

IHUK REFEREE SECTION: GUIDANCE ON NEW IIHF RULES 2018-2022

The new rule-book for the IIHF for 2018-2022 has been released and will be used in the UK for the 2018-19 season. The IHUK Referee Section has reviewed the rule changes and drafted this briefing note for use by all officials, players, coaches and teams in the UK. The briefing note highlights the key changes and offers explanation on interpretation and application of the rule changes. It should be used in conjunction with any association or league in-house rules and rules of competition which may not be using the IIHF rule-book in full or adopting all of the changes laid out here. This note is based purely on the IIHF rule-book.

Video examples and guidance will be used to assist in the training and development of officials. If clubs and coaches would like to use video examples when they brief their teams and players on the new rules they can request them from the Referee Section.

If a Club would like a member of the Referee Section Management Team to provide a presentation to their teams on the new rules this can be requested via the Chief Referee but will only be possible where availability permits. It is hoped that this briefing note supplemented with video clips will enable coaches to brief their own teams for the up-coming season.

Successful implementation of the new rules will involve effective communication and partnership between players, coaches and officials. Make sure you do your part by reading and understanding this briefing note.

The briefing note is divided into the following parts:

- **PART ONE: KEY RULE CHANGES**
This section highlights the key rule changes that it is felt will have the biggest impact on the playing of the game for players and officials.

- **PART TWO: SUBSTANTIVE PLAYING RULE CHANGES**
This section runs through changes to the playing rules that will have an impact on penalties and the playing of the game, but to a lesser extent than the changes highlighted in part one.

- **PART THREE: ADDITIONAL RULE CLARIFICATION AND TIDYING CHANGES**
With any rule-book change there are always elements of language changes and tidying up to clarify the original intent and application of rules. The changes listed in this section are for reference and largely do not make any substantive changes to the way the game is currently played.

- **PART FOUR: ICE MARKING & RINK DIMENSION CHANGES**
This section highlights the changes to rink requirements and ice-markings. This will be an important section for the rink managers association and for facility managers to be aware of, but for players and officials these have less material impact on the playing of the game. It is also anticipated that these changes will not be compulsory until the 2019-20 season to give facilities a chance to make the changes.

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PART ONE: KEY RULE CHANGES

This section highlights the key rule changes that it is felt will have the biggest impact on the playing of the game for players and officials.

RULE 96 – GOAL WITH SKATES

This rule change has seen the deletion of the phrase “kicking motion” as it relates to scoring goal. The decision point for a goal with a skate is whether the puck was directed or deflected.

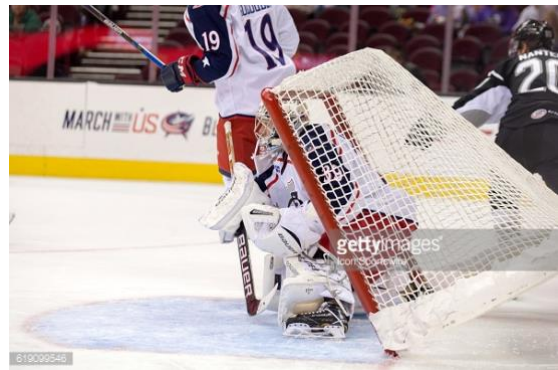
Intentionally directed = No Goal

Accidental deflection = Goal

Any direction of the puck into the net by the skate would result in a no-goal decision. Skaters are no longer allowed to intentionally deflect or deliberately direct the puck into the net by any means other than stick. The only way a goal can be scored off the skate is by a pure deflection. Deflection is defined as “accidental movement of the puck”. Any intentional movement (even if just turning the skate) is considered directed rather than deflected and would result in a no-goal call.

RULE 98 – SCORING A GOAL/GOAL FRAME OFF

The rule change here is only relevant if the goalframe utilises pegs. The new rule states that if one or both of the goal posts is not flat on the ice but is in contact with the peg and the peg is in the hole, the goal will count. It also clarifies that where the goalframe doesn't utilise pegs, the goal-posts must be flat on the ice at the time the puck enters the goal net for the goal to count. Under the new rule this image would show a good goal if the puck goes in the net.



Note: This rule is only applicable for arenas that use MARSH/FLEXIBLE Goal Pegs I.E unless its top-level IIHF or EIHL this will unlikely effect other teams in the UK. The metal pegs most teams use don't count, so the easier way to look at this rule is the net has to be flat on the ice full stop.

RULE 119 – BOARDING

The minimum penalty tariff for Boarding has changed from a minor to a minor plus a misconduct i.e. you can now longer give a 2-minute penalty for Boarding – the minimum is a 2+10. The reason for this rule change is that Boarding and Checking from Behind are difficult to differentiate due to speed and mobility of players. The IIHF player safety committee wanted players to be penalised more strictly and in the same manner as checking from behind for collisions with the boards. This standardises the minimum penalty of a 2+10 when the player is thrown violently into the boards (regardless of if this is from behind or not).

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RULE 153 – LATE HIT

The initial proposal was made to replace the time-based evaluation when a player is allowed to make a check with an evaluation by distance. The proposal was to allow the distance to be the length of outstretched arm and stick combined and therefore a player who lost possession of the puck could be checked as long as the checking player came from a distance that was not more than the length of outstretched arm and stick combined.

However, after reviewing the proposal, the 2018-2022 IIHF Rule Book Writing Group determined that the implementation of the rule via an “arm and stick” distance proposal was not workable and instead needed to be considered as a major change to the rules.



Therefore, in order to maintain the spirit of the rule of enhanced player safety and maintain the integrity of the sport, the IIHF Player Safety Committee introduced the new penalty for “Late Hit” as defined below:

Definition: A late hit constitutes a body check to a skater who is in a vulnerable position because he no longer has control or possession of the puck. A late hit can be delivered to a skater who is either aware or unaware of the impending contact.

- I. A skater who is not in the immediate vicinity of an opponent in possession or control of the puck and still delivers a late hit to that opponent, who is aware of the impending contact, will receive a minor penalty.*
- II. A skater who delivers a late hit to an unsuspecting opponent will receive a major and automatic game-misconduct penalty.*
- III. A skater who recklessly endangers a vulnerable opponent with a late hit will be assessed a match penalty.*

The determining factors for a late-hit penalty are awareness and vulnerability of the player being hit, combined with the force being used by the player making the hit (distance is not a factor).

The following definitions were added to the IIHF Rule-Book to help with the interpretation of this rule:

BODYCHECK

A bodycheck represents contact by a skater on an opposing skater, so long as the objective is to separate the opponent from the puck. Any skater who is in control or possession of the puck can be bodychecked provided that:

- a) the bodycheck is made with the hips, body, or arms;

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- b) contact with the opponent is from in front or to the side and does not target the head or neck area or the lower body (below the hip).

There is no such thing as a clean bodycheck to the back, head, or lower body of an opponent. There is no such thing as a clean bodycheck made principally with the lower body, stick, or head. There is no such thing as a clean bodycheck on a goaltender.

COMPETITIVE CONTACT

Competitive contact means body contact between two or more skaters who are in the immediate vicinity of the puck and who are trying to gain possession of the puck. These skaters are reasonably allowed to push and lean into each other provided that possession of the puck remains the sole object of the contact.

CONTROL/POSSESSION OF THE PUCK

Control means that a skater has the puck on his stick and is skating or stickhandling with it. Possession means a touch of the puck (as in a tip, deflection, re-direction, or mishandling) or being in a position to be in control of the puck.

LATE HIT

A late hit constitutes reckless endangerment of a skater who no longer has control or possession of the puck. Any skater who is in the process of abandoning or losing control or possession of the puck is subject to a bodycheck so long as the aggressor is in the immediate vicinity of the skater with the puck. If the aggressor must move to the skater and makes forceful contact, the aggressor risks turning a bodycheck into a late hit by virtue of the vulnerable position of the opponent and the degree of force of the hit.

VULNERABLE

A skater is considered to be in a vulnerable position when he is no longer in control or possession of the puck and he is either not aware of an impending hit or he is not prepared for the hit. A bodycheck to an opponent who is vulnerable is automatically considered reckless even if that bodycheck would be considered legal to a non-vulnerable opponent.

Coaches, players and officials need to work together to ensure there is a shared understanding about the difference between: a player finishing a check they are committed to and cannot pull out of; and, a player hitting a player who has released the puck and is unaware or in a vulnerable position when hit, which will now be penalized as a late hit.

RULE 149 VI - INTERFERENCE

To support the introduction of the late-hit rule, an addition was made to the interference rule which means a player not in control of the puck but who is in a position to gain possession or control cannot be legally hit. The addition to the rule is below and can't be classified as a late hit because the player was not in possession of the puck – but is to cover an early hit ... or a situation where a player is hit to take away their opportunity to gain control of the puck.

- vi. A skater who anticipates an opponent gaining possession or control of the puck but who makes contact with the opponent before this possession or control occurs will receive an interference penalty.

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RULE 221 – HOLDING THE PUCK OUTSIDE GOAL CREASE/GOALTENDER

This rule change brings in a stronger requirement for goaltenders to play the puck with their stick when they are not pressured by an opponent rather than freeze the puck and intentionally cause a stoppage of play. Officials are required to implement a minor penalty to the goaltender if they have the opportunity to play the puck prior to being pressured by an attacking player, but instead intentionally cause a stoppage of play by freezing the puck. Officials may need to use judgement to differentiate what constitutes “pressure” in different levels of games i.e. junior, senior, professional etc. and the IIHF are looking to release more guidance on this in the future.

REPLACEMENT OF “INJURY” WITH “RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT”

This rule change removes the term “injury” as a classification criterion throughout the entire rule-book and replaces it with the term “reckless endangerment”. This rule change ensures the action is penalised instead of the result/consequence of the action.

This rule change takes the responsibility off an official to determine if a player got injured during a game. In cases in which an opposing player is not recklessly endangered, but an injury seems to be resulted, the officials are not obliged to evaluate the term injury and they are not obliged to assess a penalty when there was no reckless endangerment but may be other circumstances such as misfortune. This means that a player can be injured, and the referee is no longer obliged to assess a major/match penalty on the injury alone – they must determine if the action was reckless endangerment.

Therefore, the term “reckless endangerment” will be used as a determinate factor (replacing injury) in terms of assessing a minor or a major penalty.

If an infringement leads to an injury, in general the infringement can be classified as a reckless endangerment. But in cases, in which the opposing player is not recklessly endangered, but an injury seems to be resulted, the officials are not obliged to evaluate the term injury and they are not obliged to assess a penalty when there was no reckless endangerment but maybe other circumstances such as misfortune. Of course, an obvious injury is always an indication of a reckless endangerment.

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PART TWO: SUBSTANTIVE PLAYING RULE CHANGES

This section runs through changes to the playing rules that will have an impact on penalties and the playing of the game, but to a lesser extent than the changes highlighted in part one.

RULE 26 – TEAM OFFICIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

This rule change allows team officials who stand at or near the players' bench during the game to utilize radio-type technology for contact with another team official in an IIHF designated area. It also permits the use of other forms of technology for coaching purposes (i.e., tagging and statistics). It clearly states that such technology cannot be used to try to influence the decisions of on-ice officials in any manner. A team official who uses video technology to dispute a call by an on-ice official will receive a penalty under Rule 116: Abuse of Officials.

This rule change will obviously be useful for the higher levels of competition where coaching staff will want to make use of technology and in IIHF competitions where coaches challenge and video reviews are available. However, for the majority of games in the UK this rule change will have limited impact.

RULE 99 – USE OF VIDEO GOAL JUDGE TO DETERMINE GOALS

This rule change introduces an additional situation which can be reviewed by the video goal judge in IIHF competitions. The additional situation is:

Vii 7. Puck entering the goal net after an attacking skater has interfered with the goaltender.

This rule change will only impact games in the UK that use video goal-judge systems, and implement this rule in full, alongside coaches' challenge regulations.

RULE 53 – DETERMINATION FACEOFF LOCATION/PENALTIES ASSESSED

Previously if a player was assessed a personal penalty (i.e. a misconduct or a game misconduct) the ensuing face-off was at the nearest face-off spot to where game action was stopped. This rule-book change moves the ensuing face-off after a misconduct or game misconduct is assessed to the defending zone of the team whose player was penalised, in line with other face-off locations following penalty decisions.

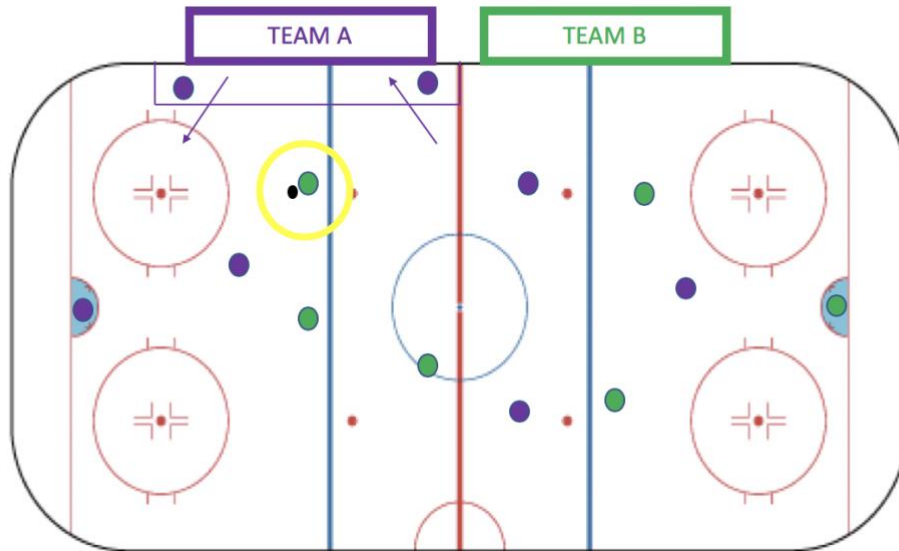
RULE 88 – PLAYER CHANGE DURING GAME ACTION

This change specifies that if players change within the 1.5m changing zone of the bench but use the length of the bench to gain a territorial or numerical advantage then this is to be penalized as too many men. The diagram below shows the situation which is now captured by the rules.



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In this situation Team A have a player leaving the ice onto the bench by the centre red-line, and a player entering the ice in their defending zone. Although both players are with-in the 1.5m changing zone, the player entering is now deemed to be involved in play because they have gained a territorial advantage due to the length of the bench (changed the 2-on-1 situation that Team B had to a 2-on-2 situation). Under the new rule this will be penalized as a bench minor penalty for too-many men



RULE 116 – ABUSE OF OFFICIAL

There were a number of drafting changes made to this rule to tidying it up and prevent duplication with Rule 168 – UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

- Any abuse towards an official is to be handled under Rule 116. Rule 168 is used for unsportsmanlike conduct between players and team officials and for when the abuse is not directed towards an official;
- The misconduct penalty for a player failing to go to the penalty box was moved from rule 168 to rule 116 as this relates to abuse of an official;
- A game misconduct penalty was introduced for persistent abuse to an official which has already been assessed a penalty previously;
- A game misconduct was introduced for a team official who throws any object or who sprays an official with a drinking water bottle.

The only change of note is that physical contact with an official can now be assessed a game misconduct penalty or a match penalty – the discretion is down to the official using the following guidelines:

Careless contact = Game Misconduct

Intentional contact = Match Penalty

This enables the official to manage a gradation of penalty based on the aggression, intention and force used towards an official. It allows for situations where there is careless contact

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with an official, to be penalised with a game misconduct penalty. But, this change should not be seen as a weakening of the rule relating to intentional physical contact with an official which will always be penalised with a match penalty.

RULE 122 – CHARGING

This rule change specifies that where a charging situation is also a checking to the head, the Checking to the Head rules are to be applied i.e. the Charging rule is superseded by the Checking to the Head rules if they are applicable.

RULE 136 – DELAY OF GAME/SUBSTITUTION AFTER AN ICING CALL

This rule change is designed to manage the situation after an icing where the defending team intentionally cause a false-face-off, so they can get a longer break after the icing while the centre is ejected, and the face-off is re-set. The change stipulates that the centre is not ejected, but a warning is issued to the bench, and a second violation results in a bench minor penalty for delay of game being assessed.

RULE 160 – SLEW-FOOTING

This rule change brings in the option for an official to assess a 5+Game Misconduct penalty for slew-footing. Previously the only penalty tariff option for a slew-footing penalty was a match penalty. In some situations, there is a slew-footing situation which hasn't warranted a match penalty and officials have had to utilize the tripping rule when really a slew-footing action has happened. This rule change gives an option for an official to assess either a 5+Game or a Match Penalty for Slew-Footing depending on the severity of the infraction.

RULE 167 – TRIPPING

There are two changes to the Tripping rule. The first one is a definition change which adds that a tripping can be the result of an arm movement, in addition to a stick, skate or leg action. The second change specifies that if a player lunges and touches the puck first but takes the player down, then a tripping penalty will now be called – the act of touching the puck first no longer negates the penalty. The only thing the act of touching the puck first does, is negate a penalty shot call. I.E if the player lunges and touches the puck first but take the player down then a penalty shot cannot be called because they touched the puck first, but a tripping penalty needs to be assessed.

RULE 176 I – PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE/OVERVIEW

The change to this rule specifies that in cases where a skater is fouled in a manner that warrants a penalty shot, any skater on the team who was not about to be penalised can be named by the coach to take the shot. Previously it had to be the player who was fouled to take the shot (or another designated player who was on the ice at the time of the infraction if the fouled player was deemed to be injured). The rule now allows any player to take the penalty shot as it was deemed too difficult to ascertain if a fouled player was truly injured or not, and teams were using this rule to get an advantage. The new rule makes it fair for every team.

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PART THREE: ADDITIONAL RULE CLARIFICATION & TIDYING CHANGES

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RULE 8 – ICE SURFACE/FIT TO PLAY

This rule changes the length of time where an official is able to send teams to their dressing room and call an early end to the period (for time to be played after the intermission and before the next period). This used to be five minutes and is now 10 minutes under this rule change. I.E Any lengthy delay occurs within ten minutes of the end of the period, the referee has the option to send the teams to the dressing room to begin the intermission immediately.

RULE 51 – STARTING GAME ACTION

This change will be captured in the sport regulations and relates to which end teams will defend for each period and for over-time. There is no change to the rule-book which states teams start a game by defending the goal-net nearest their players' bench and change ends for each succeeding regulation period.

RULE 38 - STICK/SKATER POINT V

This rule change is a terminology rule change which adds the word carbon to the rule so that carbon sticks are mentioned in addition to metal sticks.

RULE 40 – UNIFORM/SKATER

This rule is a terminology change which reinforces the need for jerseys to be worn outside of pants and where possible for the jersey to be fastened to the pants using a tie down.

RULE 94 – SCORING A GOAL

This rule change clarifies the situation when a goal is scored in the last second of a period and 19.59 shows on the clock. It is not necessary to conduct a face-off at centre ice for this situation. Additionally, if a goal is scored in the last minute of play where the score-clock shows tenths of seconds, the goal will be rounded to the nearest second on the official game sheet.

RULE 101 - IMPLICATION OF PENALTIES

The changes made here were drafting changes only and merely moved the parts of the rule which related to delayed penalties on goal situations to Rule 114. I.E. If during a delayed penalty the team scored then the goal could only wipe the first delayed minor – if there was more than a minor penalty in the delayed call then all other penalties are to be assessed. Additionally, it moved the rule which related to the management of a 5+Game penalty given

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at the same time as a penalty shot I.E. The 5+Game penalty stands whether the goal is scored on the penalty shot or not. The ruling was not changed – just the location in the book.

RULE 112 – COINCIDENTAL PENALTIES

The change here was just to added wording to clarify and not to change the rule. The wording added was to clarify that there is only one exception to the cancelling penalties rules and this is where teams are playing 5-on-5 and only one minor or bench minor penalty is assessed to each team.

RULE 128 – DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT

The rule change here now includes damaged or cracked visor under dangerous equipment and to be penalised under Rule 155. RULE 155 - PLAYING WITHOUT A HELMET now includes that if a player continues to play with a damaged or cracked visor then they will receive a minor penalty.

RULE 135 – DELAY OF GAME SHOOTING OR THROWING THE PUCK OUT OF PLAY

The rule change here was to tidy up the language and ensure “kick” was included. Previously kicking the puck out of the playing area wasn’t defined and so not covered by this rule.

RULE 141 – FIGHTING & RULE 158 – ROUGHING

The rule change here was merely to streamlining the and penalties for the Fighting and Roughing rules. It now clearly states that any player involved in a fight can be assessed a Match Penalty. Officials are directed to use the Roughing rule for brief confrontations and the Fighting rule for prolonged situations.

RULE 145 – HOLDING THE STICK

This rule change was to an addition to terminology to clarify that holding the stick can be made by other means and not just the hands of the player e.g. legs etc.

RULE 150 – INTERFERENCE ON A GOALTENDER

Two minor rule changes were made to terminology for this rule. Clarification that incidental contact is allowed as long as the player tried to not contact the goaltender. The other change was to ensure that a player who stands “in-front” of the goaltender to block their view can be penalised and they do not have to be “facing” the goaltender for this rule to be applicable.

RULE 165 – THROWING A STICK OR OBJECT

This rule change is a wording change to clarify that if the stick or object is thrown by an identifiable person then a minor (or bench minor) plus a game misconduct should be assessed, and if it is done by a non-identified person then only a bench minor can be assessed. This is rule clarification rather than rule change.

RULE 166 – TOO MANY MEN

This change has taken out the definition of on/off the ice because playing the puck whilst on the bench is covered already as an interference penalty and not a too many men penalty.

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RULE 177 – PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE/TAKING THE SHOT

This is a minor rule change that adds in that if the goaltender commits a foul during the penalty shot for the second time that they should be assessed the appropriate penalty in addition to the misconduct penalty (it previously just said a misconduct penalty only).

RULES 188 – 200 – GOALTENDER EQUIPMENT

This is not a rule change – but merely adds in photographs to supplement the rule wording.

APPENDIX 1 – GOALS AND ASSISTS

This is now covered in the sport regulations and is a rule change to give the credit to the true second assist I.E. if A19 passes to A17, who passes to A15, who then passes back to A17, it is now possible to give all three players the points – A19 still gets the second assist.

SECTION 4 – SKATER’S EQUIPMENT

This rule change is to re-inserted pictures for visors.

SECTION 8 – PLAYING RULES/GOALS

This rule change was to add back in a penalty summary table.

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PART FOUR: ICE MARKINGS & RINK DIMENSIONS CHANGES

This section highlights the changes to rink requirements and ice-markings. This will be an important section for the rink managers association and for facility managers to be aware of, but for players and officials these have less material impact on the playing of the game. It is also anticipated that these changes will not be compulsory until the 2019-20 season to give facilities a chance to make the changes.

RULE 19 – ICE SURFACE MARKINGS/CREASE

The goal crease is now changed to be the NHL goal-crease.

RULE 17 – ICE SURFACE MARKINGS/ZONES

The diagrams of the face-off dots were changed to show the correct distances for radius of circles.

RULE 12 – STANDARD DIMENSION OF THE RINK

Two changes were made to the rink dimension requirements:

- Added a minimum height to the rink
- Changed the diagram to show the penalty box and the scorekeeper box joined together.

RULE 17 – ICE SURFACE MARKINGS/ZONES

This rule change was a terminology change – changing the term “icing line” back to “goal line” because this is a more commonly used term.