



Rule Book Amendments 2026

Rule 21 B – Protective Helmets

While on the floor, including pre-game warm-ups, ALL players, including goaltenders, shall wear a HECC- or CE-approved hockey helmet.

- ALL players under the age of 18 are required to wear a full facial guard.
- Any alteration to an approved helmet or facial protector automatically voids the certification.
- Players age 18 and over: Facial protection is strongly recommended but optional.

Note: Helmets manufactured by ball hockey equipment companies that do not carry HECC or CE certification may be permitted at the discretion of league or tournament operators.

Rule 32 F – No Change if Ball is Shot Out of Play

If a defending team shoots the ball directly out of play (including contact with the ceiling) from their defensive zone, no line change will be permitted by the offending team.

Exceptions:

- The ball is deflected or bounces out of play.
 - The ball is shot into the bench.
 - Loose netting causes the stoppage.
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Rule 35 I – Broken Sticks

Any player who participates in play, intentionally prevents the movement of an opponent or intentionally plays the ball while carrying two player sticks shall incur a Minor Penalty for delay of game. **Exception:** A player is permitted to pickup their team's goaltender stick and hand it to their netminder while also holding their own stick if they do not make a play attempt on the ball in the process (referee discretion).

Rule 36 D – No Change on Flooring/Icing

No line change shall be permitted for the offending team prior to the ensuing face-off.

However, substitutions are permitted:

- To replace a goalkeeper who had been substituted for an extra attacker.
- To replace an injured player.
- When a penalty has been assessed that affects the on-floor strength of either team.

Note: Teams may use a 30-second time-out after the flooring call is made. The offending team is not permitted to change players during this time.

Rule 37 J – Inadvertent Whistle

If the Referee or Linesperson erroneously calls an infraction (regardless of whether either team is short-handed), the face-off shall take place at the center rink face-off dot.



Rule 41 B – Double Tap (Hand – Same Direction)

A player who taps the ball with their hand more than once consecutively commits a “Double Tap.”

- Play is stopped.
 - The face-off occurs at the nearest dot outside the attacking zone.
 - This is not a penalty infraction.
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Rule 44 A ii – Offsides

A player in possession of the ball who has two feet across the blue-line ahead of the ball is off-side. *Note:* If a player enters the zone backwards, with both feet, before the ball fully crosses the line, the referee should stop play due to the player being off-sides.

Rule 44 G – Delayed Offside

If the ball is shot on goal during a delayed offside, play shall continue under normal clearing-the-zone rules.

- If the ball enters the net (directly, off the goaltender, or off a player or official), the goal shall not be allowed because the original shot was offside.
 - If any attacking player touches the ball or attempts to gain possession of a loose ball while it remains in the attacking zone, the referee shall stop play.
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Rule 58 J – Deliberate and Illegal Substitution

If, in the last two minutes of regular playing time or at any time in overtime, a Bench Minor Penalty is imposed for a deliberate illegal substitution, a Penalty Shot shall be awarded against the offending team.

- The Bench Minor shall not be served.
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Rule 68 H – Delaying the Game

A deliberate action where an offending team does not play the ball on a hand pass:

- After 3 seconds, play will be stopped if no one plays the ball.
- After 3 seconds, play will be stopped if the ball is not removed from the back of the net after a player attempts to put the ball back into play.

The location of the face-off shall be where the shot was taken, at the referee's discretion.

Rule 69 A, B, C – Diving and Embellishment

A. Any player who blatantly dives, embellishes a fall or reaction, or feigns an injury shall be assessed a Minor Penalty.

B. A goalkeeper who deliberately initiates contact with an attacking player (other than to establish position in the crease), or who attempts to create the appearance of non-incident contact, shall be assessed a Minor Penalty for diving/embellishment.

C. A Minor Penalty shall be imposed on a player who attempts to draw a penalty by their actions (diving/embellishment).



Rule 75 E – High Stick on the Ball

Contacting the ball with the stick above the normal height of the shoulders is prohibited.

- Play shall be stopped immediately.
 - The face-off shall take place in the offending team's defensive zone at the lowest face-off dot.
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Rule 78 C – Goaltender Interference

Attacking players may stand in the goal crease provided they do not make contact with the goaltender.

- If the ball enters the net while an attacking player is in the crease, the goal shall be disallowed.
- If an attacking player physically interferes with the goaltender, or deliberately impedes the goaltender's vision (e.g., waving a stick or glove), prior to or during the scoring of a goal:
 - The goal shall be disallowed.
 - A penalty for Interference shall be assessed.

The ensuing face-off shall take place at the lowest end-zone face-off dot in the offending team's defensive zone.