



GREATER TORONTO HOCKEY LEAGUE

PENALTY STANDARDS



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***Hockey Canada believes in a positive hockey experience
for all participants, in a safe, sportsmanlike environment.***

Governing bodies at all levels of Hockey Canada are responsible for developing certain guidelines that determine the way the game of hockey is played within their jurisdiction. A specific penalty standard for the fouls or events listed below has evolved over the past decade.

- Checking from Behind
- Head Contact
- Charging
- Body Checking and Boarding
- Slashing & Cross-Checking
- Interference and Restraining Fouls: Hooking, Holding, Interference and Tripping
- Roughing and Roughing after the Whistle
- Goaltender Interference & Protection of the Goaltender
- Improperly Fastened Chinstraps
- Removing Helmet to Fight
- Improper Wearing of Protective Equipment
- Harassment of Opposing Players and Team Officials
- Harassment of Officials
- Delay of Game
 - Face-offs
 - Goaltender Handling the Puck
- Players not retiring to players bench (or designated neutral area) during a Fight
- Player's leaving benches before directed to do so by the Referee at the end of a period or game
- Non-starters not going directly to players' bench at the start of 2nd & 3rd period

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF PUBLISHED PENALTY STANDARDS

The intent of published penalty standards is to eliminate violence and unnecessary risk of injury through the elimination of intimidation and unsportsmanlike conduct. Specifically, the objective of written penalty standards is to promote one or more of the following:

1. Personal Safety
2. Control of the Game
3. Fair Play and Sportsmanship
4. Interesting Play
5. Best Use of Limited Ice Time

REFEREE'S DISCRETION

Each written penalty standard indicates how much discretion officials may use in applying the rules. Many penalty standard directives do not allow referees to use discretion at all. In such cases, when the foul or event occurs referees are expected to always apply the rule "by the book". Such is the case, for example, when a checking from behind or checking to the head foul occurs.

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It is implied, however, that when a penalty standard has NOT been published that referees are permitted, in consideration of the degree of violence or misconduct, “flow” and participant expectations, to use their discretion when applying the rules to promote fair and interesting play. For example, use of discretion is permitted when the following occur:

- Delay of Game (net off, puck out of bounds, puck out of sight)
- Most “technical” calls (too many players, premature substitution, etc.)

Notwithstanding all of the above, referees are expected to apply all penalty standards consistently, within each game and from game to game – No matter the score, the time of game, the number of players on the ice, or the division or the age of the players.

HEAD CONTACT

- The following interpretations about Head Contact apply to Minor and Female hockey only. A different set of criteria and consequences apply to Head Contact fouls in Junior and Senior hockey
- Except when fighting occurs, call Head Contact in place of all other rules when contact to the head, face or neck occurs
- The objective is to reduce head injuries by eliminating contact with an opponent’s head
- The GTHL penalty standard is: “Thou shalt see it and call it!”. This rule is to be strictly applied – Send a message! Do not substitute with other penalties!
- If conflicted as to which set of penalties to call under this rule, assess the strictest penalties that apply
- Rule 6.5(a): Accidental contact (without injury) with stick, body or equipment to an opponent’s head, face or neck = Minor penalty for Head Contact
- Rule 6.5(b): Intentional contact with stick, body or equipment to an opponent’s head, face or neck = Double Minors (2 + 2) or Major + Game Misconduct (5 + GM) for Head Contact
- Classes of penalties assessed for intentional Head Contact are based on the degree of violence of impact. If the force of the impact is totally absorbed by protective equipment then no real risk of injury exists and Double Minors (2 + 2) only shall be assessed. If the force of the impact is NOT totally absorbed by protective equipment there is a real risk of injury and, therefore, a Major + Game Misconduct (5 + GM) shall be assessed
- Rule 6.5(d): Any Head Contact that results in Injury = Major + Game Misconduct (if unintentional) or Match penalty (if intentional). Many of the accepted signs and symptoms of head injury fall are well below the injury threshold used in previous years. This lower injury threshold will require a significant adjustment on the part of most officials. If in doubt or conflicted in your assessment, assume injury
- Signs and symptoms of injury include but are not limited to: Loss of consciousness, loss of coordination, inability to focus, laceration (a cut), bleeding nose, loss of equilibrium, slow or slurred speech, dazed or stunned demeanour, delayed response to questions, and broken tooth
- Rule 6.5(e): Head Contact that is a Deliberate Attempt to Injure = Match
- Special Instruction from the GTHL Board of Directors: Situations involving head contact are often difficult to evaluate without the benefit of video replay. In border-line cases where the Referee is conflicted as to which penalties to assess, Referees are to issue the strictest set of penalties that may apply
- Head Contact infractions occur due to the motion or action of the offending player. A player cannot draw a Head Contact penalty by causing or forcing head contact by intentionally exposing her head to an opponent.
- Application of Cross-Checking rule is unusual! Any cross-check to head, face or neck is to be reported as Head Contact. Rule 6.5(b) calls for double Minors if contact is intentional and force is totally absorbed by protective equipment. Rule 8.2(b) calls for Major + GM for cross-check above normal height of the shoulders. OHF authorities have instructed that referees shall assess a Major + Game Misconduct for all cross-checks to the neck or head even if the force of the cross-check is totally absorbed by protective equipment
- Roughing After The Whistle: The instruction found in Case Book Situation 2 to Rule 6.7 (Fighting & Roughing) calls for an extra minor against the first team guilty of deliberate physical contact after the whistle when the retaliation cannot be overlooked. This instruction is NOT to be applied whenever Head Contact occurs as part of any Roughing after the Whistle altercation
- Ducking or height differential situations are examples of instances where an official may be conflicted as which penalties to call. If a conflict exists then, as per the special instruction from the board of directors, the Referee should

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assess the most stringent penalty or penalties that apply. For example, if the Referee was conflicted as to whether a player's ducking action was or was not an attempt to draw a penalty, then he should assume that the player was not trying to draw a penalty and a Minor penalty for accidental Head Contact should be assessed. In the case where the Referee is conflicted about whether a player did or did not have enough time to avoid the contact, then the Referee should assume that there was time and rule that the infraction was intentional (which would result in double Minors being assessed)

- Fighting: What was a fight before is a fight today. Head Contact penalties are not called for actions that occur during a fight
- Head Lock: The action of grabbing an opponent around the neck constitutes a Head Contact infraction
- The Boarding rule applies when a player causes an opponent to be thrown violently into the boards (or glass). If a player's head hits the boards/glass after a "legal" check the criteria for a Boarding penalty HAS been met and the appropriate penalty(s) for Boarding (not Head Contact) should be assessed
- When Head Contact occurs during a Checking from Behind infraction, penalize the foul under the Head Contact rule
- Linesman can report a Head Contact infraction if it calls for a Major penalty. Technically, however, linesmen cannot report Head Contact fouls that should result in a Minor penalty or double Minors

Under the current application of the Head Contact rule, the only occasion when a High Sticking penalty is assessed occurs when the stick is held above the normal height of the opponent during a body check or an attempt to intimidate an opponent and the stick does NOT make contact with the opponent (see Rule 8.3a)

CHECKING FROM BEHIND

- The objective is to prevent serious neck, back and spinal cord injuries
- The GTHL penalty standard is: "*Thou shalt see it and call it!*". This rule is to be strictly applied – Send a message! Do not substitute with a less severe penalty!
- "Borderline" fouls to be called - "Marginal" calls that result are supported by the GTHL Board of Directors
- CFB defined: High-sticking, cross-checking, body-checking, pushing, hitting, propelling an opponent from behind
- CFB is not just a solid body-check to the "numbers"
- Includes any contact behind imaginary "spikes" protruding from the sides of the shoulders, ribs and hips
- Intensity of impact affects only the type of penalty assessed. Minimal force may still result in a CFB foul
- "Turning" to create a CFB situation does not negate the foul
- Fouls involving minimal force = Minor + GM, or Match penalty
- Fouls involving greater than minimal force = Major + GM, or Match penalty
- Tips for Coaches & Players
- Teach / use an angling approach
- Teach / show respect for one's opponent. Pass up on a hit to avoid CFB if necessary
- The aim must be to separate the puck from the puck carrier...Not to punish or intimidate the puck carrier!

CHARGING

- A charging penalty shall result when more than two strides are taken before or if a player jumps to delivery a body check
- Coasting the last few meters before body checking an opponent after more than two strides are taken does not eliminate the possibility of a charging call

BODY CHECKING & BOARDING

A body check that involves significantly more force than is required to separate the puck from the puck carrier shall result in a roughing penalty. "Legal" body-checks that are "punishing" shall result in a roughing penalty.

"Legal" body-checks that result in a "crash" into the boards shall result in a boarding penalty. Extremely excessive force that results in a violent "crash" into the boards shall result in a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty.

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ROUGHING AND ROUGHING AFTER THE WHISTLE

- Roughing:
 - Roughing Defined: “Unnecessary rough play.” May include punches, head locks, shoves, and body checking too hard. Consistent & strict application of this rule is expected. “Penalize disrespect, not intensity”
- Roughing After The Whistle (RAW):
 - RAW Defined: Deliberate physical contact after the whistle. Consistent & strict application of this rule is expected. “Penalize disrespect, not intensity”
 - Unless a Head Contact penalty is being assessed, the team that starts it, pays! Therefore, when a Head Contact foul does NOT occur during a RAW situation, a penalty differential should result

STICK FOULS - CROSS-CHECKING & SLASHING

The basic principle on which Hockey Canada’s stick foul penalty standards are based is that the stick must not be used as a weapon.

CROSS-CHECKING

This rule is to be enforced strictly. Striking an opponent or “raking” an opponent’s body or arm with the portion of the stick held between the hands shall result in a cross-checking penalty. As per the rules, any cross-check that contacts an opponent above the normal height of their shoulders shall result in an automatic Major penalty plus a Game Misconduct penalty. Using the stick to angle off or steer an opponent is permitted provide that the stick is simply placed on the opponents body and no striking action occurs.

SLASHING

This rule is intended to be strictly enforced. Players that swing their stick with excessive force or swing (or threaten to swing) their stick for the purpose of intimidating an opponent shall be penalized. Slashing type stick contact with any degree of force with an opponent’s glove, forearm or torso is not an honest attempt to play the puck and shall be penalized. Additionally, consequential or forceful stick contact with a goaltender who is attempting to freeze the puck shall result in a penalty.

The following are slashing fouls that must be called when they occur:

- Swing of the stick intended to intimidate opponent, with or without contact
- Swing of the stick towards an opponent involving any significant degree of force, with or without contact
- Swing of the stick towards an opponent involving a baseball or golf type grip, with or without contact
- Swing of the stick that results in contact to unprotected or vulnerable areas (arms, wrist, hands, knee, hamstring, calves, ankle, foot, back, ribs, genitals, groin) of an opponent, regardless of the degree of violence or force
- Swing of the stick that results in contact to an opponent’s glove or elbow pad, regardless of the degree of violence or force
- Swing of the stick that results in contact to the shaft of an opponent’s stick, near the hands, regardless of the degree of violence or force
- Aggressive use of the stick that is not a true attempt to play the puck (e.g. chopping at an opponent’s stick, knocking an opponent’s stick from their hands)
- Reckless use of the stick that results in contact with the body, even if attempting to play the puck (i.e., last ditch one-armed stick swing, golf swing, etc.)
- Aggressive or consequential stick contact with a goaltender while attempting to play a puck just covered by that goaltender

The following describe situations when a slashing penalty should not be called:

- Non-aggressive or inconsequential stick contact with a goaltender while attempting to play a puck just covered by that goaltender

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- “Love” taps (a light and inconsequential slap with the blade of the stick produced by rolling the wrists – No actual swinging of the stick occurs) to a protected area below an opponent’s waist)
- Honest attempt to play the puck involving a low degree of violence or force
- Non-aggressive contact with the stick resulting from an attempt to establish and maintain body position or to play the puck

INTERFERENCE AND RESTRAINING FOULS - HOOKING, HOLDING, INTERFERENCE & TRIPPING

The basic principles on which Hockey Canada’s restraining foul penalty standards are based are:

- The stick must not be used as a restraining device, and
- Restraining and interference type fouls will be penalized.

These four rules will be strictly applied throughout the entire game, no matter the score, the time of game or the on-ice strength of the teams. Specifically, a penalty shall be called if a player is interfered with, or the stick or free hand/arm is used to restrain an opponent and, as a **consequence** of such action the...

- Balance of an opponent is adversely affected to any degree,
- Progress of an opponent is impeded or hindered to any degree,
- Ability of an opponent to propel (stickhandle, pass or shoot) the puck, or to receive a pass is hindered to any degree, or
- Positional advantage achieved by an opponent is reduced or lost.

A rule change designed to eliminate slew footing was introduced in 2017. The revised rule prescribes severe penalties for all acts of slew footing. GTHL officials are to penalize all slew foot offenses, no matter their severity or the consequence of any fall experienced by the fouled player.

Tactics & Situational Examples

A review of the application of the restraining foul and stick foul penalty standards on selected tactics and situations follows:

1. Hook, Tug or Poke with the Stick: Generally, such actions are not permitted as the *consequence* is typically one or more of the adverse effects which now trigger a penalty call.
2. Locking On: Defined as the act of placing a stick and/or arm across an opponent’s torso to restrict the opponent’s ability to move freely. “Locking on” is not permitted and will result in a penalty.
3. Sling Shot: Hooking, grabbing or pulling on an opponent or the opponent’s stick for the purpose of catching up with and/or accelerating ahead of an opponent is prohibited and will result in a penalty.
4. Use of the Free Hand/Arm:
 - Using the free hand or free arm to clutch, grab, restrain or push an opponent aside is prohibited
 - A defending player may push the puck-carrier to the outside lane using the free hand
 - A player may push an opponent using the free hand during a mutual battle for body position or for possession of the puck with a non-puck carrying opponent provided no clutching, grabbing or restraining action occurs
 - The puck carrier is permitted to use the free arm to “ward off” an opponent.
5. Wrap: Using one or both hands/arms to corral or steer a player (typically towards or along the boards) will result in a penalty in every event.

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6. "Tying up" an Opponent's Stick: Tying up the stick of the puck-carrier is permitted as long as it is part of the battle for the puck, is not overly aggressive and does not involve a hooking, holding or slashing action. Tying up the stick of a non-puck-carrier effectively hinders the opponent's ability to receive a pass and is, therefore, not permitted; any such action will result in a penalty.
7. Slashing the Stick:
 - Stick on stick contact where the intent is to play the puck is permitted provided that the force is not overly excessive and that the contact occurs low on the stick
 - Slashing an opponent's stick out of their hands will result in a penalty
 - Slashing an opponent's stick for the purpose of intimidating the opponent will result in a penalty
 - Slashing an opponent's stick close to the hands is not a true attempt to play the puck and such action will result in a penalty if, considering the degree of force and point of contact, the act is deemed violent or intimidating by the Referee.
8. Stick Checks:
 - *Lift Check* (a type of stick check where one temporarily lifts or knocks an opponent's stick upwards with one's own stick followed immediately by an attempt to steal the puck): *Lift checks* are legal provided that the opponent is the puck-carrier, the act is not violent, the lift is not prolonged and no hooking or tugging action is involved.
 - *Press Check*:
 - A *Press Check* is a type of stick check used to stop or control the movement of an opponent's stick by placing stick pressure over top of the opponent's stick
 - *Press Checks* are permitted against the puck-carrier only provided they do not involve excessive force or a slashing action
 - A properly applied (i.e., no excessive force or chopping/slashing action is involved) *Press Check* that results in the puck-carrier losing their stick will not result in a penalty
 - *Press Checks* applied against a player not in control of the puck are prohibited because they one's impede progress and hinder one's ability to receive a pass.
9. Pick or Block: Intentionally changing direction or location to block the projected route of a non-puck carrying opponent is prohibited and will result in a penalty.
10. Holding Up a Fore-Checker: Hooking or holding an opponent, or changing direction (i.e., turning into or zigzagging) to block the projected route of an opponent that is in pursuit of the puck or puck-carrier will result in a penalty.
11. Battles: "Battles" are mutual struggles for a place on the ice or for possession of the puck that pit opponents' strength and balance against each other. Battles are permitted provided no hooking, holding, elbowing, roughing or tripping action or illegal stick-work is involved. Players may (mutually) push against each other during a battle using their body, hands or stick. Stumbles or falls that result from a battle will not be penalized. Tripping, impeding or knocking down an opponent that has disengaged from a battle is not permitted. The free hand may not be used to push an opponent that has disengaged from a battle.
12. Clearing Out the Front of the Net: Defending players may attempt to push an opponent front of the net (with or without the assistance of their stick) to challenge for position. This initial contact is simply the precursor to a "battle". However, when this initial challenge results in the attacking player losing his balance, or if the action becomes exaggerated or prolonged and/or if the attacking player is prevented from "rolling off" the push, this is interference and such fouls shall be penalized.
13. Can-Opener/Corkscrew: Placing or moving a stick between an opponent's legs is not permitted if it causes the opponent to stumble or fall, actually hinders an opponent's ability to move freely, or hinders the opponent's ability to propel, pass or shoot the puck, or to receive a pass.

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14. Face-Off Interference:

- Players are not permitted to use their stick or free-arm/hand to impede or block the progress of an opponent or to push aside an opponent after the puck is dropped
- Players are not permitted to impede an opponent that is in pursuit of the puck or puck-carrier by turning into the opponent or by setting a “pick”
- Players may “battle” for position as their paths merge if both are in pursuit of the puck
- Centres may not block or impede the opposing centre by moving forward, or by spinning around and backing up
- Centres may not block or impede the opposing centre by moving laterally unless this movement is a direct and honest attempt to pursue the puck.

15. Pinning against the Boards:

- A player may body check and “pin” the puck-carrier against the boards by pushing against and/or locking with a leg but may only apply the “pin” while the opponent has control of the puck. A penalty will be called if a player does not immediately release a “pin” when the opponent loses the ability to propel (stickhandle, pass or shoot) the puck with stick, skate or glove
- A penalty will be called if one uses the free arm, free hand or stick to restrict an opponent’s ability to move freely or to propel the puck during a “pin”
- “Pinning” an opponent who is not the puck-carrier is not permitted and will result in a penalty

16. Finishing a Check:

- Legal body contact with the puck-carrier is always allowed
- When a puck-carrier dumps, shoots or passes the puck away in advance of being hit, any opponent intending to body check that player may legally do so if at the instant the puck is released the space between the players is less than or equal to the extended stick length (i.e., arm-length + stick-length) of the player contemplating the check AND the check is completed without undue delay after the puck is released. A penalty must result if the body check is completed by a player located further than an extended arm plus stick length away from the opponent at the instant the puck is released OR if the hit is delayed much beyond the time of puck release.

Recognizing “The Danger Zone”

Certain actions have been identified that typically precede violations of the restraining foul and stick foul penalty standards. Specifically, players enter the “*danger zone*” when they:

- Raise their stick at or above the horizontal and place it on an opponent
- Place a stick between the legs of an opponent
- Take a hand off their stick and place the free hand on an opponent
- “Pin” an opponent against the boards
- Continue to “close the gap” on an opponent who has passed or shot the puck away
- Change direction towards the projected route of an opponent who is in pursuit of the puck or puck-carrier

Game officials must watch the play closely when a player enters the “*danger zone*” so that infractions can be detected if they occur.

GOALTENDER INTERFERENCE & PROTECTION OF THE GOALTENDER (REVISED IN 2015)

- The goal is to protect goaltenders from injury and to prevent violence & retaliatory fouls
- Referees are to penalize illegal contact with goaltenders by enforcing the charging and interference rules strictly

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- Goaltenders must be allowed to defend their goal without interference or illegal contact caused by an opponent. A penalty shall be assessed when the goaltender is intentionally bumped or deliberately prevented from playing the puck anywhere in the rink
- “Picks” of a goaltender that is outside the crease are illegal. Referee’s shall assess a goaltender interference penalty on the play and disallow any goal resulting from a pick
- In 2015 the GTHL Board of Directors directed that:
 - Any intentional or reckless or careless act on the part of an attacking player that results in contact with the goaltender, either directly or indirectly, shall result in a penalty and any goal scored by the offending team on the play shall be disallowed
 - The class of penalty assessed for interference or illegal contact with the goaltender shall be commensurate with the degree of violence of impact experienced by the goaltender. This shall be interpreted to mean that any violent or significant or injury-causing contact shall result in a Major penalty and a Game Misconduct penalty to the offending player unless, in the opinion of the Referee, a Match penalty for deliberate injury or attempt to injure is warranted
 - Examples of “significant” contact that shall result in a Major + Game Misconduct:
 - High velocity, high impact collisions
 - Any contact directly with a goaltenders head that cannot be fully absorbed by the helmet or facial protector
 - Illegal contact to the head or body of a goaltender that results in “whipping” or “snapping” back of the goaltender’s head
 - Illegal contact that results in the goaltender hitting his head on the ice, goal post or crossbar such that the force is not wholly absorbed by the helmet or facial protector
 - Players who “drive to the net” and make contact with the goaltender shall be penalized. This interpretation shall include situations where the positioning of a defending player leaves limited escape routes for the attacking player
 - A “hockey play” gone bad (as when a player drives the net in an attempt to deflect a pass or potential pass but falls or runs out of room to avoid the goaltender) shall result in a penalty if illegal contact with the goaltender occurs
- Consistent & strict application of the rules to protect the goaltender from injury and illegal contact is expected

IMPROPERLY FASTENED CHINSTRAPS

- The objective is to enhance player safety
- Two issues:
 - Chinstrap not tight enough:
 - Maximum of 1” (1 finger maximum) of slack below a clenched jaw allowed
 - Violators shall be sent off the ice at the first stoppage and a warning issued to the team that any future violations of this type by anyone on the team will result in a Misconduct penalty
 - Team’s shall be penalized for further violations after a warning is issued
 - Chinstrap **undone!**
 - Chinstraps must be “securely fastened” while on the ice
 - The onus is on players to replace worn fasteners
 - Players cannot participate with chinstrap undone:
 - The Referee has no discretion - No warnings are given for this foul – The Referee must assess a Minor immediately if a player participates in the play while the chinstrap is undone
- Note: Playing with 1 facial protector side strap undone shall not be penalized

FAILURE TO WEAR OR IMPROPER WEARING OF HELMETS, FACIAL PROTECTORS AND THROAT PROTECTORS

- The objective is to enhance player safety
 - Helmets, facial protectors and throat protectors must be worn as intended by the manufacturer
 - Straps must be installed and clipped up.
 - Throat protectors must not be folded, rolled up or taped to reduce their height, and must be tight enough to remain in place around (not below) the throat
 - Referee’s have no discretion – They must enforce the rules every time a violation occurs
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REMOVAL OF HELMET

- The objective is to enhance player safety
- Any player that deliberately removes the helmet of an opponent during a fight, altercation, gathering or confrontation shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct for removing a helmet
- Any player that removes his or her own helmet in anticipation of or during a fight, altercation, gathering or confrontation shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct for removing a helmet. If this action is not “mirrored” by an opponent, the offending player shall also receive a Minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
- Referee’s have no discretion – Treat as a “must call” infraction - If it happens, call it!
- This rule does not apply if a helmet comes off because of a body check
- Whether play is in progress or not is not a factor
- Interpret actions such as grabbing, pushing, pulling and shoving as evidence of a deliberate act
- GRM 62 penalty code applies
- GTHL rule is more strict than Hockey Canada rule
- Other penalties may also apply (e.g. Minor for simply grabbing face-mask, Match for grabbing facemask in a manner that inflicts punishment, etc.)

PLAYERS NOT RETREATING TO BENCH (OR DESIGNATED NEUTRAL AREA) DURING A FIGHT

- The objective is to ensure safety / maintain control of the game
- Rule to be strictly applied – Officials have no discretion
- Misconduct issued to worst offender(s), not necessarily to all offenders

REDUCE LENGTH OF STOPPAGES

- Quality of face-offs not to be compromised
- Any encroachment or lining up off-side **shall** result in the ejection of the player taking the face-off
- False start, encroachment on face-off restraining lines or improper stick positioning by the player taking the face-off **shall** result in the ejection from the face-off

HARASSMENT OF OPPOSING PLAYERS OR TEAM OFFICIALS

Part of the mission of the GTHL is: *“To foster the development of good character, citizenship and sportsmanship through participation in minor hockey”*. In support of this stated goal, officials are to monitor the conduct of players and team officials on the players’ or penalty bench more closely than in previous years and take action to discourage such contact/. Specifically, unsportsmanlike conduct directed at an opponent that involves foul language, rude gestures or taunting of an opponent shall be penalized. First offences shall be penalized with a Bench Minor penalty unless the incident is extremely flagrant, in which case a Misconduct or Game Misconduct shall be assessed.

HARASSMENT OF OFFICIALS

- Definition: Act of a player or team official verbally or by way of gesture:
 - Seeking to intimidate an official
 - Challenge the authority or competence of an official
 - Incite harassment or disrespect of an official
 - Embarrass an official
 - Show disrespect for an official
- Referees have no discretion when such fouls occur - Referees shall penalize all fouls - No warnings are to be given

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NON-STARTERS LOITERING ON THE ICE AT THE START OF THE 2ND OR 3RD PERIOD

At the start of a period, only the players taking part in the actual face-off shall be allowed on the ice. All other players must go directly to their bench. Rule to be strictly applied – Officials have no discretion

GOALTENDER FALLING ON THE PUCK

- Goaltenders cannot delay the game unnecessarily by falling on the puck
- Rule to be applied “by the book” – Officials have no discretion
- Warnings are provided formally to teams
- Verbal commands to “play it” are not necessary and are not considered a warning

PLAYERS LEAVING PLAYER’S OR PENALTY BENCH AT THE END OF PERIOD/GAME BEFORE DIRECTED TO DO SO BY THE REFEREE

- At the end of each period, all players must remain on their respective players’ or penalty bench until directed off by the Referee. The objective is to ensure safety / maintain control of the game
- Rule to be strictly applied – Officials have no discretion
- Foul occurs when 1st player steps onto the ice from the players’ or penalty bench without clearance

SUMMARY

Standards for the fouls and events mentioned in this article have been established by hockey’s governing bodies to help provide players with a safe, sportsmanlike environment in which to enjoy the great game of hockey. Officials play an important part in achieving this goal. On-ice officials in the GTHL officiating program are expected to consistently apply the standards mentioned in this article in every game - No matter the age of the participants, the score, the time of game or the manpower situation on the ice.

Send an email to the author at tdo@gthlcanada.com to comment on this article.

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