

N.F.H.S.

2019-20 HOCKEY PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

RULE: 3-1-2

Hockey Sticks shall not be more than 65 inches (2 inch increase) in length and the blade shall not be more than 12.5 inches in length and no more than 3 inches nor at the tip less than 2 inches high when measured perpendicular to the normal lie of the stick.

Rationale: **Players are bigger than ever, as are their sticks and equipment. A change in the maximum length of stick rule follows a similar change to other rules codes and limits the potential waiver requests from schools.**

RULE: 3-1-3

The widened portion of the goalkeeper's stick shall not extend more than 28 (2 inch increase) inches from the heel and shall not exceed 3.5 inches in width. The length of the blade shall not exceed 15.5. inches.

Rationale: **Same as above**

RULE: 4-7-5

Only a player who is ruled a goalkeeper (9-2-1) may defend a penalty shot. Also change Rule 9-2-1 to read: A team shall have only one goalkeeper (player with goalkeeper equipment and privileges) on the ice at any one time. If at any time a player not wearing goalkeeper's equipment is substituted for the goalkeeper, that player shall not be ruled as a goalkeeper.

Rationale: **The Rule book did not previously address a normal player (not in goalkeeper equipment) being able to substitute for the goalkeeper during a penalty shot. These changes make it clear that only goalkeepers are able to defend a penalty shot and also establishes that only players in goalkeeper equipment are given goalkeeper privileges, regardless of when they are substituted**

RULE: 5-3-1

Change the word terminate to suspend. Suspend the game if playing conditions become unsatisfactory.

Rationale: Terminate, by definition, means to end. Suspend, allows a contest to be resumed restarted, or ended, but this decision would rest with schools, leagues, administration, rather than the sole discretion of the referee.

RULE: 7-10-3

Combine article 3 and 4 into one rule to read as follows. Striking an opponent with a stick above the opponent's shoulders is prohibited. PENALTY - MINOR, If Flagrant – MAJOR or GAME DISQUALIFICATION.

Rationale: **Cleans the wording up – a matter of semantics.**

RULE: 9-1-2

The official dropping the puck shall set the players by blowing the whistle and holding the puck at the beltline. When players are legally set, the official shall present or hold the puck away from the beltline.

Rationale: **The players will have a better opportunity for viewing the puck when anticipating the puck drop.**

RULE: 9-2-4

Goalkeeper A goes beyond the center red line to congratulate teammate after scoring a goal. RULING: First offense – warning. Second offense is a minor penalty for Delay of Game assessed to the goalkeeper. (Becomes a new situation 8.2.4. c)

Rationale: **The intent of this rule is to keep the goalkeeper in his/her crease to avoid contact with other players after a goal which usually results in traffic near the benches.**

EDITORIAL CHANGES

RULE 9-1-11K

May be more appropriately located as 9-1-9e

Rationale: **There is no offending team in this rule as referenced in the opening sentence of 9-1-11. This is simply a last play faceoff as defined in the opening sentence of 9-1-9**

RULE 4-2-2 SITUATION M

A player is assessed multiple penalties at the same stoppage of play, but only one minor penalty will affect the team's on ice player count. If the opponent scores and that minor penalty terminates, when does the next penalty begin? **RULING:** Immediately. It makes no difference if that next penalty is a coincident minor, coincident major, or a misconduct penalty.

7.9 SITUATION B:

A goalkeeper is outside his/her privileged area and an opposing skater impedes with the goalkeeper's progress, interfering with the goalkeepers ability to return to the goal/privileged area.

RULING: Referee's judgment whether or not interference needs to be called.

9.6.2 SITUATION J:

An attacking player legally enters the attacking zone, then turns over the puck. The defending player who has just taken control of the puck passes it to his teammate, who then skates the

puck back into the defensive zone while the attacker remains in the attacking zone. **RULING: ONSIDE**

9.6.2 SITUATION I

An attacking player is pushed into the attacking zone by an opposing player prior to the puck entering the zone.

RULING: ONSIDE This clarifies the situation of a player pushed by an opponent into the attacking zone ahead of the puck entering the zone.

***REFORMATTED THE RULE BOOK OFFICIAL HAND SIGNAL CHART**

***POINT OF EMPHASIS : COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR HELMETS DURING PRACTICE**

***HELMET CERTIFICATION IS GOOD FOR 6.5 YEARS – HELMET STICKER HAS THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION – NO STICKER PRESENT THEN IT IS NOT CERTIFIED.**

***MUCH DISCUSSION ON PLAYOFF OVERTIMES – ENCOURAGED STATES TO HAVE A POLICY IN PLACE.**

***NFHS SPORTS MEDICINE COMMITTEE REPORT: Hockey is a safer game right now as a result of previous rule changes. No deaths or catastrophic injuries reported last year!**

