



USA HOCKEY OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

Points of Emphasis

2007-08 and 2008-09 Playing Seasons

The goal of USA Hockey is to promote a safe and positive playing environment for all participants while continuing to focus on skill development and enjoyment of the sport. All officials, coaches, players, parents, spectators and volunteers are encouraged to observe these “Points of Emphasis” when participating in the sport of ice hockey.

Fair Play and Respect

Fair play and respect are the backbone of any successful amateur sports program. In order for a positive environment to be created, it is imperative that all participants and spectators have respect for all players, coaches, officials administrators, spectators and the sport of hockey. Hockey is a game demanding high levels of concentration and skill.

Intimidation or “bullying” has no place in ice hockey. Any act that includes taunting or teasing of players, coaches, officials, or spectators by means of verbal ridicule, obscene gesture, threat of physical violence, or physical violence itself will not be tolerated at USA Hockey events.

Players are encouraged to develop a deep sense of respect for all (opponents and officials) while endeavoring to enjoy the sport and improve their playing ability. Each player is encouraged to use proper skill and technique when engaging in any type of body contact.

Coaches are responsible for instructing their players to play the sport in a safe and sportsmanlike manner. To that end, coaches are directed to teach only those skills necessary to allow for proper and legal body contact.

Officials should be diligent and confident when officiating the sport. Each official should enforce the playing rules fairly and respectfully.

Spectators are encouraged to support their teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials and other spectators.

Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis

USA Hockey will continue to observe the Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis adopted in June 2006. The goal is to reduce restraining infractions in the game, allowing the skill levels of the participants to determine the outcome of a game and to increase participant enjoyment. There is no intention to remove legal body checking or body contact. A legal body check or using body contact or position to gain a competitive advantage over an opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules.

Conclusion

Hockey should be enjoyed by all participants. To that end, all participants and spectators should observe a level of personal behavior that demonstrates respect for all. The USA Hockey Officiating and Coaching Education programs will continue to increase awareness among all officials and coaches with regard to these Points of Emphasis and the Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis.

USA HOCKEY

RULE CHANGE SUMMARY

For Youth, Girls'/Women's and Adult Classifications

For the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Seasons

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
Preface	Standard of Play and Rules Emphasis	Adds language to rulebook.
Section One	The Rink	Adds/amends rink markings to comply with the current ASTM Standard Guide for Ice Hockey Playing Facilities (F 1703-04).
102(a)	Dimensions of Rink	Suggests that rink dimensions should be 200 feet long and 85-100 feet wide.
102(b)	Dimensions of Rink	Strongly recommends protective netting to be used in areas where there is viewing above the height of the glass.
103(a)	Goal Posts and Nets	Moves the goal line back to eleven feet from the end boards.
104(b)	Goal Crease & Goalkeeper's Privileged Area	Adds both the USA Hockey and NHL crease markings to ice.
105(a)	Division of Ice Surface	Establishes the blue lines be placed 64 feet from the goal line.
108(a)	End Zone Face-Off Spots and Circles	Reduces the distance between hash marks on side of circles from four feet to three feet.
205(e)	Change of Player	When the goalkeeper is replaced during a stoppage of play, the goalkeeper cannot resume his position until the next stoppage of play (unless a penalty situation).
301(c)	Sticks	Amends the stick curvature to no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.
303 Appendix V	Goalkeeper's Equipment	Adds Note to current rule to reference the new goalkeeper equipment dimensions and requires equipment to meet these new dimensions for the 2009-10 season.
304(c)	Protective Equipment	Deletes mouthpiece requirement for Girls' U8 and U10. Strongly recommends all players wear mouthpiece that is form-fitted by a Dentist.
502(a)	Referee	Changes language pertaining to Referee's power from "control of" to "authority over" all participants in the game.
503(a)	Linesman	Deletes the calling of the center line offside pass as a duty.

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
601(d.3.)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct	References Rule 636(c) to eliminate any potential conflict in the rules.
620(f)	Icing	Further clarifies face-off location for icing error by officials.
626(f)	Off-Sides	Adds the High School classification to the portion of the rule that allows them to play with the tag-up off-sides nullification.
627	Passes	Eliminates the center line off-sides pass in all Adult age classifications.
639(c)	Tripping	Adds language, that already existed in the Casebook, clarifying the fouled from behind determination in potential penalty shot situations.

FOR JUNIOR A & JUNIOR B CLASSIFICATIONS

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
	USA Hockey Standard of Play	Add language to rulebook
Section One	The Rink	Adds/amends rink markings to comply with the current ASTM Standard Guide for Ice Hockey Playing Facilities (F 1703-04).
103(a)	Goal Posts and Nets	Recommend flexible peg goal anchors.
104(b)	Goal Crease & Goalkeeper's Privileged Area	Adds both the USA Hockey and NHL crease markings to ice.
205(e)	Change of Player	When the goalkeeper is replaced during a stoppage of play, the goalkeeper cannot resume his position until the next stoppage of play (unless a penalty situation).
301(c)	Sticks	Amends the stick curvature to no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.
303	Goalkeeper's Equipment	Amends the current rule to reflect the new goalkeeper equipment dimensions and requires equipment to meet these new dimensions for the 2007-08 season.
303(b)	Goalkeeper's Equipment	Goalkeeper's stocking are required equipment.
303(c)	Goalkeeper's Equipment	Goaltender protective equipment waiver must be filed with USA Hockey Junior Registrar prior to start of season.
501(a)	Appointment of Officials	Defines off-ice officials and allows the Referee to replace an off-ice official who displays partisanship or unprofessional conduct.
502(a)	Referee	Designates the Referee as the official to observe pre-game warm-ups and defines when the on-ice officials shall enter the playing surface.
503(a)	Linesman	Deletes the calling of the center line offside pass as a duty.
507(b)	Game Timekeeper	Requires the game timekeeper to have a stick measuring device and tape measurer available at the Penalty Bench.
601(f)	Abuse of Officials & Other Misconducts	Defines that a player may receive a Game Misconduct penalty if previously assessed a Misconduct or Game Ejection penalty.
601(i)	Abuse of Officials & Other Misconducts	Defines that a Team Officials may be assessed penalty who displays unprofessional conduct.

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
604(c)	Board Checking	Removes the Game Ejection penalty option when contact is made during an icing situation.
609(a)	Delaying the Game	No player change is permitted when the puck is shot out of the rink by a player in their defending zone.
609(h)	Delaying the Game	Adds a minor penalty for embellishing a fall or reaction (diving).
611(a)	Face-Offs	Any player who commits a face-off violation shall not be permitted to take the ensuing face-off.
617(b)	High Sticks	Adds a Game Misconduct penalty and deletes the Misconduct penalty as penalty options for a high sticking violation.
620(d)	Icing the Puck	The Linesman shall nullify an icing violation if the pass was considered receivable and the receiving player (teammate) was on the attacking side of the center line.
620(f)	Icing	Further clarifies face-off location for icing error by officials.
627	Passes	Deletes the center line offside pass restriction.
639(c)	Tripping	Adds language, that already existed in the Casebook, clarifying the fouled from behind determination in potential penalty shot situations.