



ERSTE LIGA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Decision

Gyergyói Hoki Klub

Owen Williams

045/2025/2026

26 March 2026 Budapest

Time of Incident: 03:46, EL 174, Gyergyói Hoki Klub - DVTK Jegesmedvék semi-final game 1

Players Involved: #77 GYHK Owen Williams
#21 DVTK Jason Pineo

Call on the Ice: There was no call on the play

The Head of the Referee's Working Group requested an investigation for the play.
The records have not shown an injury.

IIHF RULE 50 KNEEING

Kneeing is the act of a Player leading with their knee and in some cases extending their leg outwards to make contact with their opponent.

50.2. MINOR PENALTY

The Referee shall, at their discretion, assess a minor penalty, based on the severity of the infraction, to a Player guilty of "kneeing" an opponent.

50.3. MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY

The Referee, at their discretion, may assess a major penalty and an automatic game misconduct penalty if, in their judgment, the Player recklessly endangers their opponent by "kneeing" and the Player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by imposing a minor penalty. Such assessment of reckless endangerment shall be based on the severity of the infraction, severity of the contact, the degree of violence and the general reprehensibility involved.

50.4. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion.

Review of Incident:

At 0:36, DVTK #21 Jason Pineo gained possession and control of the puck just inside in his defending blueline. At this time, he turned up ice moving to his left towards boards. Between the center ice line and the blueline, he approached GYHK #77 Owen Williams who was moving backwards towards his defending zone. Pineo moved from his left to his right to get by Williams. Williams reacted by sticking his left leg out to make contact with Pineo. Williams left knee contacted Pineo's left knee causing him to spin and go down awkwardly holding his knee.



The Committee Ruling:

- The contact met the requirements for a kneeling minor penalty and Williams should have been penalized for his actions.
- The contact was made with no forward speed and was a reaction to the quick shift in directions.
- Although all kneeling can lead to a serious injury, this incident was not assessed as a reckless endangerment due to the severity of the infraction, severity of the contact, the degree of violence and the general reprehensibility involved.

As a result, the Committee ruled the incident in the Careless Category (0-3) and Owen Williams **will not be suspended for the infraction.**

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