

DRAFT
Pittsburgh Area Circuit Teams (P.A.C.T.)

BallHockey Official Rule Book



“www.pactballhockey.com”

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Preface: This rulebook establishes the standards of play for the Pittsburgh Area Circuit Teams (P.A.C.T.) ballhockey. While based primarily on Ballhockey rules, a variety of other sources including rules from the NHL

National Ball Hockey Association Canada, United States Dek Hockey Federation have been incorporated fair and consist completion in P.A.C.T. sanctioned games. Addendums will be released when necessary to improve on the official rule book, as necessary.

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SECTION 1 -Tournament Management

Rule 1 – Roster

- a. Divisions (age groups)
 1. Chipmunk 4 – 6 years old (Birth Year 2014,2013,2012)
 2. Penguin 7 – 9 years old (Birth year 2011,2010,2009)
 3. Beaver 10 – 12 years old (Birth Year 2008,2007,2006)
 4. Cadet 13 – 15 years old (Birth Year 2005, 2004, 2003)
 5. Freshmen 16 – 19 years old (Birth Year 2002,2001,2000, 1999)

Note: This section shall be revised at the end of the current tournament season for the upcoming tournament season.

- b. Players are permitted to be rostered on a team in the next age division provided the player is of the oldest age, but cannot be moved to the lower age division (ex. 9 year old penguin player can be rostered on a beaver team).
- c. A player cannot be rostered on two teams in the same division.
- d. Each team must submit a roster to the tournament director, one week prior to the first scheduled tournament game.
- e. Each team must have a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 18 players on the official roster.
- f. No player can be added or deleted or both to the official roster, after the team's first scheduled tournament game.
- g. The player's eligibility is determined by the birth years, as established in Rule 1.a.
- h. Players may only be rostered on one (1) PACT team per tournament season.
- i. Organizations may only roster players within 50 air nautical mile radius of the organization's rink.

Rule 2 – Tournament Season Schedule

- a. The tournament schedule will be release no later than February 1 of any given year.

Rule 3 – Game Management

- a. The number of round robin games shall be determined by the host member organization.
- b. Round robin game scoring system will be the Barrie Scoring System
 1. One (1) point for each period won
 2. Half (0.5) point for each period tied
 3. Two (2) points for winning the game
 4. One (1) point for tying the game
 5. Maximum points for a round robin game will be five (5) points
- c. Round Robin Tie Breakers
 1. Head to Head
 2. Goals Against
 3. Goals For
 4. Goal Differential
 5. Coin Flip
- d. Mercy Rule shall be defined as follows. After two periods of play and one team has a goal differential of eight (8) or more goals, the game will end. If the goal differential is eight (8) or more goals and prior to the start of the third period in a round robin game, the team shall be awarded the maximum Barrie System points.
- e. Round Robin – three (3) ten (10) minute periods

1. The host member organization will determine whether the first period is a running clock
2. No overtime period or timeouts
- f. Over time for Elimination games
 1. Quarter and Semi-Final games will have one five (5) minute running clock overtime period (exception, stop clock on penalties). Teams will not switch sides for the overtime period. Teams defend the side they defended in the first period of the game. If game is tied after the overtime period, a shootout will occur, reference (h). No timeouts
 2. Championship game will have one ten (10) minute running clock overtime period (exception, stop clock on penalties). Teams will not switch sides for the overtime period. Teams defend the side they defended in the first period of the game. If game is tied after the overtime period, a shootout will occur, reference (h). One (1) timeout is allowed which will be one (1) minute in length.
 3. If a player's penalty has not expired during overtime or a player receives a penalty at the end of overtime, that player cannot participate in the shootout.
- g. Prior to the start of a game, a warm-up of three (3) minutes will be allowed for both teams. As designated by the referee, the scorekeeper will place the appropriate time on the scoreboard for the warm up.
- h. Shootout
 1. Higher seed decides who shoots first
 2. Initially three (3) players from each team will participate in the shootout.
 3. If the game is still tied after three shooters, alternate one shooter from each team until a winner. No player can shoot twice prior to all other players shooting once.
 4. Goalies are not eligible to participate in the shootout.
- i. Teams and Coaches will shake hands after the game.
- j. The host member organization will provide the official PACT score sheet. Each host member organization will provide roster stickers to the scorekeeper to place on the scoresheet.
- k. It shall be solely the decision of the referee to determine if the two (2) competing team 's jersey are distinguishable. In the event that the two (2) competing team's jerseys cannot be distinguished from each other:
 - i. the visiting team shall change their jerseys, or;
 - ii. the visiting team shall wear cover-ups or pinnies, or;
 - iii. if the visiting team cannot comply with k (i) or (ii), the home team shall change their jerseys.

SECTION 2 – Equipment

Rule 4 – Sticks

- a. All playing sticks (except goalie sticks) must have plastic, graphite, composite or ABS blades; no wood blades. Any player participating with an illegal stick shall be removed from the playing surface at the request of the opposing team or game officials, during a stoppage of play. The offending player may not return to the game until play resumes.
- b. When any part of the blade has worn to less than 1 ¼ inches wide, the stick is illegal and cannot be used.
- c. The end of shaft of all sticks must be covered to protect against injury. Hollowed shaft sticks must have a protective cap plus covered to protect against injury. Butt ends may consist of tape of sufficient thickness to prevent the end of the stick from penetrating a protective facemask.

- d. Any player caught using an illegal stick again in the same game shall be assessed a minor penalty for dangerous/illegal equipment.

Rule 5 - Footwear

- a. All players shall wear running shoes.
- b. Goaltenders may wear shoes with manufacturer reinforced toes or hard shell toe protector, exception no steel toe shoes.

Rule 6 - Elbow Pads

- a. Definition – protective padded gear worn on the elbow to protect the elbows against injury during a fall or strike.
- b. Elbow pads are required by all players.

Rule 7 - Gloves

- a. Protective gloves are required by all players. Protective gloves shall be ball hockey, dek hockey, playing surface hockey or lacrosse gloves, except goaltenders see Section 2, rule 8.
- b. Any other type of glove will not be allowed.

Rule 8 - Shin guards

- a. Shin guards are required by all players. The shin guards must be wore outside of the player's clothing.
- b. Shin guards must cover from the top of the knee to the ankle.

Rule 9 - Miscellaneous

- a. During play, a player who loses a piece of equipment must immediately pick up and replace the piece of equipment or go to the bench. If the player continues to play, an automatic stoppage and the ball comes out of the zone. A defensive player in possession of the ball may immediately clear the ball before going to the bench.

Rule 10- Goaltender

- a. All equipment worn by the goaltender is for the sole purpose of protecting the head and body.
- b. Any piece of equipment or garment which would give the goaltender undue assistance in playing the position of goalie is not allowed and shall be removed.
- c. Goalie equipment shall consist of the following: goalie pads, catching glove, blocker, chest protector including arm pads, helmet with full facial protection and back plate, neck protector, slider plates, padded pants, pelvic protector and goalie stick.
- d. Any attachments to the goalie equipment to widen the defense of the goal beyond normal padding is prohibited and shall be removed.
- e. If any piece of goalie equipment becomes dislodged during play, the referee will stop play immediately, except dislodge of goalie stick.

Rule 11-Dangerous Equipment

- a. The referee has the authority to prohibit a player from participating in the game while using or wearing any equipment that is consider dangerous to a player or referee. Such equipment shall be removed from the game without penalty unless the piece of equipment reappears later in the game. A bench minor will be assessed if the equipment, that was directed to be removed from the game, reappears.
- b. The referee has the authority to prohibit a player from participating in the game for not wearing a piece of equipment as describe in Section 2 Equipment. Once the proper piece of protective equipment is worn, the player shall resume playing in the game.

SECTION 3 – Penalties

- a. Penalties are divided into the following classes. The time of each penalty is based on 10-minute periods.
 1. Minor (one minute) – any player, except the goalie, shall be sent off the playing surface for one (1) minute, during which time no substitute player shall be permitted for the penalized player.
 2. Bench Minor (one minute) – involves the removal from the playing surface of one player of the team which the penalty is assessed for one (1) minute. Any player, except the goalie, shall be designated to serve the penalty by the coach and shall serve the penalty as if the penalty was assessed to the player.
 3. Major (two and half minutes) – The penalized player serving the major penalty does not leave the penalty bench when the opposing team scores. The penalized player must wait for the entire major penalty to expire before permitted to exit the penalty bench.
 An automatic game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who has been assessed a major penalty in the same game.
 When a major and game misconduct are assessed, the penalized player shall be ruled off the playing surface for the balance of the game, but a substitute player will take the penalized -player place in the penalty box to serve the major penalty.
 4. Misconduct (five minutes) - any player, except the goalie, shall be sent off the playing surface for five (5) minutes, during which time a substitute player shall be permitted for the penalized player.
 5. Game Misconduct (five minutes) - Any player or coach assessed a game misconduct shall not be allowed on the playing surface or player's bench and is suspended for the remainder of the game. A substitute player shall be permitted for the penalized player.
 6. Gross Misconduct (five minutes)
 7. Match (five Minutes) – A match penalty shall be assessed to any player or coach who deliberately attempts or deliberately injures an opposing player.
 8. Penalty Shot – restores a scoring opportunity which was lost as a result of a penalty being committed by the offending team, based on parameters set out in these rules.
- b. Penalties shall be assessed in actual playing time.
- c. While the coaches and players are on the playing surface, penalties shall be assessed at any time before, during or after the game.
- d. Any player assessed three (3) minor penalties in a period or four (4) minor penalties in a game shall be assessed a game misconduct. A one (1) game suspension is not warranted in this situation.
- e. Any player or coach who receives a game misconduct will be suspended a minimum of one (1) tournament game in the current tournament or the next tournament.
- f. Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 12 - Goalie Penalties

- a. No goalie shall be sent to the penalty box for an infraction which incurs a minor or misconduct penalty. Such a penalty shall be served by any player of the goalie's

team who was on the playing surface when the penalty occurred. Such player shall be designated by the coach of the penalized team.

- b. Any goalie assessed a major penalty shall automatically be assessed a game misconduct penalty, gross misconduct or match penalty, a substitute goalie may replace the penalized goalie. The substitute goalie will be allowed five (5) minutes to put on the goalie equipment.
- c. When the goalie leaves the goal crease during an altercation, the goalie shall be assessed a minor penalty.
- d. If a goalie participates in play in any manner beyond the center line, the goalie shall be assessed a minor penalty.

Rule 13 - Penalty Shot – A penalty shot assessed by the referee shall be taken as follows:

- a. Any infraction of the rules which calls for a penalty shot shall result in the following. The referee shall place the ball at the center face-off spot. The player taking the shot shall, on instruction from the referee (by blowing the whistle), play the ball from the center face-off spot and shall attempt to score on the goalie. The ball must be kept in motion towards the opponents' goal line and once shot the play is considered complete.
- b. No goal can be scored on a rebound of any kind, except the ball off the goalpost or crossbar or both then the goalie and then directly into the goal.
- c. Any time the ball crosses the goal line or comes to a complete stop, the shot shall be considered complete.
- d. Only a player designated as a goalie or back-up goalie may defend against the penalty shot.
- e. The goalie must remain in the crease until the player taking the penalty shot has touched the ball. In the event of a violation of this rule, the player designated or selected, to take the penalty shot, shall be entitled to take the shot again.
- f. When an infraction worthy of a minor penalty is committed by the goalie during a penalty shot, the referee shall allow the shot to be taken and if the penalty shot fails, the referee shall permit the penalty shot to be taken over again. No penalty shall be assessed to the goalie.
- g. Should the goalie commit a second violation during the penalty shot and the shot fails, the goalie shall be assessed a misconduct penalty and the referee shall permit the penalty shot to be taken again. A third such violation shall result in the goalie being assessed a game misconduct.
- h. If at any time a penalty shot is awarded, the goalie of the penalized team has been removed from the playing surface to substitute another player, the goalie shall be permitted to return to the playing surface before the penalty shot is taken.
- i. The goalie may attempt to stop the shot in any manner except throwing the goalie stick or any object or by deliberately dislodging the goal, in which case a goal shall be awarded
- j. The team against whom the penalty shot has been assessed may replace the goalie to defend against the penalty shot, however, the substitute goalie is required to remain the game until the next stoppage of play.
- k. While the penalty shot is being taken, players of both teams shall withdraw to sides of the playing surface and in front of their own player's bench.

- l. In cases where a penalty shot has been awarded to a player specifically fouled, that player shall be designated by the referee to take the penalty shot. In all other cases or player injury where a penalty shot has been awarded, the penalty shall be taken by a player selected by the head coach of the non-offending team from the players on the playing surface at the time when the infraction was committed.
- m. If, while the penalty shot is being taken, any member of the opposing team shall have by some action interfered with or distracted the player taken the penalty shot and because of such action the penalty shot failed, a second attempt shall be permitted and the referee shall assess a misconduct penalty to the member of the opposing team who interfered or distracted the player taking the penalty shot.
- n. Should a player to whom a penalty shot has been awarded, commit a penalty in connection with the same play or after the penalty shot has been awarded, the player shall be first be allowed to take the penalty shot before proceeding to the penalty box, provided the penalty assessed was not a major, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty. For a substitute player, see item l.
- o. Should a goal be scored from a penalty shot, a further penalty to the offending player shall not be applied unless the offense for the penalty shot was awarded was such as to incur a major, match or misconduct penalty, in which case the penalty prescribed for the particular offense shall be assessed.
- p. If the offense for which the penalty shot was awarded was such as to normally incur a minor penalty, then regardless of whether the penalty shot results in a goal or not, no further minor penalty shall be served.
- q. No penalty shall expire when a goal is scored against a team on a penalty shot.
- r. If a goal is scored from a penalty shot, the ball shall be faced-off at center playing surface. If a goal is not scored, the ball shall be faced-off at either of the end face-off spots in the zone in which the penalty shot was tried.

Rule 14 - Delayed Penalties

- a. If a third player of any team shall be penalized while two players of the same team serving penalties, the time of the third player shall not commence until the penalty time of one of the two players already has elapsed. The third player penalized must at once proceed to the penalty box but may be replaced on the playing surface by a substitute player until such times as the penalty time of the penalized player shall commence.
- b. When a team has three players serving penalties at the same time and while due to the delayed penalty rule, a substitute for the third player is on the floor, none of the three penalized players may return to the playing surface until play has stopped. When play has stopped, the player whose full penalty has expired may return to play.
- c. When penalties to the player(s) have expired and the penalized team is entitled to more than four players, including the goalie, on the playing surface, the penalty players shall be permitted to return to the playing surface in the order of expiry of the penalties.
- d. In cases where minor penalties are assessed at the same time to more than one player from the same team, the penalties shall be served in the order of occurrence.

- e. When a major penalty and a minor penalty are assessed at the same time against two different players of the same team, the minor penalty shall be assessed first.

Rule 15 - Calling of Penalties

- a. If a player on the team in possession of the ball commits an infraction which would call for a penalty, the referee shall blow the whistle immediately and give the penalty to the offending player.
 - 1. The resulting faceoff shall be deep in the penalized teams attacking zone.
 - 2. If penalties are assessed to both teams, the face off shall be at the nearest dot to where play was stopped.
- b. If a player on team not in possession of the ball commits an infraction, which would call for a penalty, the referee shall signal the penalty by extending his non-whistle arm straight up. The referee shall blow the whistle immediately when the offending team gains possession and control of the ball.
 - 1. The resulting faceoff shall be deep in the penalized teams attacking zone.
 - 2. If the team in possession playing surfaces the ball, shoots the ball out of play or is unplayable, the resulting face-off shall be deep in the penalized team's attacking zone.
 - 3. The play is not considered complete until the offending team gains possession and control of the ball. This does not mean a rebound off the goalie, the goal or the boards or any accidental contact of the opposing player.

Rule 16 - Abuse of officials

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player or coach who challenges or disputes or both the ruling of any referee during the game or who displays unsportsmanlike conduct. While the coaches and players are on the playing surface, penalties shall be assessed at any time before, during or after the game.
- b. If any player persists with disputing the penalty, the player shall be assessed a misconduct penalty and any further dispute will result in a game misconduct being assessed to the offending player.
- c. If a coach persists with disputing the penalty, the coach will be immediately assessed a game misconduct.
- d. A bench minor penalty shall be assessed to a team, where any player or coach on the bench disputes a penalty or an official ruling, through verbal or physical gestures that may be considered disrespectful in anyway or who bangs the boards or floors or both with any object. When the penalty is assessed against a player on the team bench, another player from the playing surface must serve the bench minor penalty.
- e. When the player on the playing surface commits the penalty described in Item d, the unsportsmanlike conduct minor penalty shall be assessed by the referee.

Rule 17 - Other Misconduct Penalty

- a. A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who does not proceed directly to the penalty box when that player has been penalized.
- b. When three bench minors have been assessed in a game, the head coach shall receive a game misconduct.

- c. Any player who throws any piece of equipment out the playing surface shall be assessed a game misconduct.
- d. If a player or coach throws any object on to the playing surface during play or during a stoppage of play shall be assessed a bench minor penalty.
- e. A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or coach or both who persists in any course of conduct designed to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty.
- f. Any player who intentionally shoots the ball out of reach of a referee shall be assessed a minor misconduct penalty.
- g. If, after the assessment of a misconduct penalty, a player or coach persists in any course of conduct for which a previously assessed misconduct penalty, a game misconduct shall be assessed.
- h. If a player or coach is assessed a game misconduct penalty, the player or coach must leave area as defined by the tournament director.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Section 4 – Physical Penalties

Rule 18 – Boarding –

- a. A major and a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed on any player who checks or pushes a defenseless player in such a manner that causes the player to hit or impact the boards violently or dangerously.
- b. A match penalty could be assessed instead of a major penalty, reference Section 3.a.7

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 19 – Charging – Any player, who takes more than two (2) strides towards an opponent shall be considered a charge. Charging shall mean the actions of a player who, as a result of distance traveled, shall violently check an opponent in any manner. A charge may be the result of a check into the boards, into the goal frame or open playing surface.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player who runs, jumps into or charges an opponent.
- b. A major penalty and a game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who charges a goaltender.
- c. A match penalty could be assessed instead of a major penalty, reference Section 3.a.7

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 20 – Checking from Behind – a check from behind is a check delivered on any player who is not aware of the impending contact, therefore unable to protect or defend oneself and contact is made on

the back part of the body. When a player intentionally turns his body to create contact with his back, no penalty shall be assessed.

- a. A major penalty and game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who cross-checks, checks, pushes or charges from behind any opponent as described above.
- b. A match penalty could be assessed instead of a major penalty, reference Section 3.a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 21 – Clipping – the act of throwing the body, from any direction, across or below the knees of an opponent.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who clips.

Rule 22 – Elbowing – The use of an extended elbow in a manner that may or may not cause injury

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who fouls an opponent in any manner with the elbow.
- b. A major penalty and game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent by elbowing.
- c. A match penalty shall be assessed to any player who elbows an opponent in the face or head, reference Section 3.a.7.
- d. A match penalty could be assessed instead of a major penalty, reference Section 3.a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 23 – Fighting – A fight shall be deemed to have occurred when at least one player punches or attempts to punch opponent repeatedly or when two players wrestle in such a manner as to make it difficult for the referees to intervene and separate the players.

An aggressor in an altercation shall be the player who continues to throw punches in an attempt to inflict punishment on the opponent who is in a defenseless position or who is an unwilling combatant.

An instigator of an altercation shall be a player whose actions or demeanor demonstrates any or some of the following criteria: distance traveled, gloves off first, first punch thrown, menacing attitude or posture, verbal instigation or threats, or obvious retribution for a previous incident in the game. Clearing the area of a fight – When a fight or altercation occurs, all players not engaged shall go immediately to the area of their player's bench and in the event the altercation takes place at a player's bench, the players on the playing surface from that team shall go to their defending zone. Goalies shall remain in the goal crease, except in the event the altercation takes place in the vicinity of the goal crease and therefore shall obey the direction of the referee. Failure to comply can result in penalties incurred for their involvement.

- a. A major penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who fights with an opposing player.

1. Any player who is identified by the referee as being the aggressor in a fight shall be assessed a minor penalty (aggressor), in addition to any other penalties the player may incur.
 2. Any player who is deemed to be both the instigator and aggressor of an altercation shall be assessed a minor penalty (instigator), major penalty (fighting), misconduct penalty and a game misconduct penalty.
 3. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player, who having been struck by an opponent, retaliates by striking or attempting to strike the aggressor. Should such player continue to retaliate, the player shall be assessed a major penalty and game misconduct.
 4. Any player, who does not retaliate after being struck, will not be assessed a penalty, but may incur any other penalty.
 5. Any player or coach, who becomes involved in a fight with an opposing coach or spectator, shall be assessed a gross misconduct.
 6. Any player who engages in fighting with form fitting gloves (ex. baseball gloves) shall be assessed a match penalty.
- b. Third Man In – A game misconduct, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed on any player who is the first to intervene (third man in) in an altercation already in progress. This penalty is in addition to any other penalties incurred in the same incident. This rule applies to subsequent players who elect to intervene in the same or other altercations during the same stoppage of play.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 24 – Head-butting - The act of head-butting involves any player making intentional contact or attempting to make contact with any opponent by leading with the head or helmet or both.

- a. match penalty and game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who head-butts an opponent, reference Section 3. a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing. A

Rule 25 – Kicking – the action of a player using the foot with a kicking motion to contact an opponent.

- a. A match penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who kicks or attempts to kick an opponents an opponent, reference Section 3.a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 26 – Kneeing - The act of a player leading with his knee and in some cases extending the leg outwards to make contact with an opponent.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who fouls an opponent by kneeling.
- b. A major penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent by kneeling.
- c. A match penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who knees an opponent deliberately, reference Section 3.a.7.

- d. A match penalty could be assessed instead of a major penalty, reference Section 3.a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 27 – Physical Penalty on the Goalie - An attacking player is not allowed to jab, poke, or slash the goalie's glove whether it is on the playing surface or in the air after the goalie has made a save.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who jabs, pokes, or slashes the goalie's glove whether it is on the playing surface or in the air after the goalie has made a save.

Rule 28 – Pulling Hair, Helmet, Cage - A player who grabs or holds the cage or helmet or pulls the hair of an opponent.

- a. A major penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who grabs or holds the cage or helmet or pulls the hair of an opponent.

a major and automatic game-misconduct penalty

Rule 29 – Roughing – The act of unnecessary rough play not covered in Section 4 Physical Play

- a. If, in the judgement of the referee, a minor penalty shall be assessed for unnecessary rough play.
- b. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who makes deliberate physical contact with any opponent after the whistle.
- c. If a goalie uses his blocking glove to punch an opponent in the head or face shall be assessed a match penalty and game misconduct penalty.

Rule 30 – Slew-footing – The act of a player using the leg or foot to knock or kick an opponent's feet from under him or pushes an opponent's upper body backward with an arm or elbow and at the same time with a forward motion of the leg, knocks or kicks the opponent's feet from under him, causing the opponent to fall violently to the playing surface.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who fouls an opponent by slew-footing.
- b. A major penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent by slew-footing.
- c. A match penalty could be assessed instead of a major penalty, reference Section 3.a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 31 - Throwing Equipment- Any player, including the goalie, shall not throw a stick or any other object in any zone of the playing surface. A player who has lost or broken a stick may only receive a stick at his player's bench or be handed one from a teammate on the playing surface.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed on any player on the playing surface who throws a stick or any part thereof or any other object in the direction of the ball or an opponent in any zone, except when such act has been penalized by the assessment of a penalty shot or awarding a goal.
- b. When any player discards the broken portion of a stick or some other object by tossing or shooting it to the side of the playing surface and not over the boards in such a way as will not interfere with play or opposing player, no penalty will be assessed for so doing.
- c. When moving a stick that is not broken, no penalty shall be assessed as long as it does not interfere with play and the player who lost said stick is not attempting to retrieve the stick, otherwise an interference penalty must be assessed.
- d. A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct and a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed on any player who throws a stick or any part thereof or any other object or piece of equipment outside the playing the playing area.
- e. If any player attempts to or deliberately injures an opponent by throwing a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at an opposing player or coach or spectator, the player shall be assessed a match penalty and game misconduct penalty.
- f. A goalie may continue to play with a broken stick until stoppage of play or until the goalie is legally provided a replacement stick. If, in the judgement of the referee, the broken goalie stick poses a dangerous situation, the referee will stop play immediately.
- g. Penalty Shot - When any member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at the ball or ball carrier on the opponent's side of the centerline, the Referee shall allow the play to be completed and if a goal is not scored, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. This shot shall be taken by the player designated by the Referee as the player fouled. If the referees are unable to determine the player against whom the offense was made, the non-offending team, through the coach, shall designate a player on the playing surface at the time the offense was committed to take the shot. If a player on a breakaway, on the opponent's side of the centerline, is interfered with by a stick or any other object or piece of equipment that is thrown by any member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. If a player on a breakaway, on the opponent's side of the centerline, is interfered with by an object thrown on the playing surface by a spectator that causes the player to lose possession of the ball or to fall, the Referee shall award a penalty shot to the player who was fouled.
- h. Awarded Goal - If, when the opposing goalie has been removed, a member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at the ball or ball carrier, on the opponent's side of the centerline, thereby preventing the ball carrier from having a clear shot on an "open net", a goal shall be awarded to the attacking

side. For the purpose of this rule, an “open net” is defined as one from which a goalie has been removed for an additional attacking player. The goalie is considered off the playing surface once the replacement player has entered the playing surface.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Section 5 - Restraining Penalties

Rule 32 – Holding-Any action by a player that restrains or impedes the progress of an opposing player whether or not he is in possession of the ball.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed on a player who holds an opponent by using his hands, arms or legs.
 - 1. A player is permitted to use his arm in a strength move, by blocking his opponent, provided he has body position and is not using his hands in a holding manner, when doing so.
- b. A player is not permitted to hold an opponent’s stick. A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player who holds an opponent’s stick.
 - 1. A player is permitted to protect himself by defending against an opponent’s stick. The player must immediately release the stick and allow the opposing player to resume normal play.

Rule 33 – Hooking - The act of using the stick in a manner that enables a player to restrain an opponent.

When a player is checking another in such a way that there is only stick-to-stick contact, such action is not to be penalized as hooking.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed on any player who impedes the progress of an opponent by “hooking” with his stick.
- b. A minor penalty for hooking shall be assessed to any player who uses the shaft of the stick above the upper hand to hold or hook an opponent.

Rule 34 – Interference - A strict standard on acts of interference must be adhered to in all areas of the playing surface.

Body Position: Body position shall be determined as the player running in front of or beside his opponent, traveling in the same direction. A player who is behind an opponent, who does not have the ball, may not use his stick, body or free hand in order to restrain his opponent, but must run in order to gain or reestablish his proper position in order to make a play. A player is allowed the dek he is standing on (body position) and is not required to move in order to let an opponent proceed. A player may “block” the path of an opponent provided he is in front of his opponent and moving in the same direction. Moving laterally and without establishing body position, then making contact with the non-ball carrier is not permitted and will be penalized as interference. A player is always entitled to use his body position to lengthen an opponent’s path to the ball, provided his stick is not utilized (to make

himself “bigger” and therefore considerably lengthening the distance his opponent must travel to get where he is going); his free hand is not used and he does not take advantage of his body position to deliver an otherwise illegal check.

Possession of the Ball: The last player to touch the ball, other than the goalie, shall be considered the player in possession.

Restrain: The actions of a player who does not have body position, but instead uses illegal means (e.g. hook with stick; hold with hands, trip with the stick or in any manner) to impede an opponent who is not in possession of the ball. Illegal means are acts which allow a player or goalie to establish, maintain or restore body position other than by running.

Pick: A “pick” is the action of a player who checks an opponent who is not in possession of the ball and is unaware of the impending check/hit. A player who is aware of an impending hit, not deemed to be a legal “battle for the ball,” may not be interfered with by a player or goalie delivering a “pick.” A player delivering a “pick” is one who moves into an opponent’s path without initially having body position, thereby taking him out of the play. When this is done, an interference penalty shall be assessed.

Free Hand: When a free hand is used to hold, pull, tug, grab or physically restrain an opponent from moving freely, this must be penalized as holding. The free hand may be used by a player to “fend off” an opponent or his stick but may not be used to hold an opponent’s stick or body.

Stick: A player who does not have body position on his opponent, who uses his stick (either the blade or the shaft, including the butt-end of the shaft) to impede or prevent his opponent from moving freely on the playing surface shall be assessed a hooking penalty.

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed on a player who interferes with or impedes the progress of an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.
- b. A minor penalty shall be assessed on a player who restrains an opponent who is attempting to “fore-check.”
- c. A minor penalty shall be assessed on an attacking player who deliberately interferes a defensive player, including the goalie, who is not in possession of the ball.
- d. A minor penalty shall be assessed on a player who shall cause an opponent who is not in possession of the ball to be forced off-side, causing a stoppage in play. If this action causes a delayed off-side (and not necessarily a stoppage in play), then the application of a penalty for interference is subject to the judgment of the Referee.
- e. A minor penalty shall be assessed on a player who deliberately knocks a stick out of an opponent’s hand, or who prevents a player who has dropped his stick or any other piece of equipment from regaining possession of it.
- f. A minor penalty shall be assessed on a player who knocks or shoots any abandoned or broken stick or illegal ball or other debris towards an opposing ball carrier in a manner that could cause the player to be distracted. (See also Section 4 Physical Penalties Rule 31 – Throwing Equipment.)
- g. A minor penalty shall be assessed on any identifiable player on the players’ bench or penalty bench who, by means of his stick or his body, interferes with the movements of the ball or any opponent on the playing surface during the progress of the play. In addition, should a player about to come onto the playing surface, play the ball while one or both skates are still on the players’ or penalty bench, a minor penalty for interference shall be assessed. The appropriate penalty according to the playing rules shall be

assessed when a player on the players' or penalty bench gets involved with an opponent on the playing surface during a stoppage in play. The player(s) involved may be subject to additional discipline as appropriate pursuant to Section 3.d – Supplementary Discipline.

- h. When the defending team secures possession of the ball in the defensive zone and the other players of that team run interference for the ball carrier by forming a protective screen against the forecheckers, a minor penalty shall be assessed.
- i. After a facing-off, a player interferes with the opposing player who is not in possession of the ball, a minor penalty shall be assessed.
- j. A bench minor penalty shall be assessed when an unidentifiable player on the players' bench or penalty bench or any Coach or non-playing Organization personnel who, by means of his stick or his body, interferes with the movements of the ball or any opponent on the playing surface during the progress of the play.
- k. Penalty Shot - When any member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at the ball or ball carrier, on the opponent's side of the centerline, the Referee shall allow the play to be completed and if a goal is not scored, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. This shot shall be taken by the player designated by the Referee as the player fouled. If the referees are unable to determine the player against whom the offense was made, the non-offending team, through the coach, shall designate a player on the playing surface at the time the offense was committed to take the shot. If a player on a breakaway, on the opponent's side of the centerline, is interfered with by a stick or any other object or piece of equipment that is thrown by any member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. If a player on a breakaway, on the opponent's side of the centerline, is interfered with by an object thrown on the playing surface by a spectator that causes the player to lose possession of the ball or to fall, the Referee shall award a penalty shot to the player who was fouled.
- l. Awarded Goal - If, when the opposing goalie has been removed, a member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at the ball or ball carrier on the opponent's side of the centerline, thereby preventing the ball carrier from having a clear shot on an "open net", a goal shall be awarded to the attacking side. For the purpose of this rule, an "open net" is defined as one from which a goalie has been removed for an additional attacking player. The goalie is considered off the playing surface once the replacement player has entered the playing surface.

Rule 35 – Tripping – The act of placing the stick, knee, foot, arm, hand or elbow in such a manner that causes his opponent to trip or fall. A penalty shall not be assessed if in the referee's opinion, a player is unquestionably hook checking the ball and obtains possession of the ball, thereby tripping the ball carrier

- a. A minor penalty shall be assessed on any player who shall place his stick or any portion of his body in such a manner that it shall cause his opponent to trip and fall.
- b. A minor penalty shall be assessed on any player who falls or slides along the dek directly in the path of the ball carrier, thereby tripping the ball carrier.

- c. Penalty Shot - When any member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at the ball or ball carrier, on the opponent's side of the centerline, the Referee shall allow the play to be completed and if a goal is not scored, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. This shot shall be taken by the player designated by the Referee as the player fouled. If the referees are unable to determine the player against whom the offense was made, the non-offending team, through the coach, shall designate a player on the playing surface at the time the offense was committed to take the shot. If a player on a breakaway, on the opponent's side of the centerline, is interfered with by a stick or any other object or piece of equipment that is thrown by any member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. If a player on a breakaway, on the opponent's side of the centerline, is interfered with by an object thrown on the playing surface by a spectator that causes the player to lose possession of the ball or to fall, the Referee shall award a penalty shot to the player who was fouled.
- d. Awarded Goal - If, when the opposing goalie has been removed, a member of the defending team, including the Coach or any non-playing person, throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object or piece of equipment at the ball or ball carrier on the opponent's side of the centerline, thereby preventing the ball carrier from having a clear shot on an "open net", a goal shall be awarded to the attacking side. For the purpose of this rule, an "open net" is defined as one from which a goalie has been removed for an additional attacking player. The goalie is considered off the playing surface once the replacement player has entered the playing surface.

Section 6 – Stick Fouls

Rule 36 – Butt-ending - The action whereby a player uses the shaft of the stick, above the upper hand, to check an opposing player in any manner or jabs or attempts to jab an opposing player with this part of the stick. Butt-ending shall include all cases where a butt-ending gesture is made regardless whether body contact is made or not.

- a. match penalty and game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who butt-ending an opponent, reference Section 3. a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 37 – Cross Checking - The act of using the shaft of the stick between the two hands to forcefully check an opponent. The act of contacting an opponent with fists or gloves then this action shall be classified as roughing and penalties assessed as specified in Section 6 Physical Penalties, Rule 29 Roughing.

- a. A minor penalty, at the discretion of the Referee based on the severity of the contact, shall be assessed on a player who "cross checks" an opponent.
- b. A major penalty and a game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the Referee based on the severity of the contact, shall be assessed on a player who "cross checks" an opponent

- c. The Referee, at his discretion, may assess a match penalty and a game misconduct penalty if, in his judgment, the player attempted to or deliberately injured his opponent by cross-checking, reference Section 3.a.7.
- d. A major penalty and a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed on a player who cross checks a goalie while in the crease.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 38 – High-sticking - A “high stick” is one which is carried above the normal height of a player’s shoulders. Players must be in control and responsible for their stick. However, a player is permitted accidental contact on an opponent if the act is committed as a normal windup or follow through of a shooting motion, or accidental contact on the opposing center who is bent over during the course of a face-off. A wild swing at a bouncing ball would not be considered a normal windup or follow through and any contact to an opponent above the height of the shoulders shall be penalized accordingly.

A high stick penalty shall not be assessed when a player is running or calling for the ball, as long as the opponent is not within a sticks length of the player.

- a. Any contact made by a stick on an opponent above the shoulders is prohibited and a minor penalty shall be assessed.
- b. A major penalty and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed on any player who checks or intimidates an opponent while carry the stick above the shoulders.
- c. The Referee, at his discretion, may assess a match penalty and a game misconduct penalty if, in his judgment, the player attempted to or deliberately injured his opponent by high-sticking, reference Section 3. a.7.
- d. Contacting the ball above the shoulders with the stick, a minor penalty shall be assessed to the offending player.
- e. A goal scored from a high-stick shall not be allowed.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 39 – Slashing - Slashing is the act of a player swinging the stick at an opponent, whether contact is made or not. Non-aggressive stick contact to the front of the shin pads, should not be penalized as slashing. Any forceful or powerful chop with the stick on an opponent’s body, the opponent’s stick, or on or near the opponent’s hands that, in the judgment of the Referee, is not an attempt to play the ball, shall be penalized as slashing.

- a. A minor penalty, at the discretion of the Referee based on the severity of the contact, shall be assessed on a player who “slashes” an opponent.
- b. A major penalty and a game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the Referee based on the severity of the contact, shall be assessed on a player who “slashes” an opponent
- c. The Referee, at his discretion, may assess a match penalty and a game misconduct penalty if, in his judgment, the player attempted to or deliberately injured his opponent by slashing, reference Section 3.a.7.

- d. A major penalty and a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed on a player who cross checks a goalie while in the crease.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Rule 40 – Spearing - Spearing shall mean stabbing an opponent with the point of the stick blade, whether contact is made or not.

- a. match penalty and game misconduct shall be assessed to any player who butt-ending an opponent, reference Section 3. a.7.

Supplementary Discipline - Any misconduct, game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty shall be submitted to the head of officials or governing body or both for review and discipline hearing.

Section 7 – Other Fouls

Rule 41 – Delay of Game – A player or a team may be assessed a minor penalty when, in the opinion of the Referee, is delaying the game in any manner. The referee shall stop immediately when the goal post has been displaced from the normal position.

- a. A minor penalty shall be imposed on any player, including the goalie, who holds, freezes or plays the ball with his stick, feet or body in such a manner as to deliberately cause a stoppage of play.
- b. With regard to a goalie, this rule applies outside of the goal crease area. A minor penalty for delay of game shall be imposed on any player who deliberately shoots or bats (using his hand or his stick) the ball outside the playing area (from anywhere on the playing surface) during the play or after a stoppage of play.
- c. A minor penalty shall be imposed on any player who delays the game by deliberately displacing a goal post from its normal position. The Referee shall stop play immediately when the offending team gains control of the ball. In the event that a goalpost is deliberately displaced by a defending player, prior to the ball crossing the goal line between the normal position of the goalposts, the Referee shall assess a minor penalty for delaying the game if the attacking player has not yet taken the shot or in the act of taking the shot at the open net (see j. Awarded Goal). When the net is accidentally displaced by an attacking player, and the defending side is in control of the ball and moving out of their zone, play shall be permitted to continue until such time as the nonoffending team loses control of the ball. The resulting face-off will take place at a face-off spot in the zone nearest the location where the play was stopped, unless it is in the non-offending team's defending zone, and as such the ensuing face-off would be outside the blue line at one of the face-off spots in the neutral zone. It is possible for a goal to be scored at one end of the playing surface while the net at the other end has been dislodged, provided that the team being scored upon is the team responsible for dislodging the net at the other end of the playing surface.
- d. A minor penalty shall be imposed on a player other than the goalie who deliberately falls on or gathers the ball into his body. Any player who drops to his knees to block a shot should not be penalized if the ball is shot under him or becomes lodged in his clothing or equipment but any use of the hands to make the unplayable should be penalized promptly.
- e. If a goalie comes out of his crease to "cut down the angle" on a shot and after making the save covers the ball, this shall be legal. If the goalie races out of his crease in an attempt to beat the attacking player to the ball and instead of playing the ball jumps on the ball causing a stoppage of play, this shall be a minor penalty for delay of game. A minor penalty shall be imposed on a goalie

who, when the goalie is in the goal crease, deliberately falls on or gathers the ball into his body or who holds or places the ball against any part of the goal in such a manner as to cause a stoppage of play unless he is actually being checked by an opponent. The minor penalty will not be assessed when a goalie plays the ball while maintaining a foot contact with the goal line.

- f. Play shall not be stopped nor the game delayed by reasons of adjustments to clothing, equipment, shoes or sticks. For an infringement of this rule, a minor penalty shall be given. No penalty should be assessed when a water bottle is delivered to a goalie, however, this should be conducted during time-outs and if, in the opinion of the Referee, it is being done to intentionally delay the game, a minor penalty may be assessed. No delay shall be permitted for the repair or adjustment of goalie's equipment. If adjustments are required, the goalie shall leave the playing surface and his place shall be taken by the substitute goalie immediately. For an infraction of this rule by a goalie, a minor penalty shall be imposed.
- g. A bench minor penalty shall be imposed upon any Team which, after warning by the Referee to the coach to place the correct number of players on the playing surface and commence play, fails to comply with the Referee's direction and thereby causes any delay by making additional substitutions (including, but not limited to, continually substituting goalies for the purpose of stalling or delaying the game), by persisting in having its players off-side, or in any other manner.
- h. In the event that objects are thrown on the playing surface that interfere with the progress of the game, the Referee shall blow the whistle and stop the play and the ball shall be faced-off at a face-off spot in the zone nearest to the spot where play is stopped.
- i. Penalty Shot - If the goal post is deliberately displaced by a goalie or player during the course of a "breakaway," a penalty shot will be awarded to the non-offending team, which shot shall be taken by the player last in possession of the ball. If by reason of insufficient time in the regular playing time or by reason of penalties already imposed, the minor penalty assessed to a player for deliberately displacing his own goal post cannot be served in its entirety within the regular playing time of the game or at any time in overtime, a penalty shot shall be awarded against the offending team. No defending player, except the goalie, will be permitted to fall on the ball, hold the ball, pick up the ball, or gather the ball into the body or hands when the ball is within the goal crease. For infringement of this rule, play shall immediately be stopped and a penalty shot shall be ordered against the offending team, but no other penalty shall be given. The rule shall be interpreted so that a penalty shot will be awarded only when the ball is in the crease at the instant the offense occurs. However, in cases where the ball is outside the crease, Rule 35 may still apply and a minor penalty may be imposed, even though no penalty shot is awarded. The significant factor when determining whether or not a penalty shot is warranted is the location of the ball at the time it was held, grabbed or gathered into the body. If the ball is in the crease, penalty shot. If the ball is outside the crease and gathered into the body of a player (other than the goalie) who is inside the crease, minor penalty). See also Section 7 Rule 44 – Handling Ball.
- j. Awarded Goal - In the event that the goal post is displaced, either deliberately or accidentally, by a defending player, prior to the ball crossing the goal line between the normal position of the goalposts, the Referee may award a goal. In order to award a goal in this situation, the goal post must have been displaced by the actions of a defending player, the ball must have been shot (or the player must be in the act of shooting) at the goal prior to the goal post being displaced, and it must be determined that the ball would have entered the net between the normal position of the goal posts. When the goal post has been displaced deliberately by the defending team when their goalie has been removed for an extra attacker thereby preventing an impending goal by the attacking team, the Referee shall award a goal to the attacking team. The goal frame is considered to be

displaced if either or both goal posts are no longer in their respective normal position on the playing surface, or the net has come completely off one or both normal post positions, prior to or as the ball enters the goal.

- k. Any player who leaves the player's bench to deliver instructions to their teammates and does not remain on the playing surface as a substitute, will be assessed a minor penalty.

Rule 42 – Diving/Embellishment – Any player who blatantly dives, embellishes a fall or a reaction, or who feigns an injury shall be penalized with a minor penalty under this rule.

A goalie who deliberately initiates contact with an attacking player other than to establish position in the crease, or who otherwise acts to create the appearance of other than incidental contact with an attacking player, is subject to the assessment of a minor penalty for diving / embellishment.

- a. Minor Penalty - A minor penalty shall be imposed on a player who attempts to draw a penalty by his actions (“diving / embellishment”). This penalty may be assessed with or without an infraction to the opposing player at the discretion of the referee.

Rule 43 – Equipment - The onus is on the player to maintain his equipment and uniform in playing condition as set forth in these rules, reference Section 2 Equipment.

- a. Minor Penalty - For violation of this rule, after warning by the Referee, a minor penalty shall be imposed. Players violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed. Play shall not be stopped nor the game delayed by reasons of adjustments to clothing, equipment, shoes or sticks. For an infringement of this rule, a minor penalty shall be given.
- b. At the discretion of the referee, a goalie will be allowed a maximum of two minutes to make adjustments to the goalie equipment. If the adjustments take longer than the allotted time, the goalie shall leave the playing surface and his place shall be taken by the substitute goalie, if present on the bench, immediately or the referee may allot additional time at his discretion. If in the opinion of the referee, the adjustment is an attempt to delay the game, a minor penalty shall be assessed.

Rule 44 – Handling Ball - A player shall be permitted to stop or “bat” a ball in the air with an open hand, or push it along the playing surface with a hand, and the play shall not be stopped unless, in the opinion of the referee, the player has deliberately directed the ball to a teammate, or has allowed a teammate to gain an advantage, in any zone other than the defending zone, in which case the play shall be stopped and a faceoff conducted (see Section 8 Rule 56 – Hand Pass). Play will not be stopped for any hand pass by players in their own defending zone. The defensive zone ends at the defending team's clearing line.

- a. Minor Penalty – Player - A player shall be permitted to catch the ball out of the air but must immediately place it or knock it down to the playing surface. If the player catches the ball and moves with it, either to avoid a check or to gain a territorial advantage over the opponent, a minor penalty shall be assessed for “closing a hand on the ball”. Anytime a player places their hand over the ball while it is on the playing surface in order to conceal it from or prevent an opponent from playing the ball, a minor penalty shall be assessed for “closing a hand on the ball”. When this is done in the player's team goal crease area, a penalty shot shall be assessed (Rule 44.c) or a goal awarded (Rule 44.d). A minor penalty shall be imposed on a player who, while play is in progress, picks up the ball off the playing surface with his hand.

- b. Minor Penalty – Goalie - A goalie who holds the ball with their hands for longer than three seconds shall be given a minor penalty unless the goalie is actually being checked by an opponent. The object of this entire rule is to keep the ball in play continuously and any action taken by the goalie which causes an unnecessary stoppage must be penalized without warning. A goalie shall be assessed a minor penalty when he deliberately holds the ball in any manner which, in the opinion of the Referee, causes an unnecessary stoppage of play. A goalie shall be assessed a minor penalty when he throws the ball forward towards the opponent's net. In the case where the ball thrown forward by the goalie being taken by an opponent, the Referee shall allow the resulting play to be completed, and if goal is scored by the non-offending team, it shall be allowed and no penalty given; but if a goal is not scored, play shall be stopped and a minor penalty shall be imposed against the goalie. A goalie shall be assessed a minor penalty when he deliberately drops the ball into his pads or onto the goal net. A goalie shall be assessed a minor penalty when he deliberately piles up snow or obstacles at or near his net that, in the opinion of the Referee, would tend to prevent the scoring of a goal.
- c. Penalty Shot - If a defending player, except a goalie, while play is in progress, falls on the ball, holds the ball, picks up the ball, or gathers the ball into his body or hands from the playing surface in the goal crease area, the play shall be stopped immediately and a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team. See also Section 7 Rule 41 – Delaying the Game.
- d. Awarded Goal – When a goalie, prior to proceeding to his players' bench to be replaced by an extra attacker, intentionally leaves his stick or other piece of equipment, piles snow or other obstacles at or near his net that, in the opinion of the Referee, would tend to prevent the ball from entering the net, a goal shall be awarded. In order to award a goal in this situation, the goalie must have been replaced for an extra attacker, otherwise a minor penalty shall be assessed. If a player, when the goalie has been replaced for an extra attacker, falls on the ball, holds the ball, picks up the ball, or gathers the ball into his body or hands from the playing surface in the goal crease area, the play shall be stopped immediately and goal awarded to the non-offending team.
- e. Disallowed Goal - A goal cannot be scored by an attacking player who bats or directs the ball with his hand into the net. A goal cannot be scored by an attacking player who bats or directs the ball and it is deflected into the net off any player, goalie or official. When the ball enters the net on a clear deflection off a glove, the goal shall be allowed.

Rule 45 – Illegal Substitution - An illegal substitution shall be deemed to have occurred when a player enters the game illegally from either the players' bench (teammate not within the five (5) foot limit, refer to Section 7 Rule 51 – Too Many Men on the Playing surface), from the penalty bench (penalty has not yet expired), when a major penalty is being served and the replacement player does not return to the playing surface from the penalty bench (see Section 7 Rule 45.a), or when a player illegally enters the game for the sole purpose of preventing an opposing player from scoring on a breakaway (see Section 7 Rule 45.b and c). When an injured player is penalized and leaves the game, if the injured player returns before the expiration of the penalty, the injured player is not eligible to play. This includes coincidental penalties when the injured player's substitute is still in the penalty box awaiting a stoppage in play. The injured player must wait until the substitute has been released from the penalty box before the injured player is eligible to play.

- a. Bench Minor Penalty – When a player receives a major penalty and a misconduct or game misconduct penalty at the same time, or when an injured player receives a major penalty and is unable to serve the penalty himself, the penalized team shall place a substitute player on the penalty bench before the major penalty expires and no replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench. Any violation of this provision shall be treated as an illegal substitution under this rule calling for a bench minor penalty.
- b. Penalty Shot – If a player of the attacking side in possession of the ball shall be in such a position as to have no opposition between the player and the opposing goalie, and while in such position the player shall be interfered with by a player of the opposing side who shall have illegally entered the game, the Referee shall impose a penalty shot against the side to which the offending player belongs.
- c. Awarded Goal - If, when the opposing goalie has been removed from the playing surface, a player of the side attacking the unattended goal is interfered with in the neutral or attacking zone by a player who shall have entered the game illegally, the Referee shall immediately award a goal to the non-offending team.
- d. Disallowed Goal – If a penalized player returns to the playing surface from the penalty bench before the penalty has expired by the player’s own error or the error of the Penalty Timekeeper, any goal scored by the player’s own team while he (or his substitute) is illegally on the playing surface shall be disallowed but all penalties imposed on either team shall be served as regular penalties. The penalized player must return to serve the unexpired time (and an additional minor penalty if the player left the penalty bench on his own). If a player shall illegally enter the game from his own players’ bench or from any other location in the playing surface, any goal scored by the player’s own team while the player is illegally on the playing surface shall be disallowed but all penalties imposed on either team shall be served as regular penalties.
- e. Deliberate Illegal Substitution – see Section 7 Rule 45 – Too Many Men on the Playing surface.

Rule 46 – Interference on the Goalie –

- a. This rule is based on the premise that an attacking player’s position, whether inside or outside the crease, should not, by itself, determine whether a goal should be allowed or disallowed. In other words, goals scored while attacking players are standing in the crease may, in appropriate circumstances be allowed. Goals should be disallowed only if:
 - i. an attacking player, either by his positioning or by contact, impairs the goalie’s ability to move freely within the crease or defend the goal; or
 - ii. an attacking player initiates intentional or deliberate contact with a goalie, inside or outside of the goal crease. Incidental contact with a goalie will be permitted, and resulting goals allowed, when such contact is initiated outside of the goal crease, provided the attacking player has made a reasonable effort to avoid such contact. The rule will be enforced exclusively in accordance with the judgement of the Referee(s).

For purposes of this rule, “contact,” whether incidental or otherwise, shall mean any contact that is made between or among a goalie and attacking player(s), whether by means of a stick or any part of the body.

The overriding rationale of this rule is that a goalie should have the ability to move freely within his goal crease without being hindered by the actions of an attacking player. If an attacking player enters the goal crease and, by the attacking player’s actions, impairs the goalie’s ability to defend his goal, and a goal is scored, the goal will be disallowed.

If an attacking player has been pushed, shoved, or fouled by a defending player so as to cause the attacking player to come into contact with the goalie, such contact will not be deemed contact initiated by the attacking player for purposes of this rule, provided the attacking player has made a reasonable effort to avoid such contact.

If a defending player has been pushed, shoved, or fouled by an attacking player so as to cause the defending player to come into contact with the defending player’s own goalie, such contact shall be deemed contact initiated by the attacking player for purposes of this rule, and if necessary a penalty assessed to the attacking player and if a goal is scored it would be disallowed.

- b. Penalty - In all cases in which an attacking player initiates intentional or deliberate contact with a goalie, whether or not the goalie is inside or outside the goal crease, and whether or not a goal is scored, the attacking player will receive a penalty (minor or major, as the Referee deems appropriate). In all cases where the infraction being imposed is to the attacking player for hindering the goalie’s ability to move freely in his goal crease, the penalty to be assessed is for goalie interference.

In exercising his judgment, the Referee should give more significant consideration to the degree and nature of the contact with the goalie than to the exact location of the goalie at the time of the contact.

An attacking player who positions himself in front of the opposing goalie and engages in actions such as waving his arms or stick in front of the goalie’s face for the purpose of distracting the goalie, regardless whether the attacking player is positioned inside or outside of the goal crease, will be assessed a minor penalty.

- c. Contact Inside the Goal Crease - If an attacking player initiates contact with a goalie, incidental or otherwise, while the goalie is in his goal crease, and a goal is scored, the goal will be disallowed.

If a goalie, in the act of establishing his position within his goal crease, initiates contact with an attacking player who is in the goal crease, and this results in an impairment of the goalie’s ability to defend his goal, and a goal is scored, the goal will be disallowed.

If, after any contact by a goalie who is attempting to establish position in his goal crease, the attacking player does not immediately vacate his current position in the goal crease (i.e. give ground to the goalie), and a goal is scored, the goal will be disallowed. In all

such cases, whether or not a goal is scored, the attacking player will receive a minor penalty for goalie interference.

If an attacking player establishes a significant position within the goal crease, so as to obstruct the goalie's vision and impair his ability to defend his goal, and a goal is scored, the goal will be disallowed.

For this purpose, a player "establishes a significant position within the crease" when, in the Referee's judgment, his body, or a substantial portion thereof, is within the goal crease for more than an instantaneous period of time.

An attacking player may move through the goal crease during game action so long as the player doesn't make contact with the goalie. If the player makes contact, or if the goalie makes contact while backing up into the goal crease, the attacking player will be assessed a minor penalty

- d. Contact Outside the Goal Crease - If an attacking player initiates any contact with a goalie, other than incidental contact, while the goalie is outside his goal crease, and a goal is scored, the goal will be disallowed.

A goalie is not "fair game" just because he is outside the goal crease. The appropriate penalty should be assessed in every case where an attacking player makes unnecessary contact with the goalie. However, incidental contact will be permitted when the goalie is in the act of playing the ball outside his goal crease provided the attacking player has made a reasonable effort to avoid such unnecessary contact.

When a goalie has played the ball outside of his crease and is then prevented from returning to his crease area due to the deliberate actions of an attacking player, such player may be penalized for goalie interference. Similarly, the goalie may be penalized, if by his actions outside of his crease he deliberately interferes with an attacking player who is attempting to play the ball or an opponent.

- e. Face-off Location – Whenever the Referee stops play to disallow a goal as a result of contact with the goalie (incidental or otherwise), the resulting face-off shall take place at the nearest neutral zone face-off spot outside the attacking zone of the offending team.
- f. Rebounds and Loose Balls - In a rebound situation, or where a goalie and attacking player(s) are simultaneously attempting to play a loose ball, whether inside or outside the crease, incidental contact with the goalie will be permitted, and any goal that is scored as a result thereof will be allowed.

In the event that a goalie has been pushed into the net together with the ball by an attacking player after making a stop, the goal will be disallowed. If applicable, appropriate penalties will be assessed. If, however, in the opinion of the Referee, the attacking player was pushed or otherwise fouled by a defending player causing the goalie to be pushed into the net together with the ball, the goal can be permitted.

In the event that the ball is under a player in or around the crease area (deliberately or otherwise), a goal cannot be scored by pushing this player together with the ball into the goal. If applicable, the appropriate penalties will be assessed, including a penalty shot if deemed to be covered in the crease deliberately (see Rule 35 – Delaying the Game).

Rule 47 – Leaving the Bench - No player may leave the players' or penalty bench at any time during an altercation or for the purpose of starting an altercation.

- a. Legal Line Change – A player who has entered the game while play is in progress from his own players' bench or legally from the penalty bench (penalty time has expired) who starts an altercation may be subject to supplemental discipline. A player or players who have entered the game on a legal line change during a stoppage of play, who line up in preparation for the ensuing face-off, and who participate in an altercation shall be penalized under the appropriate rule and will be subject to supplemental discipline.
- b. Leaving the Penalty Bench – Except at the end of each period or on expiration of his penalty, no player may, at any time, leave the penalty bench. A player serving a penalty on the penalty bench, who is to be changed after the penalty has been served, must proceed at once by way of the playing surface and be at his own players' bench before any change can be made. For any violation of this rule, a bench minor penalty shall be imposed for too many men on the playing surface (see Section 7 Rule 51 – Too Many Men on the Playing surface). A penalized player who leaves the penalty bench before his penalty has expired, whether play is in progress or not, shall incur an additional minor penalty after serving the unexpired penalty. Any player who, having entered the penalty bench, leaves the penalty bench prior to the expiration of the penalty for the purpose of challenging an official's ruling, shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty. This rule does not replace any other more severe penalty that may be imposed for leaving the penalty bench for the purpose of starting or participating in an altercation as outlined in this rule. Any penalized player leaving the penalty bench during a stoppage of play and during an altercation shall incur a minor penalty plus a game misconduct penalty. The minor penalty plus the unexpired time remaining in the original penalty must be served by a replacement player placed on the penalty bench by the Coach of the offending team. If a player leaves the penalty bench before the penalty is fully served, the Penalty Timekeeper shall note the time and signal the officials who will stop play when the offending player's team obtains control of the ball. An additional minor penalty must be served by this player in addition to the time remaining in his original penalty (this unexpired time is calculated from the time he left the penalty bench illegally. In the case of a player returning to the playing surface before his time has expired through an error of the Penalty Timekeeper, the player is not to serve an additional penalty, but must serve the unexpired time this unexpired time is calculated from the time the player left the penalty bench through the error of the Penalty Timekeeper. At a stoppage of play following the expiration of their penalties, if a player or players exiting the penalty bench get involved in an altercation, those coming from the penalty bench shall be assessed the penalties they incur in the altercation in addition to a game. Should a player coming from the penalty bench at a stoppage of play get involved with an opponent and the opponent is deemed to be the instigator of the altercation, then the player coming from the penalty bench would not be subject to the game misconduct.

- c. Bench Minor Penalty – A bench minor penalty shall be imposed on a team whose player(s) leave the players’ bench for any purpose other than a change of players and when no altercation is in progress. If a Coach or non-playing Organization personnel gets on the playing surface (unless directed to do so by an on-playing surface official, i.e. to attend to an injured player) after the start of a period and before that period is ended, the Referee shall impose a bench minor penalty against the team.
- d. Game Misconduct Penalty – A game misconduct penalty shall be imposed on the player who was the first or second player to leave the players’ or penalty bench during an altercation or for the purpose of starting an altercation, from either or both teams. Any penalized player leaving the penalty bench during a stoppage of play and during an altercation shall incur a minor penalty plus a game misconduct penalty. The minor penalty plus the unexpired time remaining in his original penalty must be served by a replacement player placed on the penalty bench by the Coach of the offending team. Any player who has been ordered off the playing surface by the officials and returns to their bench or to the playing surface for any reason before the appropriate time shall be assessed a game. Once a player enters the penalty bench, the player must not leave until his penalty expires and their team is entitled to an additional player on the playing surface, or, at the end of a period to proceed to his dressing room, or, when he has received permission from an on-playing surface official. At any other time, he shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty under this rule.
- e. Penalty Shot – If a player of the attacking side in possession of the ball shall be in such a position as to have no opposition between him and the opposing goalie, and while in such position he shall be interfered with by a player of the opposing side who shall have illegally entered the game, the Referee shall impose a penalty shot against the side to which the offending player belongs
- f. Awarded Goal – If, when the opposing goalie has been removed from the playing surface, a player of the side attacking the unattended goal is interfered with in the neutral or attacking zone by a player who shall have entered the game illegally, the Referee shall immediately award a goal to the non-offending team.
- g. Disallowed Goal – If a penalized player returns to the playing surface from the penalty bench before the penalty has expired by the player’s own error or the error of the Penalty Timekeeper, any goal scored by his own team while he is illegally on the playing surface shall be disallowed but all penalties imposed on either team shall be served as regular penalties. If a player shall illegally enter the game from his own players’ bench or from the penalty bench, any goal scored by his own team while he is illegally on the playing surface shall be disallowed but all penalties imposed on either team shall be served as regular penalties.

Rule 48 – Premature Substitution - When a goalie leaves the goal area and proceeds to his players’ bench for the purpose of substituting another player, the player cannot enter the playing surface before the goalie is within five feet (5’) of the bench. If the substitution is made prematurely, the referee shall stop play immediately unless the non-offending team has possession of the ball -- in which event the stoppage will be delayed until the ball changes possession. There shall be no time penalty to the team making the premature substitution, but the resulting face-off will take place at the center playing surface face-off spot when play is stopped beyond the center red line. When play is stopped prior to the center red line, the resulting face-off shall be conducted at the nearest face-off spot in the zone where

the play was stopped. In all other situations not covered in the above, a minor penalty may result for “too many men on the playing surface” (see Section 7 Rule 51). e

Rule 49 – Refusing to Play the Ball - The purpose of this section is to enforce continuous action and the Referees should interpret and apply the rule to produce this result.

- a. Hand Pass – When a hand pass has been initiated by one player to a teammate and the teammate elects not to play the ball to avoid the stoppage of play, and the opposing team also abstains from playing the ball (perhaps to allow time to expire on a penalty), the Referee shall stop the play and order the resulting face-off at the nearest faceoff location to where the play was stopped for this violation.
- b. Icing – If, in the opinion of the Referee, the defending side intentionally abstains from pursuing the ball beyond the face-off spots on an icing promptly when they are in a position to do so, the shall stop the play and order the resulting face-off on the adjacent corner face-off spot referee nearest the goal of the team at fault.
- c. Penalty – When the Referee signals the delayed calling of a penalty to one team and a player of that team intentionally abstains from playing the ball in order to allow additional time to expire on the game or penalty time clocks, the Referee shall stop the play and order the resulting face-off at one of the face-off spots in the offending team’s defending zone. See Section 8 Rule 54.

Rule 50 – Refusing to Start Play - This rule applies to teams who refuse to play while both teams are on the playing surface or who withdraws from the playing surface and refuses to play or who refuses to come onto the playing surface at the start of the game or at the beginning of any period of the game, when ordered to do so by the Referee.

- a. Procedure – Team on Playing surface - If, when both teams are on the playing surface, one team for any reason shall refuse to play when ordered to do so by the Referee, the referee shall warn the Coach and allow the team so refusing thirty (30) seconds within which to begin the play or resume play. If at the end of that time, the team shall still refuse to play, the Referee shall impose a bench minor penalty for delay of game on a player of the offending team to be designated by the Coach. The offending Coach shall be removed from the players’ bench and assessed a game misconduct penalty. Should the offending team still refuse to play, the Referee shall have no alternative but to declare that the game be forfeited to the non-offending Organization and the case shall be reported to the governing body for further discipline (see Rule 47 – Forfeit of Game).
- b. Procedure – Team Off Playing surface - If a team, when ordered to do so by the Referee through its Coach, fails to go on the playing surface and start play within five (5) minutes, the game shall be forfeited, and the case shall be reported to the governing body for further action (see Section 7 Rule 53 – Forfeit of Game).

Rule 51 – Too Many Men on the Playing Surface

- a. Too Many Men on the Playing surface - Players may be changed at any time during the play from the players' bench provided that the player or players leaving the playing surface shall be within five feet (5') of his players' bench and out of the play before the change is made. Refer also to Section 7 Rule 48 – Premature Substitution. At the discretion of the referee, should a substituting player come onto the playing surface before his teammate is within the five foot (5') limit of the players' bench (and therefore clearly causing his team to have too many players on the playing surface), then a bench minor penalty may be assessed. When a player is retiring from the playing surface and is within the five-foot (5') limit of his players' bench, and his substitute is on the playing surface, then the retiring player shall be considered off the playing surface for the purpose of Section 7 Rule 47 – Leaving Bench. If in the course of making a substitution, either the player entering the game or the player retiring from the playing surface plays the ball with his stick, skates or hands or who checks or makes any physical contact with an opposing player while either the player entering the game or the retiring player is actually on the playing surface, then the infraction of “too many men on the playing surface” will be called. If in the course of a substitution either the player(s) entering the play or the player(s) retiring is struck by the ball accidentally, the play will not be stopped and no penalty will be called. During the play, the player retiring from the playing surface must do so at the players' bench and not through any other exit leading from the playing surface. This is not a legal player change and therefore when a violation occurs, a bench minor penalty shall be imposed. A player coming onto the playing surface as a substitute player is considered on the playing surface once both of his feet are on the playing surface. If the player plays the ball or interferes with an opponent while still on the players' bench, the player shall be penalized under Section 5 Rule 34 – Interference.
- b. Bench Minor Penalty – A bench minor penalty for too many men on the playing surface shall be assessed for a violation of this rule. This penalty can be assessed by the Referees. Should a goal be scored by the offending team prior to the Referee blowing his whistle to assess the bench minor penalty, the goal shall be disallowed and the penalty assessed for too many men on the playing surface.
- c. Penalty Bench - A player serving a penalty on the penalty bench, who is to be changed after the penalty has been served, must proceed at once by way of the playing surface and be within five feet (5') of his own players' bench before any change can be made. For any violation of this rule, a bench minor penalty shall be imposed for too many men on the playing surface.
- d. Deliberate Illegal Substitution - If by reason of insufficient playing time remaining, or by reason of penalties already imposed, a bench minor penalty is imposed for deliberate illegal substitution (too many men on the playing surface) which cannot be served in its entirety within the legal playing time, or at any time in overtime, a penalty shot shall be awarded against the offending team.
- e. Goalie in Round Robin and Elimination Games - Once the goalie has been removed for an extra attacker, the goalie must wait for the next stoppage of play before returning to his position. Any attempt by the goalie to return to his position prior to the next stoppage of play (“on the fly”) shall be deemed to be an illegal substitution and a bench minor penalty shall be assessed for having an ineligible player would apply.

Rule 52 – Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Players and non-playing Organization personnel are responsible for their conduct at all times and must endeavor to prevent disorderly conduct before, during or after the game, on or off the playing surface. The Referees may assess penalties to any of the above team personnel for failure to do so. NOTE: When such conduct is directed at an official, Section 3 Rule 16 – Abuse of Officials shall be applied.

- a. Minor Penalty - A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed under this rule for the following infractions:
 1. Any identifiable player who uses obscene, profane or abusive language or gestures directed at any person.
 2. Any player who is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct including, but not limited to hair-pulling, biting, grabbing hold of a face mask, etc. If warranted, and specifically when injury results, the Referee may apply Section 3 – Penalties a.7.
 3. Any player who throws any object onto the playing surface from the players’ or penalty bench (or from any other off-playing surface location).
 4. A player who deliberately removes his jersey prior to participating in an altercation shall be assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct and a game misconduct. If the altercation never materializes, the player would receive a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct and a five-minute misconduct for deliberately removing his jersey. If a penalized player is assessed an additional unsportsmanlike conduct penalty either before or after the player begins serving his original penalty(ies), the additional minor penalty is added to his unexpired time and served consecutively.
- b. Bench Minor Penalty - A bench minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed under this rule for the following infractions:
 1. When a player, Coach or non-playing Organization personnel throws any object onto the playing surface from the players’ or penalty bench (or from any other off-playing surface location) during the progress of the game or during a stoppage of play.
 2. Any unidentifiable player or any Coach or non-playing Organization personnel uses obscene, profane or abusive language or gesture directed towards any person.
 3. Whenever Coaches and/or non-playing Organization personnel uses obscene or profane language or gestures anywhere in the playing surface.
- c. Misconduct Penalty - Misconduct penalties shall be assessed under this rule for the following infractions:
 1. Any player who persists in using obscene, profane or abusive language directed towards any person after being assessed a minor or bench minor penalty under this Rule.
 2. Any player who deliberately throws any equipment out of the playing area. At the discretion of the Referee, a game misconduct may be imposed.

3. Any player who persists in any course of conduct (including threatening or abusive language or gestures or similar actions) designed to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty.
 4. When a penalized player challenges or disputes the ruling of an official after he has already entered the penalty bench and play has resumed.
 5. In general, participants displaying this type of behavior are assessed a minor penalty, then a misconduct penalty and then a game misconduct penalty if they persist.
- d. Game Misconduct Penalty – Game misconduct penalties shall be assessed under this rule for the following infractions:
1. If a player persists in any course of conduct for which the player was previously assessed a misconduct penalty
 2. Any player who uses obscene gestures on the playing surface or anywhere in the playing surface before, during or after the game. The Referee shall report the circumstances to the governing body for further disciplinary action.
 3. Coaches and non-playing Organization personnel who have previously been assessed a bench minor penalty for the use obscene or profane language or gestures anywhere in the playing surface. The Referee shall report the circumstances to the governing body for further disciplinary action.
 4. Any player who attempts to or deliberately injures a Coach or other non-playing Organization personnel in any manner. Details of such incident must be reported immediately to the governing body and may be subject to additional supplementary discipline.
 5. Any player or non-playing Organization personnel who directs obscene, profane or abusive language or gestures to any person after the expiration of the game. This action may occur on or off the playing surface.
 6. In general, participants displaying this type of behavior are assessed a minor penalty, then a misconduct penalty and then a game misconduct penalty if they persist. Any player or non-playing Organization personnel penalized under this section may be subject to supplemental discipline.

Rule 53 – Forfeit of game - In the event of failure by an Organization team to comply with the PACT by-laws or rules or both affecting the playing of a game, the Referee shall, if so directed by the PACT President or his designee, refuse to permit the game to proceed until the offending Organization team comes into compliance with such provision. Should the offending Organization team persist in its refusal to come into compliance, the Referee shall, with the prior approval of the PACT President or his designee, declare the game forfeited and the non-offending Organization team the winner. Should the Referee declare the game forfeited because both Organization teams have refused to comply with such a provision, the visiting Organization team shall be declared the winner. If the game is declared forfeited prior to its having commenced, the maximum Barrie points shall be recorded and no player shall be credited with any personal statistics. If the game was in progress at the time it is declared forfeited, the score shall be recorded as zero for the loser and 1, or such greater number of goals that had been

scored by it, for the winner; however, the players on both Organization teams shall be credited with all personal statistics earned up to the time the forfeit was declared.

Section 8 – Game Flow

Rule 54 – Face-offs - The action of the Referee in dropping the ball between the sticks of two opposing players to start or resume play. A face-off begins when the referee indicates the location of the face-off and the referee and players take their appropriate positions. The face-off ends when the ball has been legally dropped. A goalie may not participate in a face-off

- a. Face-off Locations – All face-offs must be conducted on one of the nine (9) face-off spots located on the playing surface. When a stoppage of play has been caused by any player of the attacking side in the attacking zone, the ensuing face-off shall be made in the neutral zone on the nearest face-off spot. If two rule violations are the reason for the stoppage of play (i.e. high-sticking the ball and intentional off-side), the ensuing face-off location shall be determined as the spot that provides the least amount of territorial advantage to the offending team. When the play is stopped for any reason not specifically attributable to either team while the ball is in the neutral zone, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the nearest face-off spot outside the blue line whenever possible. When it is unclear as to which of the four face-off spots is the nearest, the spot that gives the home team the greatest territorial advantage in the neutral zone will be selected for the ensuing face-off. When players are penalized at a stoppage of play so as to result in penalties being placed on the penalty time clock to one team, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at one of the two face-off spots in the offending team’s end zone. There are only four exceptions to this application:
 - i. when a penalty is assessed after the scoring of a goal - face-off at center playing surface;
 - ii. when a penalty is assessed at the end (or start) of a period - face-off at center playing surface;
 - iii. when the defending team is penalized and the attacking players enter the attacking zone beyond the outer edge of the end zone face-off circle - face-off in the neutral zone (see paragraph 11 of this section);
 - iv. when the team not being penalized ices the ball - face-off in the neutral zone outside the blue line of the team icing the ball.

When an infringement of a rule has been committed by players of both sides in the play resulting in the stoppage, the ensuing face-off will be made at the nearest face-off spot in that zone.

When stoppage occurs between the end face-off spots and near end of the playing surface, the ball shall be faced-off at the end face-off spot on the side where the stoppage occurs unless otherwise expressly provided by these rules.

No face-off shall be made within fifteen feet (15') of the goal or side boards nor anywhere other than at a face-off spot.

When a goal is illegally scored as a result of a ball being deflected directly off an official, the resulting face-off shall be made at the nearest face-off spot in the zone where the ball deflected off the official.

When a goal is illegally scored by the attacking team by directing, batting, kicking or high-sticking the ball into the goal, the resulting face-off shall take place in the neutral zone at the nearest face-off spot.

When the game is stopped for any reason not specifically covered in the official rules, the ball must be faced-off at a face-off spot in the zone nearest to where it was last played.

Following a stoppage of play, should one or both defensemen who are the point players or any player coming from the bench of the attacking team, enter into the attacking zone beyond the outer edge of the end zone face-off circle during an altercation, gathering or "scrum," the ensuing face-off shall take place in the neutral zone near the blue line of the defending team. This rule also applies when an icing, an intentional off-side, or a high-sticking the ball violation (by the team of greater numerical strength of its opponent) has occurred, and the ensuing face-off is to be in the offending team's defending zone. Should any of the non-offending players enter into the attacking zone beyond the outer edge of the end zone face-off circle during an altercation, gathering or "scrum," the ensuing face-off shall take place in the neutral zone near the blue line of the defending team.

For a violation of Rule 48 – Premature Substitution, the resulting face-off will take place at the center playing surface face-off spot when play is stopped beyond the center red line. When play is stopped prior to the center red line, the resulting face-off shall be conducted at the nearest face-off spot in the zone where the play was stopped.

When play is stopped for an injured player, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the face-off spot in the zone nearest the location of the ball when the play was stopped. When the injured player's team has control of the ball in the attacking zone, the face-off shall be conducted at one of the face-off spots outside the blue line in the neutral zone. When the injured player is in his defending zone and the attacking team is in control of the ball in the attacking zone, the face-off shall be conducted at one of the defending team's end-zone face-off spots.

- b. Procedure – As soon as the line change procedure has been completed by the Referee and the Referee lowers his hand to indicate no further changes, the Referee conducting the face-off shall blow his whistle. This will signal to both teams that they have no more than five (5) seconds to line up for the ensuing face-off. At the

end of the five (5) seconds (or sooner if both centers are ready), the referee will conduct a proper face-off. If, however:

- i. One or both centers are not positioned for the face-off,
- ii. One or both centers refrain from placing their stick on the playing surface,
- iii. Any player has encroached into the face-off circle,
- iv. Any player makes physical contact with an opponent, or
- v. Any player who lines up for the face-off in an off-side position,

the Referee shall have the offending center(s) replaced immediately prior to dropping the ball.

- c. Procedure – Centers – The ball shall be faced-off by the Referee dropping the ball on the playing surface between the sticks of the players facing-off. Players facing-off will stand squarely facing their opponent's end of the playing surface approximately one stick length apart with the blade of their sticks on the playing surface.

When the face-off takes place at any of the nine face-off spots, the players taking part shall take their position so that they will stand squarely facing their opponent's end of the playing surface, and clear of the playing surface markings (where applicable). The sticks of both players facing-off shall have the blade on the playing surface, within the designated area. At the eight face-off spots (excluding center playing surface face-off spot), the defending player shall place his stick within the designated area first followed immediately by the attacking player. When the face-off is conducted at the center playing surface face-off spot, the visiting player shall place his stick on the playing surface first.

If a player facing-off fails to take his proper position immediately when directed by the Referee, the Referee may order the player replaced for that face-off by any teammate then on the playing surface.

If a center is not at the designated face-off area once the five (5) second time limit has elapsed, the Referee will drop the ball immediately. If the center is back from the face-off spot, is "quarterbacking" or refuses to come into the face-off area when instructed to do so by the Referee, or the center is simply slow getting to the face-off spot when the five (5) seconds has elapsed, the ball shall be dropped. If the center attempts to arrive at the face-off spot just as the five seconds elapses in an attempt to gain an advantage to win the face-off, the player is to be removed from the face-off and replaced, resulting in a face-off violation. If the face-off is a result of an icing infraction and the center attempts to arrive at the face-off spot just as the five seconds elapse to gain an advantage to win the face-off, he shall not be removed from the face-off. The center will be warned by the Referee that he has committed a face-off violation. In the even the center then commits a second face-off violation, or the action actually is the second face-off violation, a bench minor penalty shall be assessed.

If a player is ejected from the face-off, the player's replacement must come into position quickly or risk having the ball dropped by the Referee without the player being set or ejected from the face-off by the Referee resulting in a bench minor penalty for delay of game for a second face-off violation during the same face-off.

When a team commits an icing infraction, any face-off violation will not result in the center being removed. The center will be warned by the Referee that the team has committed their first face-off violation and any subsequent violation will result in a bench minor penalty for delay of game - face-off violation being assessed.

Both players facing-off are prohibited from batting the ball with their hand in an attempt to win the face-off. Any attempt by either center to win the face-off by batting the ball with their hand shall result in a minor penalty. This penalty shall be announced as "Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Face-off Violation". The two players involved in the actual face-off (the centers) are not permitted to play the ball with their hand without incurring a penalty under this rule until such time as a third player (from either team) has at least touched the ball. Once the face-off is deemed complete (and a winner of the face-off is clear) hand passes shall be enforced as per Rule 56.

On all face-offs, the ball must contact the playing surface before the players can make a play on the ball. Once the ball has contacted the playing surface, the player(s) must first play the ball without contacting the opponent. A violation of this procedure shall be treated as face-off encroachment and the Referee shall order the center(s) of the offending team replaced. This shall be considered a face-off violation.

- d. Procedure – Other Players – No other player shall be allowed to enter the face-off circle or come within fifteen feet (15') of the players facing-off. All players must stand on-side on all face-offs.

During end-zone face-offs, all other players on the playing surface must position their bodies on their own side of the restraining lines marked on the outer edge of the face-off circles.

If a player other than the player taking the face-off moves into the face-off circle prior to the dropping of the ball, then the offending team's player taking the face-off shall be ejected from the face-off circle. This shall be considered a face-off violation.

Players on the attacking team (exclusive of the center) must establish their position first and then the defending team may counter and hold its position until the ball is dropped. A violation of this procedure shall be treated as face-off encroachment and the Referee shall order the center of the offending team replaced. Should an attacking player attempt to establish a new position prior to the face-off, and the defending center steps back from the face-off spot in order to reposition his teammates, the face-off violation shall be charged to the attacking team as they must establish their position first.

- e. Violations – If a center should move prematurely prior to the face-off, or if the Referee shall have dropped the ball unfairly, the face-off shall be considered a face-off violation and it must be conducted again.

When a least two face-off violations have been committed by the same team during the same face-off, this team shall be penalized with a bench minor penalty to the offending team. This penalty shall be announced as a “Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Face-off Violation.”

Face-off violations shall be summarized as follows:

(i) Encroachment by any player other than the center into the face-off area prior to the ball being dropped. Players on the perimeter of the face-off circle must keep both feet outside the face-off circle (foot contact with the line is permitted). If a player's foot crosses the line into the face-off circle prior to the drop of the ball, this shall be deemed as a face-off violation. A player's stick may be inside the face-off circle provided there is no physical contact with his opponent or his opponent's stick.

(ii) Encroachment by any player into the area between the hash marks on the outer edges of the face-off circle prior to the ball being dropped. Players must also ensure that both of their feet do not cross their respective hash marks. Contact with the line with their foot is permitted. If a player's foot crosses the line into the area between the hash marks prior to the drop of the ball, this shall be deemed as a face-off violation. A player's stick may be inside the area between the hash marks provided there is no physical contact with his opponent or his opponent's stick.

(iii) Any physical contact with an opponent prior to the ball being dropped.

(iv) Failure by either center taking the face-off to properly position himself behind the restraining lines or place his stick on the playing surface (as outlined in Rule 54.c). "Properly position himself behind the restraining lines" shall mean that the center must place his feet on either side of the restraining lines that are parallel to the side boards (contact with the lines is permissible), and his feet must not cross over the restraining lines that are perpendicular to the side boards as he approaches the face-off spot.

The blade of the stick must then be placed on the playing surface (at least the toe of the blade of the stick) in the designated white area of the faceoff spot and must remain there until the ball is dropped.

Failure to comply with this positioning and face-off procedure will result in a face-off violation.

Whenever a team has committed two face-off violations during the same face-off, the Referee shall immediately assess the offending team a bench minor penalty for delay of game. This penalty shall be announced as a “Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Face-off Violation.”

Players who are late to the face-off location and therefore in an offside position for the ensuing face-off will be warned once in the game by the Referee. This warning will also be given to the offending team's Coach. In this

situation, the offending team's center is not ejected from the face-off. Any subsequent violation shall result in a bench minor penalty for delay of game being assessed to the offending team. This penalty shall be announced as a "Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Slow Proceeding to Face-off Location."

In the conduct of any face-off at any of the nine (9) face-off spots on the playing surface, no player facing-off shall make any physical contact with his opponent's body by means of his own body or by his stick except in the course of playing the ball after the face-off has been completed.

For violation of this rule, the Referee may, at his discretion impose a minor penalty or penalties on the player(s) whose action(s) caused the physical contact. Nonetheless, this physical contact prior to the dropping of the ball shall be deemed as a face-off violation and the referee shall order the center of the offending team replaced.

Face-off encroachment may be applied during face-offs at any of the nine (9) face-off spots on the playing surface. However, since no such lines on the playing surface at the four (4) face-off spots adjacent to the blue lines, the Referee shall use their judgment as to whether or not a violation has occurred. All players, other than the centers, shall be uniformly back from the face-off location similar to being outside the face-off circle for face-offs in the end zones.

- f. Line Changes – No substitution of players shall be permitted until the face-off has been completed and play has resumed except when a penalty is imposed which affects the on-playing surface strength of either team.

Should the Referee notice that the defending team has not placed enough players on the playing surface for the ensuing face-off, the Referee in the neutral zone shall be notified and he will instruct the offending team to place another player(s) on the playing surface. If, in the opinion of the Referee that this is being done as a stalling tactic, he will issue a warning to the offending team's Coach and any subsequent violations shall result in the assessment of a bench minor penalty for delay of game.

Should the Referee notice that the attacking team has not placed enough players on the playing surface for the ensuing face-off, the Referee will proceed with conducting the face-off in the normal manner. The attacking team must ensure they put the appropriate number of players on the playing surface at all times.

- g. Verification of Time - Any loss of time on the game or penalty clocks due to a false face-off or face-off violation must be replaced. The scorekeeper may be consulted to ensure the time is accurately replaced. The whistle will not be blown by the Referee to start play. Playing time will commence from the instant the ball is faced-off and will stop when the whistle is blown or a goal is scored.

a. Scoring a Goal - A goal shall be scored when the ball shall have been put between the goal posts by the stick of a player of the attacking side, from in front and below the crossbar, and entirely across the goal line the width of the diameter of the goal posts drawn on the playing surface from one goal post to the other with the goal frame in its proper position. The goal frame shall be considered in its proper position when at least a portion of the flexible peg(s) are still inside both the goal post and the hole in the playing surface. The flexible pegs could be bent, but as long as at least a portion of the flexible peg(s) are still in the hole in the playing surface and the goal post, the goal frame shall be deemed to be in its proper position. The goal frame could be raised somewhat on one post (or both), but as long as the flexible pegs are still in contact with the holes in the playing surface and the goal posts, the goal frame shall not be deemed to be displaced.

A goal shall be scored if the ball is shot into the goal by a player of the defending side. The player of the attacking side who last touched the ball shall be credited with the goal but no assist shall be awarded.

A goal shall be scored if the ball is put into the goal in any other manner by a player of the defending side. The player of the attacking side who last touched the ball shall be credited with the goal and assists may be awarded.

If an attacking player has the ball deflect into the net, off his skate or body, in any manner, the goal shall be allowed. The player who deflected the ball shall be credited with the goal.

Should a player legally propel a ball into the goal crease of the opponent Club and the ball should become loose and available to another player of the attacking side, a goal scored on the play shall be legal.

b. Disallowed Goals – Apparent goals shall be disallowed by the for the following reasons:

(i) When the ball has been directed, batted or thrown into the net by an attacking player other than with a stick. When this occurs, if it is deemed to be done deliberately, then the decision shall be NO GOAL. A goal cannot be scored when the ball has been deliberately batted with any part of the attacking player's body into the net.

(ii) When the ball has been kicked using a distinct kicking motion.

(iii) When the ball has deflected directly into the net off an Referee.

(iv) When a goal has been scored and an ineligible player is on the playing surface.

(v) When an attacking player has interfered with a goalie in his goal crease.

(vi) When the ball has entered the net after making contact with an attacking player's stick that is above the height of the crossbar.

(vii) When a goalie has been pushed into the net together with the ball after making a save. See Section 7 – Other Fouls, Rule 46

(viii) When the net becomes displaced accidentally. The goal frame is considered to be displaced if either or both goal pegs are no longer in their respective holes in the playing surface, or the net has come completely off one or both pegs, prior to or as the ball enters the goal.

(ix) During the delayed calling of a penalty, the offending team cannot score unless the non-offending team shoots the ball into their own net. This shall mean that a deflection off an offending player or any physical action by an offending player that may cause the ball to enter the non-offending team's goal, shall not be considered a legal goal. Play shall be stopped before the ball enters the net (whenever possible) and the signaled penalty assessed to the offending team

(x) When the Referee deems the play has been stopped, even if the Referee had not physically had the opportunity to stop play by blowing his whistle.

(xi) Any goal scored, other than as covered by the official rules, shall not be allowed.

Rule 56 – Hand Pass

- a. Hand Pass - A player shall be permitted to stop or “bat” a ball in the air with his open hand, or push it along the playing surface with his hand, and the play shall not be stopped unless, in the opinion of the Referee, the player has directed the ball to a teammate, or has allowed his team to gain an advantage, and subsequently possession and control of the ball is obtained by a player of the offending team, either directly or deflected off any player or Referee. A player shall be permitted to catch the ball out of the air but must immediately place it or knock it down to the playing surface. If the player catches the ball and runs with the ball, either to avoid a check or to gain a territorial advantage over his opponent, a minor penalty shall be assessed for “closing his hand on the ball” under Rule 44 – Handling Ball.
- b. Defending Zone - Play will not be stopped for any hand pass by players in their own defending zone. The location of the ball when contacted by either the player making the hand pass or the player receiving the hand pass shall determine the zone it is in.
- c. Face-Off Location – When a hand pass violation has occurred, the ensuing face-off shall take place at the nearest face-off spot in the zone where the offense occurred, unless the offending team gains a territorial advantage, then the face-off shall be at the nearest face-off spot in the zone where the stoppage of play occurred, unless otherwise covered in the rules. When a hand pass violation occurs by a team in their attacking zone, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at one of the face-off spots outside the defending team's blue line in the neutral zone.

Rule 57 – Icing

- a. Icing – Should any player of a team, equal or superior in numerical strength (power-play) to the opposing team, shoot, bat or deflect the ball from inside the player's clearing line

of the playing surface beyond the goal line of the opposing team, play shall be stopped. For the purpose of deflected balls, this only applies when the ball was originally propelled down the playing surface by the offending team.

For the purpose of this rule, the point of last contact with the ball by the team in possession shall be used to determine whether icing has occurred or not. As such, the team in possession must “gain the line” in order for the icing to be nullified. “Gaining the line” shall mean that the ball, while on the player’s stick (not the player’s skate) must make contact with the clearing line in order to nullify a potential icing.

- b. Face-Off Location – The resulting face-off following an icing call shall be at the end face-off spot of the offending team, unless on the play, the ball shall have entered the net of the opposing team, in which case the goal shall be allowed. If during the period of a delayed whistle due to a penalty by a player of the side not in possession, the side in possession “ices” the ball, then the face-off following the stoppage of play shall take place in the neutral zone near the defending blue line of the team icing the ball.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, the defending side intentionally abstains from playing the ball promptly when they are in a position to do so, he shall stop the play and order the resulting face-off on the adjacent corner face-off spot nearest the goal of the team at fault.

If the Referee shall have erred in calling an “icing the ball” infraction (regardless of whether either team is short-handed), the ball shall be faced-off on the center playing surface face-off spot.

- c. Goalie - If, in the opinion of the Referee, the goalie feigns playing the ball, attempts to play the ball, or skates in the direction of the ball on an icing at any time, the potential icing shall not be called, and play shall continue.

If, however, a goalie is legitimately out of the crease in an attempt to go to the players’ bench to be substituted for an extra attacker and in no way makes an attempt to play the ball, the icing should not be nullified under this section.

If the goalie is out of his crease prior to the shot being taken, and simply retreats to his crease making no attempt to play the ball or feign playing the ball, the potential icing shall remain in effect.

- d. No Icing – When the ball is shot and rebounds from the body or stick of an opponent in outside the clearing line so as to cross the goal line of the player shooting, it shall not be considered “icing.”

When a ball is shot by a team from the clearing line and is deflected several times before crossing the center red line, icing shall be nullified if at least one of these deflections was off an opposing player.

If the ball shall go beyond the goal line in the opposite half of the playing surface directly from either of the players while facing-off, it shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, any player (other than the goalie) of the opposing team is able to play the ball before it passes his goal line, but has not done so, play shall continue, and the icing violation shall not be called. This includes the situation whereby the opposing team, while in the process of making player substitutions during the play, are able to play the ball, but choose not to do so to avoid being called for too many men on the playing surface. Icing should not be called.

If the ball touches any part of a player of the opposing side, including his foot or his stick, or if it touches any part of the opposing team's goalie, including his foot or his stick, at any time before or after crossing the goal line, it shall not be considered icing.

If a goalie takes any action to dislodge the ball from the back of the net, icing shall not be called.

- e. Numerical Strength – If the ball was so shot by a player of a side below the numerical strength of the opposing team, play shall continue, and the icing violation shall not be called.

When a team is “short-handed” as the result of a penalty and the penalty is about to expire, the decision as to whether there has been an “icing” shall be determined at the instant the penalty expires. Should the ball be released from the stick of the player shooting the ball down the playing surface prior to the penalty expiring, the icing infraction shall not apply. The action of the penalized player remaining in the penalty box will not alter the ruling.

When a team is “short-handed” by reason of a major penalty, and they have neglected to ensure there is a player on the penalty bench to exit upon the expiry of the penalty, the short-handed team will continue to play shorthanded but are not permitted to ice the ball. Icing will be called. They may substitute for this penalized player at the next stoppage of play.

Rule 58 - Line Change

- a. Line Change - Following the stoppage of play, the visiting team shall promptly place a line-up on the playing surface ready for play and no substitution shall be made from that time until play has been resumed. The home team may then make any desired substitution, which does not result in the delay of the game.
“Placing a line-up on the playing surface” shall mean that both teams shall place the full complement of players (and not exceed) to which they are entitled within the line change time frame.

If there is any undue delay by either team in changing players, the Referee shall order the offending team or teams to take their positions immediately and not permit any further player changes.

When a substitution has been made under the above rule, no additional substitution may be made until play commences.

Once the line change procedure has been completed (b), no additional player substitutions shall be permitted until the face-off has been completed legally and play has resumed, except when a penalty or penalties are imposed that affect the on-playing surface strength of either or both teams. This may include penalties imposed following the completion of the line change and prior to the face-off, or due to a penalty assessed for a face-off violation.

Goalies' substitution during a game will be conducted within the same time frame as a regular line change. No extra time will be allotted to the goalie coming off the bench, except in the case where an injury to a goalie occurs.

- b. Procedure - Following a stoppage of play, the Referee will enforce the following line change procedure once he has determined that this procedure may begin:
 - i. The Referee shall give the visiting team up to five (5) seconds to make its line change.
 - ii. The Referee shall raise his hand to indicate no further changes by the visiting team and to commence the home team's line change.
 - iii. The Referee shall give the home team up to eight (8) seconds to make its line change.
 - iv. The Referee shall lower his hand to indicate no further changes by the home team.
 - v. Any attempt by the either team to make a change after the Referee's signal, attempt to place too many men on the ice for the subsequent line change, or attempt to make additional personnel changes, shall not be permitted and the Referee will send the players who have attempted to change back to their players' bench. The Referee will then issue a warning to the offending team (through the Coach) indicating that any subsequent violations during the rest of the game (including overtime), shall result in a bench minor penalty for delaying the game. This penalty shall be announced as a "Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Improper Line Change."
 - vi. The Referee conducting the face-off will blow his whistle (once the Referee has lowered his hand for the line changes) to indicate that all players must be in position and on-side for the face-off within five (5) seconds. The face-off will then be conducted in accordance with Rule 48 – Face-offs.
 - vii. Players who are slow (after the five-second warning whistle given by the Referee) getting to the face-off location or who are in an off-side position for the ensuing face-off will be warned once in the game by the

Referee. This warning will also be given to the offending team's Coach. In this situation, the offending team's center is not ejected from the face-off. Any subsequent violation shall result in a bench minor penalty for delay of game being assessed to the offending team.

viii. In the last two (2) minutes of regulation time and any time in the overtime period(s), points (vi) and (vii) above are not applicable. The Referee shall give the teams a reasonable amount of time to set up for the ensuing face-off after points (1) through (5) above have been enforced.

- c. Bench Minor Penalty - Any attempt by the visiting team to make a change after the Referee's signal shall result in the assessment of a bench minor penalty for delay of game.

Players must proceed directly to the location of the face-off to participate in the ensuing face-off. Any attempts to delay the game by stalling or otherwise unnecessary actions by either team shall result in the assessment of a bench minor penalty for delaying the game. This penalty shall be announced as a "Bench Minor Penalty for Delay of Game – Slow Proceeding to Face-off Location (or, Slow Proceeding to Players' Bench)."

During the play, if a player wishes to retire from the playing surface and be replaced by a substitute, the player must do so at the players' bench and not through any other exit leading from the playing surface. This is not a legal player change and therefore when a violation occurs, a bench minor penalty shall be imposed.

Rule 59 – Off-side/Floating Blue Line

Floating Blue Line regulates off sides in the offensive zones and works as follows:

- i. Off-sides are determined at the defending team's blue line (clearing line).
- ii. Once a player has moved the ball over the blue line into the attacking zone, the attacking zone increases to centerline. The player with the ball may not move backwards over the blue line (clearing line), even with possession and control of the ball.
- iii. If the defending team sends the ball past the center line, the attacking zone is reset to the blue line (clearing line) and their opponent must regain it as explained above.

The terminology for legally gaining control of the attacking zone thus eliminating the blue line (clearing line) is "The blue line is set".

This method of offside is exclusive to ball hockey and heavily promotes offense, as the offensive zone is very large and extends from the center line all the way to the end boards in the defensive zone.

- a. Off-side - Players of the attacking team must not precede the ball into the attacking zone.

The position of the player's feet and not that of the player's stick shall be the determining factor in all instances in deciding an off-side. A player is off-side when both feet are completely over the leading edge of the blue line (clearing line) involved in the play.

A player is on-side when either of his feet are in contact with, or on his own side of the blue line (clearing line), at the instant the ball completely crosses the leading edge of the blue line (clearing line) regardless of the position of the player's stick

It should be noted that while the position of the player's feet is what determines whether a player is "off-side," nevertheless the question of an "off-side" never arises until the ball has completely crossed the leading edge of the blue line (clearing line) at which time the decision is to be made.

If a player legally carries or passes the ball back into his own defending zone while a player of the opposing team is in such defending zone, the off-side shall be ignored and play permitted to continue.

- b. Deflections / Rebounds – When a defending player propels the ball out of his defending zone and the ball clearly rebounds off a defending player in the neutral zone back into the defending zone, all attacking players are eligible to play the ball. However, any action by an attacking player that causes a deflection/rebound off a defending player in the neutral zone back into the defending zone (i.e. stick check, body check, physical contact), a delayed off-side shall be signaled by the Referee. A ball that deflects back into the defending zone off an official who is in the neutral zone will be off-side (or delayed off-side, as appropriate).
- c. Delayed Off-side – A situation where an attacking player (or players) has preceded the ball across the attacking blue line, but the defending team is in a position to bring the ball back out of its defending zone without any delay or contact with an attacking player, or, the attacking players are in the process of clearing the attacking zone.

If an off-side call is delayed, the Referee shall drop his arm to nullify the off-side violation and allow play to continue if:

- (i) All players of the offending team clear the zone at the same instant (foot contact with the blue line) permitting the attacking players to re-enter the attacking zone, or
- (ii) The defending team passes or carries the ball into the neutral zone.

If, during the course of the delayed off-side, any member of the attacking team touches the ball, attempts to gain possession of a loose ball, forces the defending ball carrier further back into his own zone, or who is about to make physical contact with the defending ball carrier, the Referee shall stop play for the off-side violation.

If, during a delayed off-side, an attacking player in the attacking zone elects to proceed to his players' bench (which extends into the attacking zone) to be replaced by a teammate, the player shall be considered to have cleared the zone provided the player is completely off the playing surface and the player's replacement comes onto the playing surface in the neutral zone. If the replacement comes onto the playing surface in the attacking zone, if the delayed off-side is still in effect, the replacement must clear the attacking zone, too. If the remaining attacking players have cleared the attacking zone and the Referee has lowered his arm for the delayed off-side, the replacement shall be considered on-side.

- d. Disallowed Goal – If the ball is shot into the attacking zone creating a delayed off-side, the play shall be allowed to continue under the normal clearing-the-zone rules. Should the ball, as a result of this shot, enter the defending team's goal, either directly or off the goalie, a player, the boards, the glass, a piece of equipment or a referee on the playing surface, the goal shall be disallowed as the original shot was off-side. The fact that the attacking team may have cleared the zone prior to the ball entering the goal has no bearing on this ruling. The face-off will be conducted at the face-off spot in the zone closest to the point of origin of the shot that gives the offending team the least amount of territorial advantage.

The only way an attacking team can score a goal on a delayed offside situation is if the defending team shoots or puts the ball into their own net without action or contact by the offending team. Other than in situations involving a delayed off-side and the ball entering the goal, no goal can be disallowed after the fact for an off-side violation, except for the human factor involved in blowing the whistle.

- e. Face-Off Location - For violation of this rule, the play is stopped and the ball shall be faced-off in the neutral zone at the face-off spot nearest the attacking zone of the offending team when the violation occurs as a result of the attacking team carrying the ball over the attacking blue line (clearing line), or from the face-off spot in the zone closest to the point of origin of the shot or pass (even if deflected off an attacking or defending player or an Referee). For every delayed off-side situation, including an intentional offside, the Referee will raise his non-whistle arm. The Referee will allow play to continue and, if a stoppage of play occurs, there will be three possible face-off locations:
 - (i) If carried over the blue line – face-off outside the blue line.
 - (ii) If shot into the zone (or errant pass) – nearest face-off spot in the zone from which the pass or shot originated that gives the offending team the least amount of territorial advantage (even if deflected off an attacking or defending player or a Referee).
 - (iii) If the defending player is pressured or about to be checked by an attacking player – nearest face-off spot in the zone from which the pass or shot originated that gives the offending team the least amount of territorial advantage (even if deflected off an attacking or defending player or a Referee).

- (iv) If deemed to be an intentional off-side – face-off spot in the offending team’s end zone.

When the Referee signals a delayed off-side and a defending player shoots the ball which goes over the glass and out of play, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at one of the defending zone end zone face-off spots.

When the Referee signals a delayed off-side and the original shot deflects off a defending player and out of play, the ensuing faceoff shall take place at the nearest face-off spot in the zone from where the ball was shot.

When the defending team is about to be penalized in the defending zone and the Referee has a delayed off-side signaled against the attacking team on the same play, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at one of the defending zone end zone face-off spots.

- f. Intentional Off-side - An intentional off-side is one which is made for the purpose of securing a stoppage of play regardless of the reason, whether either team is short-handed.

If in the opinion of the Referee, an intentional off-side play has been made, the ball shall be faced-off at the end face-off spot in the defending zone of the offending team.

If, while an off-side call is delayed, a player of the offending team deliberately touches the ball to create a stoppage of play, the Referee will signal an intentional off-side.

If, in the judgement of the Referee, the attacking player(s) are making an effort to exit the attacking zone and are in close proximity to the blue line at the time the ball is shot into the zone, the play will not be deemed to be an intentional off-side.