

Hockey Canada Officiating Program

2024-25 Points of Emphasis



The 2024-25 Points of Emphasis place focus on changes to the rules that support the safety of all participants and the enjoyment of a safe and fair hockey game.

- Rule Changes
- Dressing Room Etiquette
- Maltreatment – Rule 11.1

Overview





Officiating Emphasis 2024-25

HCOP RULE CHANGES 2024-25

HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25



In this lesson we will cover:

- New rules for the 2024-25 season

Please note that editorial changes and corrections have been made throughout the Playing Rules. This lesson will only cover changes to the rules and how they should be applied.



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 2.2 (a)

New rule

- Teams may have a maximum of 20 players in uniform for any game (up to 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders)

What changed?

- Previously, only Junior, Senior, and U18AAA teams could have 20 players in uniform. All other teams were restricted to 19 players. Now, this rule is consistent across all divisions.



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 3.6 (d)

New rule

- When a goaltender loses their helmet, facial protector, blocker or trapper, **or skate blade**, play will be stopped immediately, unless there is an imminent scoring chance that does not pose a safety risk to the goaltender.

What changed?

- Addition of skate blade to this rule.
- The purpose of this rule is to ensure the safety of goaltenders



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 6.3 (e)(i)

New rule

- Any stoppage of play occurring in the end-zone as the result of the puck going out of play or being unplayable will result in the ensuing face-off taking place in that end-zone at the face-off spot nearest to where the puck was last legally played, regardless of whether the defending or attacking team causes the stoppage

What changed?

- When the puck goes out of play or becomes unplayable in the end-zone, the face-off will remain in the end-zone.
- The purpose of this rule is to eliminate debate about correct face-off locations



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 7.1 (a)

New rule

- A double Minor penalty will be assessed to a player who commits any of the following acts with a minimal degree of violence and without using such an action to gain an advantage or inflict punishment or injury:
 - i. pulls an opponent's hair,
 - ii. grabs the facial protector, helmet, chin strap, or throat protector of an opponent,
 - iii. head-butts or attempts to head-butt an opponent.

What changed?

- All actions must be penalized with a minimum double Minor penalty.
- The purpose of this rule is to have consistency with the Head Contact rule.



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 8.7

New rule

- Clipping, also known as a “low hit”, is where a player uses their body to make contact at or below an opponent’s hips. This may take the form of a player lowering their body prior to making a check or being checked. Players may not crouch down to avoid being bodychecked.

What changed?

- Clarification that a player who makes contact with an opponent **anywhere below the hips** should be penalized for Clipping.
- The purpose of this rule is to simplify the judgement officials must make for a clipping infraction.



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 8.8 (c)

New rule

- A Match penalty, at the discretion of the referee, based on the degree of violence of impact (including the impact with the ice, goal or boards) may be assessed to any player who slew-foots an opponent.

What changed?

- Addition of the goal or boards as considerations for assessing a Match penalty.
- The purpose of this rule is to highlight dangerous outcomes and provide officials with additional guidance on slew-footing infractions.



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 10.2 (a)

New rule

- A hand pass occurs when a player makes a deliberate attempt to stop, knock down, or push the puck with their hand, and a teammate in the neutral or attacking zone gains control of the puck. This includes when a hand pass occurs and the puck deflects off any person or object, prior to the teammate gaining possession and control of the puck.

What changed?

- Clarification that a hand pass infraction must be the result of a deliberate action by the offending player, and that this rule applies even if the puck does not go in the direction intended by the player.



HCOP Rule Changes 2024-25

Rule 10.5 (a)

New rule

- A minor penalty will be assessed to any player who throws, shoots, or kicks a stick or any other object, anywhere on the ice.

What changed?

- Addition of kicking a stick or any other object as a criteria under this rule.
- The purpose of this rule is to ensure that players cannot use their sticks or other objects to interfere or threaten to interfere with opposing players.



Officiating Emphasis 2024-25

DRESSING ROOM ETIQUETTE



Dressing Room Etiquette

What are the core points of the dressing room policy?

- Individuals of all genders and ages have equal right to the dressing room.
- All officials should be wearing “minimum attire” in dressing rooms. Minimum attire means a base layer of:
shorts/compression shorts/tights + shirt/tank top/sports bra
- Dressing and showering should be done in separate rooms or in shifts.
- If officials are showering post-game, they should do so privately or in shifts.



Dressing Room Etiquette

What does this mean for officials?

- If you can arrive at the arena wearing your minimum attire (base layer), that is ideal.
- If an arena has a single dressing room, with multiple games, it is important to arrive early to ensure adequate time to dress. This includes both for yourself but also for officials coming off the ice.
- Don't be afraid to have conversations with your fellow officials. When you arrive with your team, you can say "I'm going to stretch, so you can get changed" or "I'll go into the stall, then you can go, before the other crew comes off the ice".



Officiating Emphasis 2024-25

MALTREATMENT – RULE 11.1

Maltreatment



Officials from coast to coast to coast continue to enforce the Maltreatment emphasis. **Thank you to all of you for your commitment to this point of emphasis.** Officials play a crucial role in Hockey Canada's belief that every person should have positive experiences in hockey.

This season, we are placing increased focus on Rule 11.1 – Unsportsmanlike Conduct and asking officials to be more diligent about assessing penalties.



Rule 11.1

Why Rule 11.1?

There has been a great deal of emphasis on Rule 11.5 – Discrimination over the last few years and officials are doing their best to enforce this.

But we need to improve our enforcement of Rule 11.1 -- Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Frequently, we see instances of unsportsmanlike conduct escalate into abusive or discriminatory behaviour.

Rule 11.1

Draw the line, so they don't cross it

Criteria for a penalty include, but are not limited to:

- Challenging or disputing an official's decision in an unsportsmanlike manner
- Use of derogatory language that may be offensive to any individual
- Any behaviour intended to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty

Rule 11.1

Consider the criteria for a penalty under Rule 11.1. As officials, what situations are 'grey areas' where we could simply give a warning, but could also increase our enforcement of Unsportsmanlike Conduct?

Challenging or disputing an official's decision in an unsportsmanlike manner

Use of derogatory language that may be offensive to any individual

Any behaviour intended to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty

Rule 11.1

Draw the line, so they don't cross it

Challenging or disputing an official's decision in an unsportsmanlike manner

- Exaggerated gestures; e.g. waving arms, banging sticks, or sarcastic applause
 - Continued or repeated exclamations; e.g. "come on, ref!"
 - Players crowding or swarming an official

Although it is *possible* to address these with a warning, officials are encouraged to assess penalties, so that these situations do not escalate further.

Rule 11.1

Draw the line, so they don't cross it

Use of derogatory language that may be offensive to any individual

- Prolonged or persistent insults or trash-talking; e.g. refusing to clear the area around the goal, targeting a specific player on multiple stoppages of play
- Going out of their way to engage in insults or trash talking; e.g. skating past the opposing bench or goaltender

Although it is *possible* to address these with a warning, officials are encouraged to assess penalties, so that these situations do not escalate further.

Rule 11.1

Draw the line, so they don't cross it

Any behaviour intended to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty

- Invading an opposing player's personal space after the whistle; e.g. going cage-to-cage with an opposing player or crowding the opposing goaltender
- Physical actions that do not rise to the level of a roughing penalty; e.g. pushing with body, hands, or stick with the intention of inciting an opponent

Although it is *possible* to address these with a warning, officials are encouraged to assess penalties, so that these situations do not escalate further.



Maltreatment

Continue to prioritize the emphasis on maltreatment.

The purpose of being involved in hockey is to play hockey. Trash-talking, chirping, and insults are not playing hockey and they make the game feel less welcoming and less safe.

We all play a role in changing the culture of the game. Officials have the responsibility to:

- Support all members of our sport to realize their full potential in a fair and safe environment.
- Help change the hockey culture and make it more inclusive to all Canadians.
- Call out discrimination, because it is the right thing to do.

Draw the line, so they don't cross it

Overview

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CONCLUSION