

2008 - 2009 Rules Comparison

(Updated 9/1/08 with 08-09 NFHS, 08-10 NCAA, and 07-09 USA Hockey changes)

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey
SECTION 1 - RINK				
Goalkeeper warm-up area defined	U	No rule	No rule	Expanded Privileged Area
Maximum non-players on bench	x	Five (5)	Six (6) [B.Minor after warn]	Four (4)
Goal Crease shape	N	6 ft. semi-circle	Truncated semi-circle (NHL)	6 ft. semi-circle
Goal line to blue line distance	F	60 feet	64 feet	64 feet
No Tobacco/Alcohol on ice or bench	x	Prohibit Tobacco (Game Misc)	Ejection from game	Bench minor
SECTION 2 - COMPOSITION OF TEAMS				
Maximum players in uniform	x	Maximum 20, including goalkeepers	Maximum 18 players; 2 or 3 goalkeepers	Maximum 20 total, maximum 18 players (Youth)
Captains and Alternates	N	Max. 3 (any combination)	Captain and Designated Alt.	Captain + 2 Alternates (max.)
Visiting team must wear dark uniforms	x	Required	"Lights" permitted	No rule
Logo limitations on uniform	U	Yes (logos, flags, meml.patch)	Yes (logo restrictions only)	None
Captain coming off bench to complain	x	(1) - Minor; (2) - Misconduct; (3) - Game Misconduct; (4) - Game Disqualification	All - Misconduct	All- Minor
Captains and Referees meet before game	U	Required	Required	No rule

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Captains and Referees meet before game	U	Required	Required	No rule

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
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	Bench minor penalty	No rule - implied only rostered players may be on the ice
Roster correction after game begins	N	OK if inadvertent; minor penalty	Not permitted; bench minor penalty assessed	OK if inadvertent; bench minor penalty assessed
Jersey number in addition to back	x	Both sleeves	Front or both sleeves	No rule
Spare goalkeeper required on bench	N	No rule	Yes, at start of game, or forfeiture (game to be played)	No rule; recommended in playdowns
“Temporary” goalkeeper	U	No rule	No rule	Permitted
Goalkeeper substitution during stoppage	X	Return after next stoppage	No rule	Return after next stoppage
Not starting with announced lineup	N	Permitted	Bench minor penalty, except when penalty prior to start of game.	Permitted (except Juniors)
Pucks on ice before start of second or third periods	N	No rule	Charged with time-out; bench minor if time-out already used	No rule
Recovery time for injured goalkeeper	U	“Reasonable amount of time”	“Reasonable time”	None
Team huddles before 2 nd or 3 rd period	U	Minor	Bench minor	No rule
Unconscious player rule (requires written physician OK to resume play)	F	Required	No rule	No rule
Stoppage for injured player	F	Immediate (regardless of possession)	Immediate when player’s team has possession	Immediate when player’s team has possession
SECTION 3 - EQUIPMENT				
Curvature of stick	N	3/4 of an inch	1/2 of an inch	3/4 of an inch
Hollow end of stick must be covered	N	Yes	No rule	Yes
Skates not conforming to rules	F	(1) Warn; (2) Game Misc.	Not permitted to play	Not permitted to play
Throat protector – Goalkeeper	F	Required—“Flapper” style only	Recommended	Recommended
Throat protector - Player	F	Recommended	Not required	Not required

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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Player's helmet comes off during play	N	Immediate stoppage. Cannot return until play resumes	Immediate stoppage	Immediate stoppage. Cannot return until play resumes
HECC-approved helmet	N	Required	Recommended	Required
Wearing helmet on players' and penalty bench	x	Required. Violation - Misc.	Required. Violation: 1st - Warning Not corrected - Bench Minor	Required. Violation - Misc.
Helmet chinstrap length restriction	N	Implied	Two fingers	Implied
Torn, ripped, unzipped pants	U	Not permitted	Not permitted	No rule
Goalkeeper leg pads	N	12" max. width	11" max. width	12" max. width
Goalkeeper blocker glove limits	U	9" x 17"	8" x 15"	8" x 16" (Effective 2009-10)
Goalkeeper catching glove limits	N	9" x 17"	48" max. circumference 8" max. cuff	48" max. circumference 8.5" max. cuff
Mouthguard not worn – Goalkeeper	F	Minor	(1) Misconduct after warning	Misconduct after team warning
Mouthguard - non-clear color	N	Required	Recommended	Required
Warning prior to equipment violation	F	Yes (Other than mouth guard)	Yes	Yes – Mouthguard
Casts / splints	N	OK if adequately covered and physician-approved	No rule	OK if adequately covered and physician-approved
Wearing exposed jewelry	U	(1) Misc.; (2) Game Misc.	(1) Misc.; (2) Game Misc.	Not permitted
Equipment request limitation	x	Sticks, Goalkeeper Equipment	Sticks, Skates, Goalkeeper Equipment	Anything in Section 3 which has specifications
Location of logos on puck	N	No rule	Limited position	No rule
Electronic Equipment - player on the ice	U	No rule	No rule	Bench minor; equip. removed

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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
SECTION 4 - PENALTIES				
Bench minor penalty defined	F	No rule (Captain's Choice notation on penalties)	Yes	Yes
Who serves "Bench Minor" (NFHS equivalent)	N	Player on ice at infraction	Any non-penalized player	Player on ice at infraction
Coincident minor penalty rule	N	Equal number of minors offset	Equal number of minors offset unless teams at full strength	Equal number of minors offset
Minor penalty termination when scored upon	N	First minor being served	Minor causing short-handed at time of goal	First minor being served
Player/GK ejected after second Major	U	Yes (Game Misc.)	No	Yes (plus 2 game suspension)
Game suspension for Game Misconduct	U	No	No	Yes
5-penalty maximum/game (player/GK); 15-penalty maximum/game (coach)	U U	Yes (Game Misc.) No	No No	Yes (Game Misc.) Yes (Next game suspension)
Progressive suspension	U	Yes (Disqual. Penalty)	Yes (Disqual. Penalty)	No
Match penalty provision	U	No	No	Yes
Match (DQ) penalty to non-player	N	Applies	No rule	Applies
Maximum Disqualifications per player per game	F	One	No limit	No limit
Goalkeeper must remain in Privileged Area throughout Penalty Shot attempt	N	Not required	Yes	Not required
Who takes Penalty Shot if player selected is injured or ejected, or Captain has choice	U	Any teammate not then serving a penalty	Any teammate not then serving a penalty	Teammate on the ice at the time of infraction

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Game suspension for Game Misconduct	U	No	No	Yes
5-penalty maximum/game (player/GK); 15-penalty maximum/game (coach)	U U	Yes (Game Misc.) No	No No	Yes (Game Misc.) Yes (Next game suspension)
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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Goalkeeper must serve his own major and/or misconduct penalties	U	Yes	Yes	No
SECTION 5 – OFFICIALS				
Approved Officiating systems	x	RR, RRL, RLL or R-2AR	RRL or RR-LL	RR or RLL (not RRL)
2-man system if 3-man and 1 incapacitated	F	2 Referees	2 Referees or Ref.-Line.	2 Referees or Ref.-Line.
Linesman report observed MINOR penalty to Ref.	U	Yes	Yes	“Injury Potential” minors only
1-Referee: Face-offs	N	Start of periods, after goals	No rule	Start of periods, after goals
Linesman stop play—high stick violation	U	Yes	Yes	No
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 allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent	Awarded goal allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent	Awarded goal (all 4 situations)
Verbally abusing Official after game -- player	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Foul language on players’ bench – player	U	Misconduct	Misconduct	Misconduct or Bench Minor
Continuing altercation	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Touching/Holding Game Official - Player	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Banging boards with stick – player	U	Minor	Minor	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Obscene Gesture – player	x	Minor + Game Misconduct	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Game Misconduct

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2-man system if 3-man and 1 incapacitated	F	2 Referees	2 Referees or Ref.-Line.	2 Referees or Ref.-Line.
Linesman report observed MINOR penalty to Ref.	U	Yes	Yes	“Injury Potential” minors only
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Foul language on players’ bench – player	U	Misconduct	Misconduct	Misconduct or Bench Minor
Continuing altercation	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Touching/Holding Game Official - Player	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Banging boards with stick – player	U	Minor	Minor	Misconduct or Game Miscond.
Obscene Gesture – player	x	Minor + Game Misconduct	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Game Misconduct

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Obscene language		Minor + Misconduct	Player to player: Minor Player to official: Misconduct	Vicinity of bench: Minor On ice: Misconduct
Racial or ethnic slur	F	Game Misconduct or Disqualification	Game Misconduct	Game Misconduct
“Detrimental Conduct” -- player or Team Official	U	No rule	No rule	Match
Verbal abuse to Game Official after game by Team Official	x	Disqualification	Supplementary Discipline	(1) Bench Minor, (2) Game Misc.; Match if threat
Obscene Gesture by Team Official	x	Bench Minor + Game Misconduct	Bench Minor	Game Misconduct
Thrown object onto the ice	N	Minor	Player: Minor + Game Misc. Coach: Bench Minor + Gm. Misc.	Bench Minor
Non-physical interference with On-ice Officials	N	Misconduct	Player: Misc. or Game Misc.	Misconduct
Touching/Holding Game Official by Team Official	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Game Misconduct
Physically harming Game Official by Team Official	x	Disqualification	Supplementary Discipline	Match
Goalkeeper playing with a broken stick	N	Not permitted - Minor	OK until next stoppage	Not permitted - Minor
Butt-Ending and Spearing	N	Disqualification	Major + Game Misc. or DQ	Major + Game Misconduct
Checking from behind	N	Minor plus Misconduct or Disqual.; DQ required if thrown into boards or goal.	Minor or Major; Major and Game Misconduct if thrown into boards or goal	Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match; 5+GM if into boards or goal
Diving/Embellishment	N	No rule	Minor	No rule
Players must be stationary for face-off	N	No	Yes	No
Player/Line change at stoppage	x	5 seconds each for visitor and home team	5 seconds for visiting team and 8 seconds for home team	Implied 8 seconds (max.) each for visitor and home team
Face-off locations—9 face-off spots only	N	No rule	All face-offs must be conducted at one of the 9 face-off spots	No rules

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Racial or ethnic slur	F	Game Misconduct or Disqualification	Game Misconduct	Game Misconduct
“Detrimental Conduct” -- player or Team Official	U	No rule	No rule	Match
Verbal abuse to Game Official after game by Team Official	x	Disqualification	Supplementary Discipline	(1) Bench Minor, (2) Game Misc.; Match if threat
Obscene Gesture by Team Official	x	Bench Minor + Game Misconduct	Bench Minor	Game Misconduct
Thrown object onto the ice	N	Minor	Player: Minor + Game Misc. Coach: Bench Minor + Gm. Misc.	Bench Minor
Non-physical interference with On-ice Officials	N	Misconduct	Player: Misc. or Game Misc.	Misconduct
Touching/Holding Game Official by Team Official	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Game Misconduct
Physically harming Game Official by Team Official	x	Disqualification	Supplementary Discipline	Match
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Checking from behind	N	Minor plus Misconduct or Disqual.; DQ required if thrown into boards or goal.	Minor or Major; Major and Game Misconduct if thrown into boards or goal	Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match; 5+GM if into boards or goal
Diving/Embellishment	N	No rule	Minor	No rule
Players must be stationary for face-off	N	No	Yes	No
Player/Line change at stoppage	x	5 seconds each for visitor and home team	5 seconds for visiting team and 8 seconds for home team	Implied 8 seconds (max.) each for visitor and home team
Face-off locations—9 face-off spots only	N	No rule	All face-offs must be conducted at one of the 9 face-off spots	No rules

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Face-off location after penalty	N	Based on location of stoppage of play	Offending team's defensive end zone face-off spot	Based on location of stoppage of play
Face-off for interference from bench	N	Last play	Offending team end zone spot	Last play
Goalkeeper freezes puck on ice when out of crease, puck in front of goal line (in Priv. Area)	N	No penalty	Minor (interpretation)	No penalty
Goalkeeper checks opponent in Priv. Area	N	No rule	Minor or Major	No rule
Instigating Fisticuffs	F	No special rule	Minor	Minor
Fisticuffs, including player struck during altercation who continues by retaliating	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Minor, Double Minor, or Major + Game Misconduct
Subsequent player enters altercation	x	Disqualification	No automatic penalty	First in – Game Misconduct; Others – no automatic penalty
Intentionally dropping stick or gloves (altercation)	F	Minor	Minor	Minor
Closing hand on puck (not in crease)	N	Stoppage only	If not dropped immediately face-off at offending team's end zone face-off spot	Stoppage only
Dislodged net — Line change at stoppage	N	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed
Check to the head area (Head Contact)	F	Minor or major + Game Misc.	Minor, major or DQ	Minor, Major or Major plus Game Misconduct
High Stick definition	U	Above 4 feet	Above 4 feet	Above normal shoulder height of checking player
Goalkeeper play puck with high stick	N	No	Permitted	No
Grabbing Facemask	N	Major or Disqualification	Major	Major + Game Misconduct

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Goalkeeper checks opponent in Priv. Area	N	No rule	Minor or Major	No rule
Instigating Fisticuffs	F	No special rule	Minor	Minor
Fisticuffs, including player struck during altercation who continues by retaliating	U	Disqualification	Disqualification	Minor, Double Minor, or Major + Game Misconduct
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Goalkeeper play puck with high stick	N	No	Permitted	No
Grabbing Facemask	N	Major or Disqualification	Major	Major + Game Misconduct

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Directing the puck into goal with skate	N	Disallowed	OK - Unless distinct kick motion Must be initially propelled by stick	Disallowed
Attacking player in crease when goal is scored (goalkeeper is in crease)	N	No goal	No goal unless not interfering with goalkeeper	No goal
Kick shot (skate kicks stick blade)	U	Misconduct	Misconduct	No rule
Player leaves players' bench or penalty bench during altercation	F	Disqualification	Disqualification	Major + Game Misconduct
Leaving penalty bench during time-out	F	Permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Extra player prevents breakaway	x	Penalty Shot + Misconduct	Bench Minor, Misconduct, and Penalty Shot	Penalty Shot
Delayed offside permitted	U	Yes	Yes	No – Immediate stoppage
Tag-up to nullify delayed off-side	U	Yes	Yes	No
Imaginary lines at top of face-off circles as determinant for intentional off-side	F	Yes	No	No
Nullify icing if pass is judged receivable	N	No	Yes	No (except allows for tag-up in high school classification)
Icing error	N	End zone where occurred	Center spot unless unduly penaliz- ing either team	End zone where occurred
Icing - Line change at stoppage of play	N	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed
Icing - Obtainable pass	N	No rule	Icing waived	No rule
Offside error	N	Neutral Zone spot	Center spot	Neutral Zone spot
Carrying puck behind net more than once per period (not being checked)	N	No rule	Minor	No rule

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Attacking player in crease when goal is scored (goalkeeper is in crease)	N	No goal	No goal unless not interfering with goalkeeper	No goal
Kick shot (skate kicks stick blade)	U	Misconduct	Misconduct	No rule
Player leaves players' bench or penalty bench during altercation	F	Disqualification	Disqualification	Major + Game Misconduct
Leaving penalty bench during time-out	F	Permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Extra player prevents breakaway	x	Penalty Shot + Misconduct	Bench Minor, Misconduct, and Penalty Shot	Penalty Shot
Delayed offside permitted	U	Yes	Yes	No – Immediate stoppage
Tag-up to nullify delayed off-side	U	Yes	Yes	No
Imaginary lines at top of face-off circles as determinant for intentional off-side	F	Yes	No	No
Nullify icing if pass is judged receivable	N	No	Yes	No (except allows for tag-up in high school classification)
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Icing - Obtainable pass	N	No rule	Icing waived	No rule
Offside error	N	Neutral Zone spot	Center spot	Neutral Zone spot
Carrying puck behind net more than once per period (not being checked)	N	No rule	Minor	No rule

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Additional puck on ice	N	Stop only if interferes with play	Stop at change of possession	Stop only if interferes with play
Slew Footing	N	No rule	Major + Game Misc or DQ	No rule
Team refuses to start play when ordered to do so by Referee	U	(1) Warn, (2) 3-min. to comply, (3) Major if comply or forfeit if no comply	(1) Warn, (2) Minor, (3) Major, (4) Forfeit	(1) 15 seconds, (2) Bench minor, (3) 15 seconds, (4) Suspend
Thrown stick	U	Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor	Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor	At puck in Def. Zone: Pen. Shot, Otherwise: minor
Whistle - when play actually stops	N	When whistle is blown	May be when official intended play to stop	When whistle is blown
"Mercy Rule" (ending game early)	F	Permitted	No	No
Time of period	x	15 (up to 17 min. by State)	20 minutes	20 minutes maximum
Time-out permitted	U	Anytime during a stoppage	Anytime during a stoppage	Before conclusion of line change procedure
Max. period length, sudden-death overtime	x	8 min. (no resurface)	5 min. (no resurface)	10 min. (no resurface)
Video review	N	No rule	Any game: NCAA Tournament and On-ice Official procedures	No rule
Tripping	N	Minor or major	Minor	Minor or Major
Location of "fouled from behind" for Penalty Shot	U	Attacking Zone	Attacking side of center line	Neutral or Attacking Zone
Unnecessary Roughness	X	Minor, Major or Disqualification	Minor	Minor or Double Minor, except for hit above shoulders
Avoidable check to player in possession	N	Minor or Major	No rule	Minor or Major
SIGNALS and PROCEDURES				
Goal scored - blowing the whistle	N	Yes	No	Yes

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Additional puck on ice	N	Stop only if interferes with play	Stop at change of possession	Stop only if interferes with play
Slew Footing	N	No rule	Major + Game Misc or DQ	No rule
Team refuses to start play when ordered to do so by Referee	U	(1) Warn, (2) 3-min. to comply, (3) Major if comply or forfeit if no comply	(1) Warn, (2) Minor, (3) Major, (4) Forfeit	(1) 15 seconds, (2) Bench minor, (3) 15 seconds, (4) Suspend
Thrown stick	U	Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor	Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor	At puck in Def. Zone: Pen. Shot, Otherwise: minor
Whistle - when play actually stops	N	When whistle is blown	May be when official intended play to stop	When whistle is blown
"Mercy Rule" (ending game early)	F	Permitted	No	No
Time of period	x	15 (up to 17 min. by State)	20 minutes	20 minutes maximum
Time-out permitted	U	Anytime during a stoppage	Anytime during a stoppage	Before conclusion of line change procedure
Max. period length, sudden-death overtime	x	8 min. (no resurface)	5 min. (no resurface)	10 min. (no resurface)
Video review	N	No rule	Any game: NCAA Tournament and On-ice Official procedures	No rule
Tripping	N	Minor or major	Minor	Minor or Major
Location of "fouled from behind" for Penalty Shot	U	Attacking Zone	Attacking side of center line	Neutral or Attacking Zone
Unnecessary Roughness	X	Minor, Major or Disqualification	Minor	Minor or Double Minor, except for hit above shoulders
Avoidable check to player in possession	N	Minor or Major	No rule	Minor or Major
SIGNALS and PROCEDURES				
Goal scored - blowing the whistle	N	Yes	No	Yes

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	NCAA	USA Hockey
Icing signal, non-whistle arm, back official	U	60° above horizontal	66° above horizontal	Vertical
Delayed off-side	U	Non-whistle arm vertical; whistle arm angled toward line	Non-whistle arm vertical; whistle arm angled toward line	Non-whistle arm vertical; whistle arm normal

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