwanted discussion with the referee, following the game.
- vi. A team official who does not remain on their players' bench during the game, per Rule 1.9 – Players' Bench.
- vii. Any other display of unsportsmanlike behaviour that would be considered disorderly or contrary to the spirit of the game.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.1 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

- 11.1 (a) A Minor penalty will be assessed to any player who is guilty of Unsportsmanlike Conduct, as outlined above.
- 11.1 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
- 11.1 (c) No Match penalty may be assessed for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
- 11.1 (d) A Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player who:
 - i. Persists in Unsportsmanlike Conduct, after receiving a Minor penalty under Rule 11.1 (a).

- ii. Distracts a player taking a Penalty Shot or a goaltender defending a Penalty Shot.
- iii. Intentionally knocks or shoots the puck out of reach of an Official who is retrieving it.
- iv. Does not proceed immediately and directly to the Penalty Bench when they have been penalized.
- v. Enters or remains in the Referee's crease while the Referee is reporting to or consulting with any game official.

Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Minor penalty under this rule before assessing a Misconduct penalty, but may assess either penalty initially.

Note 2: A team official may not be assessed a Misconduct penalty under this rule.

- 11.1 (e) A Game Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who persists in Unsportsmanlike Conduct, after receiving a Minor penalty under Rule 11.1 (a) or a Misconduct penalty under Rule 11.1 (d).

Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Minor or Misconduct penalty under this rule before assessing a Game Misconduct penalty, but may assess either penalty initially.

Note 2: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Game Misconduct penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

INTERPRETATIONS

Interpretation 1 Rule 11.1 (a)

The intent of this rule is not to restrict enthusiasm displayed by a player who has made an important play or scored a goal. Due to the wide scope of this rule, guidelines for judgement are difficult to describe. Officials are directed to use their best judgement and seek guidance from their Referee-in-Chief, as needed.

Interpretation 2 Rule 11.1 (a)

QUESTION:

What penalty is assessed any player who protests a call by banging their stick against the glass?

ANSWER:

A Minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. If the action persists, assess a Misconduct or Game Misconduct penalty.

Interpretation 3 Rule 11.1 (a) / Rule 11.2 (f)

When a player or team official sprays water out of a drinking bottle on or at any person, the Referee is directed to assess a Bench Minor penalty (Rule 11.1 (a)). If the player, goaltender or team official guilty of such action can be identified, a Gross Misconduct penalty will also be assessed under Rule 11.2 (f) – Disrespectful and Abusive Behaviour.

Interpretation 4 Rule 11.1 (a) & (c)

In cases where a player has been assessed a single Minor penalty and the penalized player is guilty of Unsportsmanlike Conduct, the Referee is encouraged to assess that player an

additional Minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. The offending player would then serve a four-minute time penalty.

However, if a player has been assessed a Minor penalty and a teammate is guilty of Unsportsmanlike Conduct, the Referee is encouraged to assess a Misconduct penalty to that teammate. This avoids putting the team down 5-on-3, while still penalizing the second player for their Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

Rule 11.2 Disrespectful and Abusive Behaviour

“Disrespectful” is defined as words or actions deemed rude, unpleasant, inappropriate, or unprofessional and found to be offensive to others, but not rising to the level of conduct described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination. This also includes any behaviour intended to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty and is often of a personal nature.

“Abusive” is defined as targeted, persistent, or excessively profane words or actions that are intended to intimidate, threaten, belittle, or demean an individual, which is often of a personal nature, but does not rise to the level of conduct described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.2 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.2 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.2 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.2 (c) No Match penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.2 (d) A Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player who uses disrespectful or abusive words or actions towards the Referee or any other person.

11.2 (e) A Game Misconduct will be assessed:

- i. To any player who persists in the use of disrespectful or abusive words or actions.
- ii. To any team official who uses disrespectful or abusive words or actions to the Referee or any person.

Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Bench Minor or Misconduct penalty under this rule before assessing a Game Misconduct penalty.

Note 2: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Game Misconduct penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

11.2 (f) A Gross Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who conducts themselves in a manner as to make a travesty of the game by using obscene, profane or threateningly abusive language, gestures or actions towards any person. Such actions may also be described as verbal or physical taunts or gestures that intend to humiliate, demean, belittle, cause offense to or harm the reputation of the person or group targeted.

INTERPRETATIONS**Interpretation 1 Rule 11.2 (c)****QUESTION:**

The play is in progress and a player is verbally abusive towards a Linesperson. Can a Linesperson stop the play to assess the Misconduct penalty?

ANSWER:

The Linesperson cannot stop play to assess the penalty. They must wait for a stoppage of play, then notify the Referee.

Interpretation 2 Rule 11.2 (f)

If a player, reacting to verbal harassment, goes into the stands to confront a spectator, the Referee must assess the player a Gross Misconduct for making a travesty of the game. If the player attempts to injure or deliberately injure that spectator, the offending player will also be assessed a Match Penalty under Rule 7.1 (c) – Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury

When a player becomes involved with a spectator, the Referee must be sure of the cause of the trouble. If the player did not cause the trouble and is acting in self-defence, they should not be penalized for their actions. However, if those actions become escalated and, in the eyes of the Referee, unjustifiable, then the Referee must penalize the offending player.

Interpretation 3 Rule 11.2 (f)

Wherever a Referee has reasonable grounds to believe that a player or team official is impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, they should encourage that player to voluntarily withdraw from the game. However, if a further incident occurs, with penalties that require a written report, the possible use of alcohol and/or drugs should be noted in the Official Game Report.

Rule 11.3 Spitting

This rule is intended to address players or team officials who deliberately spit at or on any individual. Referees must be vigilant and ensure that players are not simply spitting on the ice but are directing this at another person, regardless of whether contact occurs.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.3 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.3 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.3 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.3 (c) A Match penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who deliberately spits on or at any individual.

Note 1: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Match penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

11.3 (d) No Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.3 (e) No Game Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

Rule 11.4 Discrimination

Any player or team official who engages in verbal taunts, insults, or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds will be assessed a **Gross Misconduct penalty**. Discriminatory grounds include the following, without limitation:

- Race, national or ethnic origin, skin colour, or language spoken;
- Religion, faith or beliefs;
- Age;
- Sex, sexual orientation or gender identity / expression;
- Marital or familial status;
- Genetic characteristics;
- Disability.

The Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Note 1: If an incident occurs that was not witnessed by the Officials and is reported to the Referee, the Referee will report the individual(s) to an appropriate member of each team's bench staff and will complete a Game Incident Report including full details and will submit the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Note 2: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.1, 11.2 or 11.3 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

Rule 11.5 Physical Harassment of Officials

Physical harassment refers to any player or team official who, before, during or after a game:

- i. Threatens the well-being of a Referee, Linesperson or any Off-Ice Official.
- ii. Attempts to strike a Referee, Linesperson, or any Off-Ice Official.
- iii. Deliberately touches, holds, or pushes a Referee, Linesperson or Off-Ice Official; or
- iv. Deliberately strikes, trips or body checks a Referee, Linesperson or Off-Ice Official.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.5 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.5 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.5 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.5 (c) A Match penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who commits any act of physical harassment against an official.

Note 1: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Match penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

11.5 (d) No Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.5 (e) No Game Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

INTERPRETATIONS

Interpretation 1 Rule 11.5 (c)

QUESTION:

A player on the Penalty Bench grabs a Timekeeper or any Off-Ice Official. What penalty is to be assessed?

ANSWER:

A Match penalty must be assessed.

Interpretation 2 Rule 11.5 (c)

When Officials enter an altercation or fight to separate the participants, incidental contact may occur with the officials. Officials must be judicious in the application of this rule. Players may be penalized with lesser rules, including a Minor penalty for Rule 7.9 – Roughing or Rule 7.11 – Instigator & Aggressor or a Misconduct penalty for Rule 11.1 – Unsportsmanlike Conduct in the event of incidental contact with an official. In order to assess a Match penalty for Physical Harassment of Officials, the Officials must be satisfied that the offending player knowingly made, attempted to make, or threatened to make physical contact with an Official.