



ERSTE LIGA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Decision

DVTK Jegesmedvék

Tóth Gergő

052/2025/2026

31 March 2026 Budapest

Time of Incident: 57:45, EL 180, DVTK Jegesmedvék - Gyergyói Hoki Klub - semi-final game 4

Players Involved: DVTK #66 Tóth Gergő
GYHK #68 Császár Hunor

Call on the Ice: A major penalty and game misconduct for an Illegal Check to the Head and Neck

GYHK player Császár Hunor complained of dizziness after the incident and did not play in the remainder of the game.

IIHF RULE 48 ILLEGAL CHECK TO THE HEAD OR NECK

There is no clean check to the head or neck.

The Player delivering the hit must avoid hitting the opponent's head or neck.

A hit resulting in contact with an opponent's head where the head was the main point of contact and such contact to the head was avoidable is not permitted. This rule supersedes all similar actions regarding hits to the head and neck.

A penalty for "illegal check to the head or neck" will be assessed if one of the following occurs when a Player checks an opponent:

- (I) **A Player who directs a hit of any sort, with any part of their body or equipment, to the head or neck of an opposing Player** or drives or forces the head of an opposing Player into the protective glass or boards using any part of their upper body.
- (II) A Player who extends and directs any part of their upper body to contact the head or neck of an opponent.
- (III) A Player who extends their body upward or outward in order to reach their opponent or uses any part of the upper body to contact an opponent's head or neck.
- (IV) A Player who jumps (leaves their skates) to deliver a blow to the head or neck of an opponent.

48.3. 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 an "illegal check to the head or



neck". 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.

RULE 59 CROSS-CHECKING

The act of using the shaft of the stick between the two hands to forcefully check an opponent.

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 a "cross-checking" 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.

Review of Incident:

Prior to the stoppage at 57:45, Tóth Gergő gained possession and control of the puck near the hash marks in his defending zone on the left wing. Császár Hunor moved in to check him, and during this engagement, Császár Hunor's stick became caught under Tóth Gergő's arm, resulting in Császár Hunor losing his stick.

The puck then moved toward the blue line, where Császár Hunor attempted to play it with his skates. Tóth Gergő approached Császár Hunor and delivered a legal body check. Following the check, Tóth Gergő raised his stick and delivered a cross-check to Császár Hunor in the neck area, causing Császár Hunor to fall to the ice, with Tóth Gergő subsequently falling on top of him.

The Committee Ruling:

The initial body check was legal however the additional contact with the stick met the standard for a major and game misconduct for a Cross Checking or an Illegal Check to the Head and Neck.

The Committee ruled Tóth Gergő contact was not overly forceful but the contact was targeted, intentional and recklessly endangerment his opponent based on the location to the neck/head area of Császár Hunor.

As a result, the Committee categorized the incident as Careless (0-3) and **Tóth Gergő will be suspended for the 1 game automatic suspension for receiving a game misconduct penalty** in the last 5 minutes of a game but no additional games would be added.

According the Erste Liga Competition Rules 73. § (1) the sanction imposed an automatic fine on DVTK Jegesmedvék. The organization must pay a fine of 150 EUR

The player will spend down his automatic suspension at the next Erste Liga game.

Erste Liga Disciplinary Committee