



2026 Canada Ball Hockey Association

Rules Changes/Updates

Rule Number	New Wording	Change
Rule 15 (a) – Composition of Team	A team shall have no more than six players on the floor at any one time while play is in progress. Any violation of this will be penalized as per Rule 19–Change of Players.	Removed the designation of positions (LW, RW, C, LD, RD, G). The positions were irrelevant.
Rule 19 (g) – Change of Players	NOTE 1: Notwithstanding this rule, where play is stopped for a high sticking the ball infraction, the offending team will not be permitted to conduct a line change until play resumes, except for the goalie who is permitted to return to the floor, in exchange for one player.	Allowing the goalie to return to the floor, to not create unreasonable competitive disadvantage.
Rule 24 (c) – Protective Equipment	...when a goaltender loses their helmet, facial protector, blocker or trapper play shall be stopped immediately, unless there is an imminent scoring chance that does not pose a safety risk to the goaltender.	Inclusion of the blocker and trapper to promote player safety. But also, allowing the imminent scoring opportunity to continue to not take away from the attacking team.
Rule 27 - Penalties	2-minute minor & Double Minor Penalties	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with Double Minor penalties.
Rule 27 (e) – Penalties	... for the purposes of this rule, a double minor penalty for Butt-Ending, Spearing, High Sticking, Head-Butting and Head Contact will only count as one (1) infraction towards the 3-Penalty rule.	Specifying that a double minor penalty does not count for 2 separate infractions towards the 3-penalty rule. It is one infraction, with a greater time penalty impact.
Rule 28 (f) – 2-minute Minor & Double Minor Penalties	A double minor penalty may be assessed to any player who commits any of the following infractions: Butt-Ending (Rule 49), Head- Butting (Rule 49), Head Contact (Rule 86), High Sticking (Rule 62), Slew Footing (Rule 85) and Spearing (Rule 49). A double minor penalty will be recorded and served as separate minor penalties (2-minutes + 2-minutes). Should the opposing team score a power play goal in the first 2 minutes of the double minor, the first minor will be	Identifying which penalties may be assessed as a double minor as listed in the rule. Additionally, providing clarification on how the penalty is recorded on the Game Sheet, and served. Providing further guidance for cancelling a double minor upon the scoring of a power play goal.



	<p>cancelled, and the next minor penalty will begin. The offending team will continue to play shorthanded until the penalty expires or another power play goal is scored during the remaining 2 minutes. The player may return to the floor at the conclusion of their penalty, unless otherwise stated in the rules</p>	
<p>Rule 47 (f) – Harassment of Officials, Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Misconduct</p>	<p>Any player or team official who engages in taunts, insults, or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds will be assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty. Discriminatory grounds include the following, without limitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>NOTE 1: 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.</p> <p><i>Note 2: If an incident occurs that was not witnessed by the Referees, but is reported to by members of either team, the referees will verbally advise both head coaches about the</i></p>	<p>Clarifying that a Gross Misconduct must be applied for taunts, intimidation or insults based on discriminatory grounds. Note 2 provides an action plan for the officials even if the behaviour is not witnessed.</p>



	<i>accusations. The referees will complete a Game Incident Report including full details, submitting it to the appropriate Member or League delegate</i>	
Rule 49 (b), (d), (f), (g) – Attempt to Injure	Please review rule for updated information.	In the identified rule subsections, the wording is changed to “Double Minor.” The language about 4-minute minors has been removed.
Rule 54 (a) – Cross Checking	A 2-minute minor penalty or, at the discretion of the Referee, a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty shall be assessed any player who cross-checks an opponent	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with a 2-minute minor.
Rule 57 (f) – Faceoffs	When a stoppage of play in the end zone is caused by the goaltender the ensuing face-off shall take place the nearest end zone face-off spot based on the location of the shot and not related to the location of the ball when play was stopped	Clarifying that the location of the shot is where the ensuing faceoff takes place.
Rule 57 (j) - Faceoffs	The non-offending team will have a choice of which end-zone face-off spot (left or right) the face-off will occur, following the calling of flooring or penalties where one team is shorthanded and is serving a time penalty. This does not supersede the four exceptions outlines by Rule 39, with respect to a team being shorthanded	The non offending team will be able to choose either the left-side or right-side faceoff dot in the end zone following a flooring or penalty. It does not replace Rule 39 (a) 1-4, that clearly identifies faceoff locations.
Rule 62 (a) – High Sticks	The carrying of sticks above the normal height of the shoulder of the opponent is prohibited. A 2-minute minor penalty or, at the discretion of the Referee, a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct ...	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with a 2-minute minor.
Rule 62 (b) – High Sticks	A player who contacts an opponent above the normal height of their shoulders with a high stick, including with a follow-thru of a shot shall be assessed a 2-minute minor penalty	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with a 2-minute minor.
Rule 62 (c) – High Sticks	A player who by accident (i.e.: missed stick lift, follow-thru of a shot, golf-style shot, etc.) injures an opponent with a high stick, causing blood, will	Clarifying that an accidental high stick, that causes blood, will be penalized as a double minor penalty.



	be assessed a double minor penalty	
Rule 65 (a), notation i) – Flooring the Ball	In Minor divisions, including Junior Nationals, flooring the ball is automatically completed the instant the ball crosses the goal line.	Clarifying that in Minor and Junior Nationals, flooring will remain as it as historically been practiced, with automatic flooring when the ball crosses the goal line.
Rule 65 (a), notation ii) – Flooring the Ball	In Adult divisions, including National A, B, C, D, U23, Masters and Legends, associations and leagues have the option to use Hybrid Flooring. At National level tournaments, Hybrid Flooring will be used...	In the divisions listed, Hybrid Flooring will be used at National level tournaments. Leagues have the option to use this locally if they choose. The rule further outlines the steps/decisions/processes to complete Hybrid Flooring.
Rule 65 (g) – Flooring the Ball	When flooring is called, the offending team shall not be permitted to make any player substitutions prior to the ensuing face-off. The players on the floor at the time the flooring infraction was initiated must remain on the floor until the next face-off is completed. This includes teams who decide to call a timeout; no player substitutions may be made	Teams will not be permitted to change following the calling of an icing. The rule further outlines the applicable penalties and timeout procedures.
Rule 75 (e) – Ball Out of Play or Unplayable	As a result of the ball being shot out of play or becoming unplayable with the zone set, play will be stopped and the ensuing face off will take place with the zone remaining set, regardless of which team caused the stoppage	The ensuing face off will take place with the zone remain set. The rule further clarifies faceoff location, with the zone remaining set.
Rule 79 (a) - Slashing	A 2-minute minor penalty or, at the discretion of the Referee, a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct...	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with a 2-minute minor.
Rule 84 (e) – Time of Game	Each team shall be permitted to take one time-out of thirty seconds during the course of the game	Removed multiple time-outs per game. Teams are now only permitted one time out, whether they are playing a 2 or 3 period game.
Rule 84 Note 4 – Time of Game	Each team will be allowed to take one time out over the course of overtime. This includes teams who have previously used their one allocated time out during regulation time	Allows teams the ability to take one time-out during overtime. If they have previously taken their time out during regulation time, they will be permitted to take one additional during overtime.
Rule 84 Time-Out Guidelines #2 – Time of Game	Each team will be allowed to take one time out over the course of overtime, including teams who may have previously used their allocated timeout during regulation time	As in Rule 84, Note 4, the guidelines were updated to support this.



Rule 85 (b) - Tripping	A double minor penalty, or at the discretion of the Referee, a Match penalty based on the degree of violence of impact with the floor shall be assessed any player who uses their feet to knock an opponent's feet out from under them with a kicking or leg dragging motion from behind ("slew footing"). A match penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent with a slew foot	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with a double minor.
Rule 86 (b) – Head Contact	A double minor penalty or a Major Penalty plus a Game Misconduct penalty at the discretion of the Referee and based on the degree of violence of impact, shall be assessed to any player who intentionally contacts an opponent in the head, face or neck with any part of the player's body or equipment other than the stick.	Removing the 4-minute minor and replacing with a double minor.