

2018-2022 IIHF RULE BOOK



SUMMARY OF MAJOR RULE CHANGES

The IIHF has implemented all approved Major and Minor/Housekeeping Rule Change Proposals into the 2018-2022 IIHF Rule Book.

An electronic version of the Rule Book will be sent out to all MNAs following the conclusion of the 2018 IIHF Annual Congress. A printed version will be produced and distributed in June 2018.

The following is meant to provide a notice of the proposed implementation of a new Late Hit Rule by the IIHF Player Safety Committee, as well as a summary of the primary major changes to the IIHF Rule Book.

1) LATE HIT RULE

This new rule was written to address one of the Minor Rule proposals that was accepted at the Semi-Annual Congress.

Rule #7-TERMINOLOGY/ Interference 150v

The initial approved proposal was to replace the time-based evaluation when player is allowed to make a check with an evaluation by distance. The allowed distance would be the length of outstretched arm and stick combined.

Player who lost possession of the puck may be checked as long as the checking player comes from a distance that is not more than length of outstretched arm and stick combined.

After reviewing the proposal, the 2018-2022 IIHF Rule Book Writing Group determined that the implementation of the rule via a «arm and stick» distance proposal was not workable and should be considered as a major change to the rules.

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Therefore, in order to maintain the spirit of the rule while enhance player safety and maintain the integrity of the sport, the IIHF Player Safety Committee has proposed to implement the following Late Hit Rule within the IIHF Rule Book:

a) ADD A NEW PENALTY TO THE RULES

RULE 153-LATE HIT

Definition: A late hit constitutes a bodycheck 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.

b) UPDATING THE RULE BOOK TERMINOLOGY

Additions to rule 7—terminology

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;
- (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.

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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.

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c) UPDATE EXISTING PENALTIES

INTERFERENCE

--new clause, further to Rule 150-v

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.

2) NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE RULEBOOK

The 2018-2022 IIHF Rule Book will follow the same numbering system as the previous rulebook.

However, in order to provide enhanced clarity and additional insight into the enforcement of a Rule, examples from the IIHF Casebook will be attached to the end of each rule, where applicable. The new Rulebook will therefore also serve as a reference book, offering examples in how a rule should be interpreted and enforced within the context of various game situations.

3) SUMMARY OF APPROVED MAJOR RULE CHANGES:

RULE 98-SCORING A GOAL / GOAL FRAME OFF

If a defending player displaces his goal frame and the opposing team scores a goal, the goal will be allowed provided:

1. The opponent was in the act of shooting prior to the goal frame being displaced;
 2. The referee determines the puck would have entered the goal net had the goal frame been in its normal position.
- ii. The goal frame is considered displaced if:
1. Either of the two goal pegs is not in its respective hole;
 2. It has come off one or both pegs.

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INJURY CLASSIFICATION:

Remove the term “injury” as a classification criteria. In place of “injury” use the term “reckless endangerment” as a criteria for the entire rulebook.

The term recklessly endangers includes all necessary elements 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.

Reckless endangerment:

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.

GOAL CREASE

The new shape of the goal crease will follow NHL regulations. Updated measurements and a new diagram will be included in the IIHF Rule Book

RULE 26 – TEAM OFFICIALS AND TECHNOLOGY: Team officials who stand at or near the players’ bench during the game are allowed to utilize radio-type technology for contact with another team official in an IIHF designated area. ii. Other forms of

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technology are permitted only for coaching purposes (i.e., tagging and statistics) and 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.

RULE 176 – PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE/OVERVIEW: i. In cases where a skater is fouled in a manner that warrants a penalty shot, any player can be used for a penalty shot.