



# Rule Changes 2024-2025



# Rule Changes 2024-25

2 (a)

le

Teams may have a maximum of 20 players in uniform for any game (up to 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders)

changed?

Previously, only Junior, Senior, and U18AAA teams could have 20 players in uniform. All other teams were restricted to 19 players. Now, this rule is consistent across all divisions.

# Rule Changes 2024-25

6 (d)

le

When a goaltender loses their helmet, facial protector, blocker or trapper  
**or skate blade**, play will be stopped immediately, unless there is an  
imminent scoring chance that does not pose a safety risk to the goaltender.

changed?

Addition of skate blade to this rule.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure the safety of goaltenders

# Rule Changes 2024-25

3 (e)(i)

le

Any stoppage of play occurring in the end-zone as the result of the puck going out of play or being unplayable will result in the ensuing face-off taking place in that end-zone at the face-off spot nearest to where the puck was last legally played, regardless of whether the defending or attacking team causes the stoppage

changed?

When the puck goes out of play or becomes unplayable in the end-zone the face-off will remain in the end-zone.

The purpose of this rule is to eliminate debate about correct face-off locations

# Rule Changes 2024-25

1 (a)

le

A double Minor penalty will be assessed to a player who commits any of the following acts with a minimal degree of violence and without using such an action to gain an advantage or inflict punishment or injury:

- i. pulls an opponent's hair,
- ii. grabs the facial protector, helmet, chin strap, or throat protector of an opponent,
- iii. head-butts or attempts to head-butt an opponent.

changed?

All actions must be penalized with a minimum double Minor penalty.

The purpose of this rule is to have consistency with the Head Contact rule.

# Rule Changes 2024-25

7

le

Clipping, also known as a “low hit”, is where a player uses their body to make contact at or below an opponent’s hips. This may take the form of a player lowering their body prior to making a check or being checked. Players may not crouch down to avoid being bodychecked.

changed?

Clarification that a player who makes contact with an opponent **anywhere below the hips** should be penalized for Clipping.

The purpose of this rule is to simplify the judgement officials must make on a clipping infraction.

# Rule Changes 2024-25

8 (c)

le

A Match penalty, at the discretion of the referee, based on the degree of violence of impact (including the impact with the ice, goal or boards) may be assessed to any player who slew-foots an opponent.

changed?

Addition of the goal or boards as considerations for assessing a Match penalty.

The purpose of this rule is to highlight dangerous outcomes and provide officials with additional guidance on slew-footing infractions.

# Rule Changes 2024-25

4.2 (a)

Rule

A hand pass occurs when a player makes a deliberate attempt to stop, knock down, or push the puck with their hand, and a teammate in the neutral or attacking zone gains control of the puck. This includes when a hand pass occurs and the puck deflects off any person or object, prior to the teammate gaining possession and control of the puck.

changed?

Clarification that a hand pass infraction must be the result of a deliberate action by the offending player, and that this rule applies even if the puck does not go in the direction intended by the player.



# Rule Changes 2024-25

0.5 (a)

le

A minor penalty will be assessed to any player who throws, shoots, or kicks a stick or any other object, anywhere on the ice.

changed?

Addition of kicking a stick or any other object as a criteria under this rule. The purpose of this rule is to ensure that players cannot use their sticks or other objects to interfere or threaten to interfere with opposing players.



# Rule Changes 2024-25



**Minor hockey**



**Junior hockey**

# Rule Changes 2024-25

Following rules now apply to all categories of Junior hockey:

- 4.6 – Coincidental Penalties
- 6.4 – Face-off Location
- 6.10 – High-Sticking the Puck
- 7.7 – Head Contact

Following rules were previously optional but is now mandated in U18 AAA categories of Junior:

- d) – No-Change on Icing
- e) – Hybrid Icing

# Rule Changes 2024-25

7 (a)(i), Interpretation 1

le

Direct Contact with an Opponent's Head: Where a player raises their stick, hand, forearm, shoulder, or elbow to hit an opponent in the head area, or drives the stick, hands, forearm, shoulder, or elbow into the opponent's head in any manner, it should be penalized as Head Contact, with the appropriate penalty for the degree of violence of the contact.

changed?

Rule now references "direct" contact, rather than "deliberate".

This change is intended to emphasize that officials should be judging the nature of the contact, rather than the player's intent.

# Rule Changes 2024-25

8.7 (a), Interpretation 3

File

In Junior and Senior divisions, if a player ducks to avoid a check, and as a result is hit in the head area with an otherwise legal check, this will not be considered head contact and no penalty will be assessed. The referee may assess a penalty to a player who ducks to avoid a check under Rule 8.7 - Clipping, if appropriate.

This interpretation does not apply to a player who is in a vulnerable position as the result of a legitimate hockey play (e.g. shooting, making or receiving a pass, etc).

changed?

The wording of this interpretation has been edited to clarify that this should only apply to a player who ducks with the purpose of avoiding the check. It should not apply to situations in which a player has lowered their body as the result of a legitimate hockey play.