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2011-12 Edition

Bill Spohn
 USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee
 1775 Bob Johnson Dr.
 Colorado Springs, CO 80906-4090

Page 1 (updated 10/5/2011 with 2011-13 USA Hockey, 2011-12 NFHS and 2010-12 NCAA changes)

Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
SECTION 1 - RINK				
Goalkeeper warm-up area defined	U	Expanded Privileged Area	No rule	No rule
Maximum non-players on bench	X	Four (4)	Five (5)	Six (6) [B. Minor after warning]
Goal Crease shape	N	6 ft. semi-circle	6 ft. semi-circle	Truncated semi-circle (NHL)
No Tobacco/Alcohol on ice or bench	X	Bench minor	Prohibit Tobacco (Game Misc)	Ejection from game
SECTION 2 - COMPOSITION OF TEAMS				
Maximum players in uniform	X	Maximum 20 total, maximum 18 players	Maximum 20, including goalkeepers	Maximum 18 players; 2 or 3 goalkeepers (non exhib. games)
Captains and Alternates	N	Captain + 2 Alternates (max.)	Max. 3 (any combination)	Captain and Designated Alt.
Visiting team must wear dark uniforms	X	No rule	Required	"Lights" permitted
Logo limitations on uniform	U	None	Yes (logos, flags, meml.patch)	Yes (logo restrictions only)
Captain coming off bench to complain	X	All- Minor	(1) - Minor; (2) - Misconduct; (3) - Game Misconduct; (4) - Game Disqualification	All - Misconduct
Captains and Referees meet before game	U	No rule	Required	Required
More than 19 Players + 3 Goalkeepers on the ice in the pre-game	N	No rule - implied only rostered players may be on the ice	No rule - implied only rostered players may be on the ice	Bench minor penalty
Roster correction after game begins	N	Allowed - Bench minor penalty	OK if inadvertent; minor penalty	Not permitted; bench minor penalty assessed
Jersey number in addition to back	X	No rule	Both sleeves	Front or both sleeves
Spare goalkeeper required on bench	N	No rule; recommended in playdowns	No rule	Yes, at start of game, or bench minor
"Temporary" goalkeeper	U	Permitted	No rule	No rule
Goalkeeper substitution during stoppage	N	Return after next stoppage	Return after next stoppage	No rule
Not starting with announced lineup	N	Permitted	Permitted	Bench minor penalty
Pucks on ice before start of second or third periods	N	No rule	No rule	Charged with time-out; bench minor if time-out already used



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Recovery time for injured goalkeeper	U	None	"Reasonable amount of time"	"Reasonable time"
Team huddles before 2 nd or 3 rd period	U	No rule	Minor	Bench minor
Concussion/Unconscious player rule (requires written physician OK to resume play)	F	No rule	Required	No rule
Stoppage for injured player	F	Immediate when his team has possession	Immediate (regardless of possession)	Immediate when his team has possession
SECTION 3 - EQUIPMENT				
Hollow end of stick must be covered	N	Yes	Yes	No rule
Stick blade curvature restriction	X	¾"	¾"	¾"
Skates not conforming to rules	F	Not permitted to play	(1) Warn; (2) Game Misc.	Not permitted to play
Throat protector – Goalkeeper	F	Recommended	Required	Recommended
Throat protector - Player	F	Not required	Recommended	Not required
Player's helmet comes off during play	N	Immediate stoppage. Cannot return until play resumes	Immediate stoppage. Cannot return until play resumes	Immediate stoppage.
HECC-approved helmet	N	Required	Required	Players - Required Goalkeepers- Recommended
Wearing helmet on players' and penalty bench	N	Required. Violation - Misc.	Required. Violation - Misc.	Required. Violation-Ben. Minor
Helmet chinstrap length restriction	N	Implied	Implied	Two fingers
Torn, ripped, unzipped pants	U	No rule	Not permitted	Not permitted
Goalkeeper Blocker Glove limits	F	8" x 15"	9" x 17"	8" x 15"
Goalkeeper Catching Glove limits	F	45" Max. circumference	9" x 17"	45" Max. circumference
Goalkeeper Leg Pad limits	F	11" X 38"	12" wide	11" X 38"
Mouthguard not worn – Goalkeeper	X	Misconduct after team warning	Misconduct after team warning	Misconduct after team warning
Mouthguard not worn – Player	X	Misconduct after team warning	Misconduct after team warning	Misconduct after team warning
Mouthguard - non-clear color	N	Required	Required	Recommended
Mouthguard - attached to facemask	N	Not required	Not required	No rule
Warning prior to equipment violation	N	Yes (except stick)	Yes	No
Casts / splints	N	OK if adequately covered and physician approved	OK if adequately covered and physician approved	No rule



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Wearing exposed jewelry	U	Not permitted	(1) Misc. (2) Game Misc.	(1) Misc. (2) Game Misc.
Equipment request limitation	X	Anything in Section 3 which has specifications	Sticks, Goalkeeper Equipment	Sticks, Skates, Goalkeeper Equipment
Location of logos on puck	N	No rule	No rule	Limited position
Electronic Equipment - player on the ice	U	Bench minor; equip. removed	No rule	No rule
SECTION 4 - PENALTIES				
Bench minor penalty defined	F	Yes	No rule (Captain's Choice of players on the ice notation on penalties)	Yes
Who serves "Bench Minor" (NFHS equivalent)	N	Player on ice at infraction	Player on ice at infraction	Any non-penalized player
Coincident minor penalty rule	N	Equal number of minors offset	Equal number of minors offset	Equal number of minors offset unless teams at full strength
Minor penalty termination when scored upon	N	First minor being served	First minor being served	Minor causing short-handed at time of goal
Signaled delayed minor penalty is assessed if goal is scored by non-offending team	N	Only if the greater on-ice strength team scores	Only if the greater on-ice strength team scores	Yes
Player/GK ejected after second Major	N	Yes (plus 2 game suspension)	Yes	No
Team may delay placing a substitute on Penalty Bench for Major + GM or Match penalty	X	No	No	No
Game suspension for Game Misconduct	U	Yes	No	No
5-penalty maximum/game (player/GK); 15-penalty maximum/game (coach)	N U	Yes (Game Misc.) Yes (Next game suspension)	Yes (Game Misc.) No	No No
Progressive suspension	U	Yes (Fighting only)	Yes (Disqualification Penalty)	Yes (Disqualification & Misconduct Penalties)
Match penalty provision	U	Yes	No	No
Match (DQ) penalty to non-player	N	Applies	Applies	No rule
Maximum Disqualifications per player per game	F	No limit	One	No limit
Goalkeeper must remain in Privileged Area throughout Penalty Shot attempt	N	Not required	Not required	Yes



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Who takes Penalty Shot if player selected is injured or ejected, or Captain has choice	U	Teammate on the ice at the time of infraction	Any teammate not then serving a penalty	Any teammate not then serving a penalty
Goalkeeper must serve his own major and/or misconduct penalties	U	No	Yes	Yes
Requires the recording of any delayed penalty nullified by a goal being scored	N	Yes	Yes	No
SECTION 5 - OFFICIALS				
Approved Officiating systems	X	RR, RLL or 2R-2L (not RRL)	RR, RRL, or 2R-2L	RRL or 2R-2L
2-man system if 3-man and 1 incapacitated	F	2 Referees or Ref.-Line.	2 Referees	2 Ref/1 Lines or 1 Ref/ 2 Lines
Linesman report observed MINOR pen. to Ref.	X	"Injury Potential" minors only	No	Yes
1-Referee: Face-offs	U	Start of periods, after goals	Start of periods, after goals (Not 2R-1L)	Start of periods, after goals (Not 2R-1L)
SECTION 6 - PLAYING RULES				
Awarded goal for certain Penalty Shot situations if goalkeeper is not on the ice: - Fall on or pick up puck in crease - Thrown stick (Defending Zone) - Fouled from behind (breakaway)	X	Awarded goal (all 4 situations)	Awarded goal allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent	Awarded goal allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent
Verbally abusing Official after game – player	U	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Disqualification	Disqualification
Foul language on players' bench – player	X	Misconduct or Bench Minor	Minor + Misconduct	Misconduct
Continuing altercation	U	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Disqualification	Disqualification
Touching/Holding Game Official – player	U	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Disqualification	Disqualification
Banging boards with stick – player	U	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Minor	Minor
Obscene Gesture – player	X	Game Misconduct	Minor + Game Miscond. or DQ	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Racial or ethnic slur	F	Game Misconduct	Minor + Game Miscond. or DQ	Game Misconduct
"Detrimental Conduct" – player or Team Official	U	Match	No rule	No rule
Verbal abuse to Game Official after game by Team Official	X	(1) Bench Minor, (2) Game Misc.; Match if threat	Disqualification	Supplementary Discipline



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Obscene Gesture by Team Official	N	Game Misconduct	Game Misconduct	Bench Minor
Thrown object onto the ice	N	Bench Minor	Minor	Player: Minor + Game Misc. Coach: Bench Minor + G.Misc.
Non-physical interference with On-Ice Officials	N	Misconduct	Misconduct	Player: Misc. or Game Misc.
Touching/Holding Game Official by Team Official	U	Game Misconduct	Disqualification	Disqualification
Physically harming Game Official by Team Off.	X	Match	Disqualification	Supplementary Discipline
Goalkeeper playing with a broken stick	N	Not permitted - Minor	Not permitted - Minor	OK until next stoppage
Butt-Ending and Spearing	X	Major + Game Misconduct	Disqualification	Major + Game Misc. or DQ
Checking from behind	X	Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match; 5+GM req'd if head-first into boards or goal	Minor + Misconduct or DQ; DQ required if head-first into boards or goal.	Minor or Major; Major and Game Misconduct/DQ req'd if into boards or goal
Contact to the Head, Face or Neck	X	Minor or Major	Minor, Major or Disq.	Major + Game Misc. or Disq.
Intentional or Reckless Contact		Major + Game Misc. or Match		
Players must be stationary for face-off	N	No	No	Yes
Player/Line change at stoppage	X	Implied 8 seconds (max.) each for visitor and home team	5 seconds each for visitor and home team	5 seconds for visiting team and 8 seconds for home team
Player change after accidental goal dislodged by defending team	N	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted
Player change after team shoots puck over glass and out of play	N	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted
Player change after team ices the puck	N	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted
Face-off location	U	Anywhere permitted by rule	Only at 9 face-off spots	Only at 9 face-off spots
Face-off location after non-coincident penalty	U	Last play or Neutral Zone spot	Offending team's defending zone	Offending team's defending zone
Face-off location for carrying /throwing or illegal hand passing puck	U	Neutral zone or last play	Defending zone	Defending zone
Face-off for interference from bench	X	Last play (cannot gain ice advantage)	Last play	Offending team end zone spot



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Face-off location for puck shot by attacking player striking goal post and leaving rink	X	Neutral Zone	Zone where shot occurred	End Zone of last play
Goalkeeper freezes puck on ice when out of crease, puck in front of goal line (in Priv. Area)	N	No penalty	No penalty	Minor (interpretation)
Goalkeeper shoots puck out of rink over glass	U	Minor - Always	Minor – If deliberate	Minor – If deliberate
Goalkeeper checks opponent in Priv. Area	N	No rule	No rule	Minor or Major
Instigating Fisticuffs	F	Minor	No special rule	Minor
Fisticuffs, including player struck during altercation who continues by retaliating	U	Minor, Double Minor, or Major + Game Misconduct	Disqualification	Disqualification
Subsequent player enters altercation (fight)	X	First in - Game Misconduct; Others - no automatic penalty	Disqualification	No automatic penalty
Intentionally dropping stick or gloves(altercation)		Minor	Minor	Minor
Deliberately removing helmet/facemask prior to or during altercation	U	Match	No rule	No rule
Own helmet/facemask comes off head during altercation	U	Game Misconduct	No rule	No rule
Closing hand on puck causing stoppage (not in crease)	X	Stoppage only	Stoppage only	Stoppage only
High Stick definition	U	Above normal shoulder height of checking player	Above 4 feet	Above 4 feet
Goalkeeper play puck with high stick	N	No	No	Permitted
Grabbing Facemask	X	Major + Game Misconduct or Match	Major or Disqualification	Minor, Major or Disq.
Directing puck into goal with skate	X	Disallowed	Disallowed	Disallowed
Attacking player in crease when goal scored (goalkeeper is in the crease)	N	No goal	No goal	No goal unless not interfering with the goalkeeper
Kick shot (skate kicks stick blade)	U	No rule	Misconduct	Misconduct
Player leaves players' bench or penalty bench during altercation	U	Major + Game Misconduct	Disqualification	Disqualification
Leaving penalty bench during time-out	X	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Extra player prevents breakaway	X	Penalty Shot	Penalty Shot + Misconduct	Bench Minor, Misconduct, and Penalty Shot
Delayed offsides permitted	U	No – (Except U14 and above teams)	Yes	Yes
Tag-up to nullify delayed off-side	U	No – (Except U14 and above teams)	Yes	Yes
Icing the puck permitted by shorthanded team	N	Yes	Yes	Yes - Regular season only
Icing is nullified if goalkeeper leaves crease or feigns playing the puck	N	No	No	Yes
Stoppage of play for icing violation	N	Immediate when puck crosses goal line	Immediate when puck crosses goal line	Hybrid Icing
Icing error	N	End zone spot where occurred	End zone spot where occurred	Center spot unless unduly penalizing either team
Off-side error	N	Neutral zone spot	Neutral zone spot	Center spot
Carrying puck behind net more than once per period (not being checked)	N	No rule	No rule	Minor
Additional puck on ice	N	Stop only if interferes with play	Stop only if interferes with play	Stop at change of possession
Team refuses to start play when ordered to do so by Referee	X	(1) 15 seconds, (2) Bench minor, (3) 15 seconds, (4) Suspend game	(1) Warn, (2) 3-min. to comply, (3) Major if comply or forfeit if no comply	(1) Warn, (2) Minor, (3) Major, (4) Forfeit
Slew-footing	X	Major or Major + Game Misc.	Minor or Major	Major + Game Misc. or DQ.
Thrown stick	U	At puck in Def. Zone: Pen. Shot, Otherwise: minor	Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor	Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor
“Mercy Rule” (ending game early)	F	No	Permitted	No
Time of period	X	20 minutes maximum	15 (up to 17 min. by State)	20 minutes
Time-out permitted	U	Before conclusion of line change procedure	Anytime during a stoppage	Anytime during a stoppage
Max. period length, sudden-death overtime	X	10 min. (no resurface)	8 min. (no resurface)	5 min. (no resurface)
Teams change ends for first overtime	N	No	No	Yes
Video review	X	No rule	By State Assoc. adoption only	Yes
Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking	N	Minor, Major or Major + GM	Minor or major	Minor



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	USA Hockey (HS & Below)	N F H S	N C A A
Location of "fouled from behind" for Penalty Shot	X	Neutral or Attacking Zone	Attacking Zone	Attacking side of center line
Unnecessary Roughness	X	Minor or Double Minor, except for hit above shoulders	Minor, Major or Disqualification	Minor
Avoidable check to player in possession	N	Minor, Major or Major + GM	Minor or Major	No rule
SIGNALS and PROCEDURES				
Goal scored - blowing the whistle	N	Yes	Yes	No
Icing signal, non-whistle arm, back official	U	Vertical	66° above horizontal	66° above horizontal
Delayed off-side	U	Non-whistle arm vertical (U14 teams and above only)	Non-whistle arm vertical; whistle arm angled toward line	Non-whistle arm vertical; whistle arm angled toward line