

IIHF COACH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

LEVEL I



RULES AND REGULATIONS



24. RULES

24. Rules

Like most organized sports, hockey is governed by a set of rules designed to ensure equality for all participants. As a coach, you are responsible for ensuring that you are fully versed with the basic rules of hockey and that you teach these rules accurately to your players.

Upon completion of this chapter, you will be better prepared to teach your players

- *offside rulings,*
- *icing the puck rulings.*

All too often, officials are subject to unjust criticism from parents and coaches who are not fully aware of the rules. This criticism, due to lack of knowledge, creates a negative example for players who rely on coaches and parents as role models and educators.

Establishing a solid foundation of the rules of hockey for your players starts with you, the coach. If you do not have a thorough knowledge of the basic rules it is unlikely that your players will understand them.

Taking the time to learn and teach the rules of hockey is time well spent. Both you and your players will have a better understanding of the game and the role the officials play in it.

Throughout this section, reference will be made to the various zones and line markings of a hockey rink. The basic outline of the rink is illustrated in Figure 1.

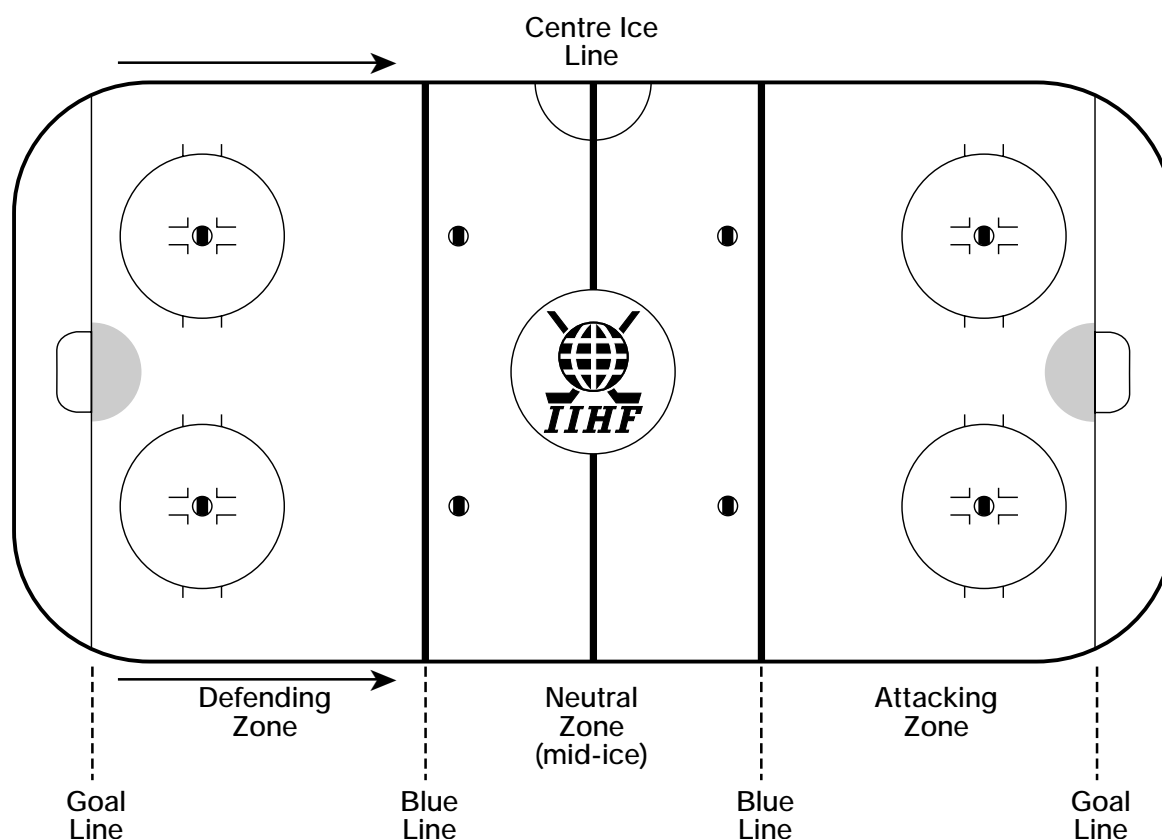


Figure 1: Zone and Line Markings of an Ice Hockey Rink

24.1 Offside

Blue Line Offside

A blue line offside occurs when an attacking team player precedes the puck over the opposition's blue line. The position of the attacking player's skates at the instant the puck completely crosses the blue line is the determining factor in declaring that an offside has occurred (Figure 2).

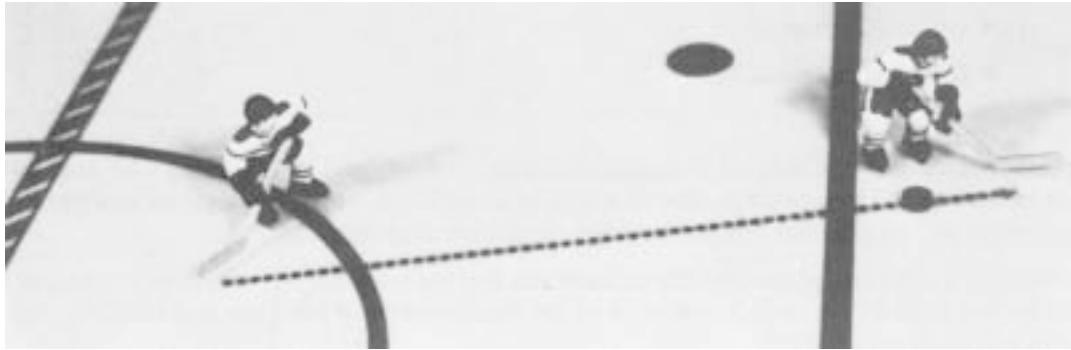


Figure 2: Blue line offside: Both skates of the attacking player precede the puck over the blue line.

Contact with the Blue Line

An attacking player who has one skate on or behind the blue line, with this skate on the ice the instant the puck crosses the blue line, will not be offside (Figure 3).

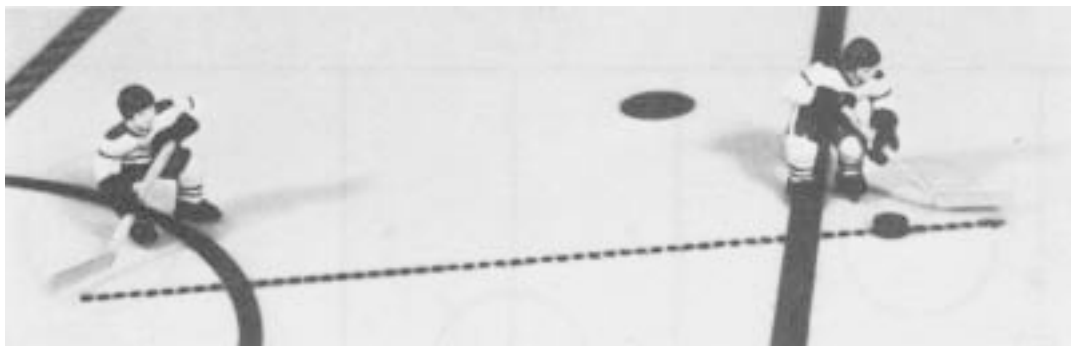


Figure 3: Onside: One skate of the attacking player on or behind the blue line when the puck crosses the blue line.

Puck on the Blue Line

A situation where the attacking team is in possession of the puck in the attacking zone and the puck is passed back to the blue line is illustrated in Figure 4. The puck comes to a stop on the blue line and then is returned deeper into the zone. As the puck did not pass completely over the blue line into the neutral zone, **no offside occurred.**

It must be remembered that if the puck is in the end (attacking) zone, the full width of the blue line is considered to be a part of the end zone. When the puck is in the neutral zone, the full width of the blue line is considered to be a part of the neutral zone.

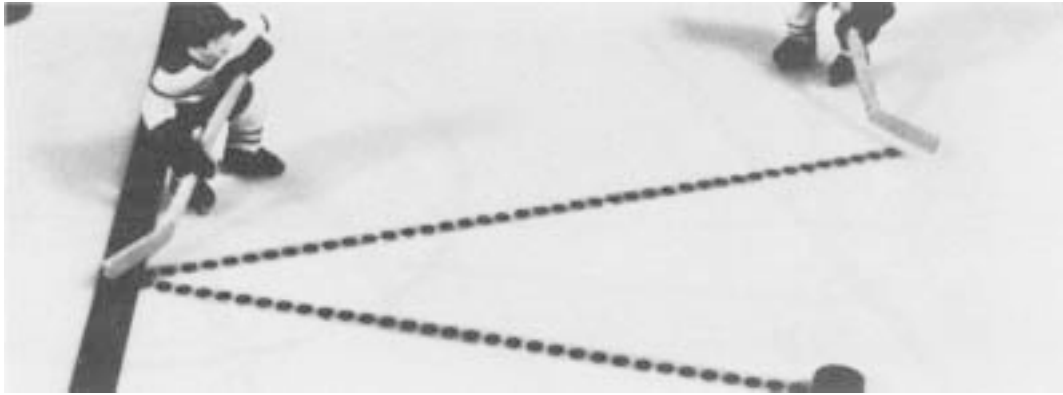


Figure 4: Onside: The puck does not completely cross the blue line into the neutral zone.

Deflected Pass

An attacking player has both skates over the blue line in the attacking zone when a teammate in the neutral zone fires the puck towards the attacking zone. The puck hits an opposing player, deflects off the player's body or stick and crosses the blue line. The player is offside. This situation is illustrated in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Offside

The offside ruling for the deflected pass at the blue line was a result of the increased scoring opportunities created at the attacking blue line. The rule was designed to prohibit attacking teams from sending a player into the attacking zone before the puck and intentionally deflecting the puck off a player and into the attacking zone.

24.2 Icing The Puck

As is illustrated in Figure 6, should a player of a team, equal or superior in numerical strength to the opposing team, shoot or deflect the puck from one's own half of the ice beyond the goal line of the opposing team, icing the puck shall be called.



Figure 6: Icing

Three situations with respect to icing the puck rulings are illustrated in Figures 7, 8 and 9.



Figure 7: No Icing: A player standing with both skates back of the centre ice line and the puck is on the player's stick over the centre ice line. The player shoots the puck down over the goal line.



Figure 8: No Icing: The puck is shot by a player who is over the blue line but back of the centre ice line to a player who is over the centre ice line. The puck hits the player's body or stick (either a teammate or an opposing player), then goes down over the goal line.



Figure 9: No Icing: The puck is shot by a player back of the centre ice line. It travels the length of the ice passing through the goal crease before crossing the goal line.

It is important to note that if, in the judgement of the referee or linesman, a player from the defending team, except the goalkeeper, is able to play the puck before it crosses the goal line and does not do so, the play shall continue and the icing the puck rule shall not apply.

For the Coach

What are some ways for you and your players to effectively learn the rules?

24.3 Rule Examination

In order to enhance the coaches’ knowledge of the game, it is recommended that all coaches participate in a National Association Official’s Development Program Clinic.

Having a good knowledge of the rules and officiating procedures will enable the coach to be more effective in all areas of the game.

SUMMARY

- You, as a coach, are responsible for knowing the rules of the game and teaching the rules to your players. Obtain an official IIHF Rule Book and check for any rule changes. Examine its guidelines and become fully versed with the rationale with respect to infractions.
- Offside and icing the puck rulings are two important rule topics to understand.
- Knowing the rules of the game will benefit you and your players and, most importantly, the game of hockey.



25. RULE COMMUNIQUE

25. Rule Communiques

25.1 1999 IIHF Championship Program Rule Emphasis

Ice hockey must be played according to the rules which have been established to provide the best quality of the game for the players and spectators, while supplying the best safety to the players, and maintaining the spirit of the game at all times. Therefore, game officials have been instructed to penalise all infractions contrary to these aims.

Quality of the Game

The players who possess the skills of the game must be given the opportunity to use their skills. Referees **MUST** apply the rules so that such players can use their skills and be given the opportunity to play in a safe atmosphere. Cheap shots are not to be tolerated and such infractions must be severely penalised.

Holding, Hooking and Interference

Infractions of holding, hooking and interference, although they may not cause injury to players, certainly restrict the ability of players to use their skills. Referees should be aware of such infractions and understand how these restraining fouls affect the overall quality of play.

Referees will be instructed to analyse the play and determine if a player of lesser skating skills has neutralised the superior skating skills of the attacking player by use of any of these fouls.

Unnecessary Contact After the Whistle

Unnecessary contact after the whistle, especially where it is obvious a player is either attempting to intimidate or incite an opponent, **MUST** be penalised. Referees **MUST** make every attempt to penalise only one player, the one who is the instigator or the most aggressive.

Icing the Puck

Unnecessary stoppages of play lead to time consuming face-offs that many times restricts the flow of an exciting game. Good judgement by the linesmen on icing the puck situations should reduce such stoppages.

There are two major factors dictating whether icing should be called or not. The defending player must not only have an opportunity to play the puck, but must also make an attempt to play the puck. Otherwise the icing situation should be washed out and verbally called-off by the linesman.

Safety of the Players

Players must be held responsible and accountable for their actions on the ice. Where a player(s) commits actions that are deliberately designed to injure opposing players, they are to be penalised to the limit of the rules.

Stickwork

Careless use of the stick in any manner that causes an injury or may cause an injury is not to be permitted. Players must be made to be responsible for the manner in which a stick is to be used. The guiding principle is simply, “when the puck is on the ice, why is the stick up in the dangerous area?” Referees must strictly enforce and penalise players who use the stick to slash, high stick and cross-check opposing players.

A cross-checking type of foul anywhere near the head or neck area is totally unacceptable and **MUST** be severely penalised in **ALL** instances. This type of foul is deliberate and cannot be accepted as accidental or a reflex action.

Kneeing and Elbowing

Careless and/or deliberate use of the elbow or knee to check, intimidate and possibly injure an opponent is not an accepted part of the game. The use of the elbow and knee are deliberate actions, not a reflex action or an accidental type of contact, and in many instances results in an injury to the opposing player. Referees **MUST** strictly penalise players who commit these actions.

Players who commit unsportsmanlike actions with the intention to injure or intimidate opposing players, or who actually cause an injury, must be penalised to the limit of the rules. In addition, supplementary discipline may be applied by the Championship Directorate should such incidents occur.

Equipment

The game officials will be instructed by the Directorate to ensure the proper wearing of protective equipment, including helmets, visors, face masks and throat protectors.

25.2 1998 - 2002 Rule Interpretation Bulletin
Bulletin No. 1
July 20, 1998

1. **Rule 617 – Hooking**
Rule 633 – Throwing a Stick
Rule 635 – Tripping

In all situations for either the awarding of a Penalty Shot or an Awarded Goal, the determining factor is that the PUCK MUST BE FULLY ACROSS the blue line in the neutral zone.

- a) If the goalkeeper is on the ice, the ruling is to award a penalty shot.
- b) When the goalkeeper has been removed from the ice, award a goal.

Note: The above interpretations refer to situations where a player in control of the puck outside his defending zone is hooked, tripped, or fouled in any manner from behind, or a stick or any object is thrown with no opposition between him and the opposing goal.

25.3 1998 - 2002 Procedure Bulletin

Bulletin No. 1

July 20, 1998

1. Rule 409 – Calling of Penalties

Re: Procedure to signal a second delayed penalty.

Where a referee has signalled a delayed penalty against a team, but before the stoppage of play a second penalty is to be assessed to the same team (either to the original player or another player), the referee is to indicate the second penalty by pointing **TWO TIMES** toward the player while still keeping his other arm in the raised position.

2. Rule 606-A – Charging Rule 606-B – Checking From Behind

Where a body-checking penalty is to be assessed in women ice hockey, the referee is to indicate this penalty by using the “**CHARGING**” signal.

3. Rule 614 – Handling the Puck with the Hands

The “hand pass” signal is not necessary if the defending team executes the “hand pass” in its own defending zone. However, if the puck leaves the defending zone due to a “hand pass”, the following procedure for referee and linesmen apply.

Referee Procedures

The referee is to make an initial “hand pass” signal to indicate a possible violation:

Then – washout signal for play to continue
or
– stop play and repeat the signal

Linesmen Procedures

The linesmen give NO initial signal to indicate a possible “hand pass” violation. However, if the referee has not observed or signalled the “hand pass” situation, the linesman will stop the play and give the “hand pass” signal.

Note: Linesmen should always give the referee the first opportunity to make the call.

4. **Rule 304 – Protective Equipment** **Rule 305 – Dangerous Equipment**

Linesmen Procedures

Linesmen should not become involved in sending players off the ice or warning players for violations of these two rules concerning equipment.

Since warnings must be given to the teams by the referee for the first violation for each type of protective equipment, then for a second violation, a penalty must be assessed. This is the responsibility of the referee.

5. **Rule 625 – Passes**

The puck may be passed by a player to a teammate anywhere in the rink provided no offside has occurred at the attacking blue line.

Procedures for Referees and Linesmen Positioning for Passes Due to the Removal of the Centre Red Line for Passes.

Referee Procedures

- a) In the end zone, the area between the goal line and the end boards becomes **NO MAN’S LAND**. As a referee, avoid positioning yourself there. If the defending team gets possession of the puck and then makes a long pass to the attacking blue line, the referee will be too far behind the play.
- b) When the defending team gets possession of the puck in their defending zone, the referee may prematurely start to skate towards the neutral zone. However, he should only skate up to the level of the deepest forechecker.
- c) Team work with the two linesmen becomes more important. The referee must be well aware of the linesman procedures when covering the referee at the net and controlling the breakaway situations, as well as players left behind the play.
- d) In a fast break, the referee should check with the linesman for any type of penalty violation when requested.

Linesmen Procedures

- a) Whenever the puck and/or play is in the neutral zone, **BOTH** linesmen should be at their own blue line.
 - b) The back linesman must **ALWAYS** position himself so that he is at the same level as the deepest offensive player in order to cover his blue line in case of a fast break, long pass situation.
- Note:** Linesmen should **NEVER** let a player get behind them or get to the blue line before they are at the line.
- c) Linesmen must be aware of a player coming out of the penalty box or players bench and receiving a long pass from the end zone.
 - d) With play in the end zone, the back linesman should not position himself much deeper than midway between the centre red line and his partner’s blue line.

- e) Linesmen should minimise the number of times that they change positions at the blue line since a fast break pass could leave the far blue line uncovered.
- f) Linesmen should be prepared to support and cover for the referee on a long pass and a play at the net. At the same time, as the front linesman goes in deep, the other linesman (the back linesman) must move up and cover the blue line. The back linesman is also responsible for controlling the players left behind the play.
- g) On a long, quick pass to the far blue line, the front linesman should be ready to report or communicate all types of infractions to the referee when requested.