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**2007-08 Edition**

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

Page 1 (updated 07/16/07 with 2007-08 NFHS, 2006-08 NCAA and 2007-09 USA Hockey changes)

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey (HS & Below)
<b>SECTION 1 - RINK</b>				
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 warning]	Four (4)
Goal Crease shape	N	6 ft. semi-circle	Truncated semi-circle (NHL)	6 ft. semi-circle
No Tobacco/Alcohol on ice or bench	X	Prohibit Tobacco (Game Misc)	Ejection from game	Bench minor
<b>SECTION 2 - COMPOSITION OF TEAMS</b>				
Maximum players in uniform	X	Maximum 20, including goalkeepers	Maximum 18 players; 2 or 3 goalkeepers (non exhib. games)	Maximum 20 total, maximum 18 players
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
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 bench minor	No rule; recommended in playdowns
"Temporary" goalkeeper	U	No rule	No rule	Permitted
Goalkeeper substitution during stoppage	N	Return after next stoppage	No rule	Return after next stoppage
Not starting with announced lineup	N	Permitted	Bench minor penalty	Permitted
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



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey (HS & Below)
Recovery time for injured goalkeeper	U	"Reasonable amount of time"	"Reasonable time"	None
Team huddles before 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 his team has possession	Immediate when his team has possession
<b>SECTION 3 - EQUIPMENT</b>				
Hollow end of stick must be covered	N	Yes	No rule	Yes
Stick blade curvature restriction	N	¾"	½"	¾"
Skates not conforming to rules	F	(1) Warn; (2) Game Misc.	Not permitted to play	Not permitted to play
Throat protector – Goalkeeper	F	Required	Recommended	Recommended
Throat protector - Player	F	Recommended	Not required	Not required
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	N	Required. Violation - Misc.	Not required	Required. Violation - Misc.
Helmet chinstrap length restriction	N	Implied	Two fingers	Implied
Torn, ripped, unzipped pants	F	Not permitted	No rule	No rule
Goalkeeper Blocker Glove limits	X	9" x 17"	8" x 15"	8" x 16"
Goalkeeper Catching Glove limits	N	9" x 17"	48" Max. circumference	48" Max. circumference
Mouthguard not worn – Goalkeeper	F	Minor after team warning	(1) Misconduct after warning	Misconduct after team warning
Mouthguard not worn – Player	F	(1) Misconduct after team warning (2) Game Misconduct	(1) Misconduct after warning	Misconduct after team warning
Mouthguard - non-clear color	N	Required	Recommended	Required
Mouthguard - attached to facemask	N	Not required	No rule	Not required
Warning prior to equipment violation	X	Yes	No	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



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Page 3 (updated 07/16/07 with 2007-08 NFHS, 2006-08 NCAA and 2007-09 USA Hockey changes)

Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey (HS & Below)
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
<b>SECTION 4 - PENALTIES</b>				
Bench minor penalty defined	F	No rule (Captain's Choice notation on penalties)	Yes	Yes
Who serves "Bench Minor" (NFHS equivalent)	U	Any non-penalized player	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	N	Yes	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)	N U	Yes (Game Misc.) No	No No	Yes (Game Misc.) Yes (Next game suspension)
Progressive suspension	U	Yes (Disqualification Penalty)	Yes (Disqualification 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
Goalkeeper must serve his own major and/or misconduct penalties	U	Yes	Yes	No
<b>SECTION 5 - OFFICIALS</b>				
Approved Officiating systems	X	RR, RRL, RLL or R-2AR	RRL, R-2AR or 2R-2L	RR or RLL (not RRL)



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey (HS & Below)
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 pen. to Ref.	U	No	No	"Injury Potential" minors only
1-Referee: Face-offs	N	Start of periods, after goals	Start of periods, after goals (Not 2R-1L)	Start of periods, after goals
<b>SECTION 6 - PLAYING RULES</b>				
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	U	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Misconduct or Game Miscond.	Game Misconduct
Racial or ethnic slur	F	Game Miscond. or DQ	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	N	Game Misconduct	Bench Minor	Game Misconduct
Thrown object onto the ice	N	Minor	Player: Minor + Game Misc. Coach: Bench Minor + G.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 Off.	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 Sparring	N	Disqualification	Major + Game Misc. or DQ	Major + Game Misconduct



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey (HS & Below)
Checking from behind	N	Minor + Misconduct or Disqual.; DQ required if head-first into boards or goal.	Minor or Major; Major and Game Misconduct/DQ req'd if into boards or goal	Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match; 5+GM req'd if head-first into boards or goal
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 for interference from bench	X	Last play	Offending team end zone spot	Last play (cannot gain ice advantage)
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 (fight)	X	Disqualification	No automatic penalty	First in - Game Misconduct; Others - no automatic penalty
Intentionally dropping stick or gloves(altercation)	X	Minor	Minor	Minor
Closing hand on puck (not in crease)	N	Stoppage only	Minor (if thrown)	Stoppage only
Check to the head area (Head Contact)	U	Minor, major or DQ.	Minor, major or DQ	Minor, Major or Major + 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	X	Major or Disqualification	Minor or Major	Major + Game Misconduct
Directing puck into goal with skate	N	Disallowed	OK unless distinct kick motion (Must be legally propelled initially)	Disallowed
Attacking player in crease when goal scored (goalkeeper is in the crease)	N	No goal	No goal unless not interfering with the goalkeeper	No goal
Kick shot (skate kicks stick blade)	U	Misconduct	Misconduct	No rule



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Rule (Situation)	Dif	N F H S	N C A A	USA Hockey (HS & Below)
Player leaves players' bench or penalty bench during altercation	U	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 offsides permitted	U	Yes	Yes	No – (Except HS teams)
Tag-up to nullify delayed off-side	U	Yes	Yes	No – (Except HS teams)
Nullify icing if pass is judged receivable	N	No	Yes	No
Icing error	N	End zone spot where occurred	Center spot unless unduly penalizing either team	End zone spot where occurred
Off-side 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
Additional puck on ice	N	Stop only if interferes with play	Stop at change of possession	Stop only if interferes with play
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 game
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
"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	Yes	No rule
Tripping	N	Minor or major	Minor	Minor or Major
Location of "fouled from behind" for Penalty Shot	X	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



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<b>SIGNALS and PROCEDURES</b>				
Goal scored - blowing the whistle	N	Yes	No	Yes
Icing signal, non-whistle arm, back official	N	Vertical	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