



ERSTE LIGA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Decision

Corona Brasov

Evan Wardley
056/2025/2026
2 April 2026 Budapest

Time of Incident: 05:53, EL 181, Corona Brasov - Budapest Jégkorong Akadémia HC - SF game 5

Players Involved: BRA #32 Evan Wardley
BJA #70 Drake Pilon

Call on the Ice: A minor penalty for Illegal Check to the Head and Neck was assessed.

A BJA representative requested an investigation into the incident.
The records have not shown an injury.

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.



Review of Incident:

At 14:07 BJA #70 Drake Pilon received a pass in the neutral zone on the left side of the ice near the boards. He gains possession and control of the puck and skated up ice to approximately 2 meters inside the BRA defending zone. At this time, he stops and cuts quickly to change directions to an approaching BRA #32 Evan Wardley. Due to the shift in direction Evan Wardley no longer can make a shoulder to chest check and reaches to make contact from Pilon. To make contact, Wardley brings his hands up and delivers a blow to the head area of Pilon knocking him to the ice

The Committee Ruling:

- According to the ruling of the committee, Wardley extends his body and arms upward or outward in order to reach his opponent and made contact to the head or neck area of Pilon.
- They ruled the play did not meet the standard of a major penalty and game misconduct and supported the call on the ice for a minor penalty.

As a result, the Committee categorized the incident as Careless (0-3) and that **Wardley Evan Kenneth will not be assessed and further discipline for the foul.**

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