



2025-29 PLAYING RULE CHANGE SUMMARY

Effective August 1, 2025

YOUTH, GIRLS, HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT PLAYING RULES

RULE#	TITLE	CHANGE SUMMARY
All		Updates “Linesman” position to “Linesperson”
201(b)	Composition of Teams	Adds note allowing expanded team game rosters for Youth Tier I 15-Only, 16U, 18U, and Girls Tier I 19U games. Teams may dress 22 players.
303(b)	Goalkeeper’s Equipment	Requires HECC certified neck laceration protectors for all Youth, Girls and High School goalkeepers. With note allowing BNQ certified NLP’s for 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons.
304	Protective Equipment	Edits language to clarify penalties for equipment violations
304	Protective Equipment	Adds rule requiring HECC certified neck laceration protectors for all Disabled players under the age of 18 years old. With note allowing BNQ certified NLP’s for 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons.
304(g)	Protective Equipment	Requires HECC certified neck laceration protectors for all Youth, Girls and High School players. With note allowing BNQ certified NLP’s for 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons.
307(c)	Equipment Measurement	Mandates bench minor penalty for team who challenge a mouthpiece and the challenge is not verified.
308(a)	Electronic Devices	Adds cameras and microphones to list of devices prohibited to be worn by a player during games. Any violation results in a misconduct penalty.
402(e)	Minor Penalties	Clarifies when a match penalty shall be served when assessed with a minor penalty to same player during same stoppage.
407(a)&(b)	Goalkeeper Penalties	Clarifies how penalties assessed to goalkeeper shall be served.
501(c)	Appointment of Officials	Adds new rule requiring all on-ice officials under 18 years of age to wear a neck laceration protector
601(c)&(d)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct	Mandates game misconduct penalty to player or coach who uses obscene, profane or abusive language to any person after the game.
601.e	Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct	Clarifies any game report following a physical assault of a game official must be submitted within 24 hours following the game.
610(c)&(d)	Delaying the Game	Removes mandatory minor penalty to a goalkeeper who accidentally shoots the puck out of the playing area.
612(c)	Face-off Locations	Clarifies that stoppages caused by the attacking team in the attacking zone shall result in a neutral zone face-off.
624(b)	Icing the Puck	Allows teams at the Youth 15-Only and above, and Girls 16U and above, to ice the puck while playing shorthanded.
624(c)	Icing the Puck	Requires center-ice face-off location if game officials err in calling icing.
627(c)	Kicking Opponent or Puck	Clarifies play must be immediately stopped and resulting face-off locations for attempted kick-shot.

628(a)	Kneeing	Adds mandatory misconduct to any minor penalty assessed for kneeling an opponent.
630(d)	Offside	Allows teams at the Youth 15-Only and above, and Girls 16U and above, to play with Delayed/Tag-up Offsides.
630(d)	Offside	Removes automatic whistle for shooting the puck into the attacking end zone “on net” with attacking players still in the end zone.
631(d)	Puck Out of Bounds or Unplayable	Requires a face-off located in the same zone the puck was located in if the puck leaves the playing surface or becomes unplayable.
633(a)	Refusal to Start Play	Adds second warning to team before suspending the game for refusal to start play.
New	Appendix VII	Adds Disabled Hockey Playing Rules to general rulebook

JUNIOR PLAYING RULES

RULE#	TITLE	CHANGE SUMMARY
All		Updates “Linesman” position to “Linesperson”
205(a)	Substitution of Goalkeepers	Clarifies when a goalkeeper may return to play after being substituted for by another goalkeeper or a player.
206(d)	Injured Payers	
303(b)	Goalkeeper’s Equipment	Requires HECC certified neck laceration protectors for all Junior goalkeepers. With note allowing BNQ certified NLP’s for 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons.
304(e)	Protective Equipment	Requires a player who loses their helmet during play to leave the playing surface immediately and allows game officials to stop play if the player is in a vulnerable position in risk of injury.
304(f)	Protective Equipment	Requires game misconduct penalty for second mouthpiece violation
304(g)	Protective Equipment	Requires HECC certified neck laceration protectors for all Junior players. With note allowing BNQ certified NLP’s for 2025-26 and 2026-27 seasons.
304(h)	Protective Equipment	Clarifies when play must be stopped if goalkeeper loses equipment.
403(c)	Major Penalties	Clarifies teams are not required to place substitute players in penalty bench to serve coincidental major penalties.
403(d)	Major Penalties	Requires a substitute player on the penalty bench immediately when player is assessed a major plus game misconduct
404(a)	Misconduct Penalties	Removes game ejection penalty option for game officials.
404(b)	Misconduct Penalties	Removes automatic one-game suspension for game misconduct penalties (Tier I & II only), with exception of Rule 615.
404(c)	Misconduct Penalties	Removes game ejection penalty option for game officials.
404(d)	Misconduct Penalties	Removes game ejection penalty option for game officials.
406(b)	Penalty Shot	Removes rule allowing a player who is awarded a penalty shot and assessed a major plus game misconduct penalty to take the penalty shot (they are immediately removed from the game).
501(c)	Appointment of Officials	Adds new rule requiring all on-ice officials under 18 years of age to wear a neck laceration protector.
507(b)Note2	Penalty Timekeeper	Clarifies coincidental major penalties are not served.

601(a)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct	Removes game ejection penalty option for game officials.
601(d)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct	Removes game ejection penalty option for game officials.
603(a)	Boarding	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
607(a)	Charging	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
608(d)	Checking from Behind	Removes language outlining progressive suspension guidelines. All leagues review each incident and apply discipline as needed.
609(a)	Cross-checking	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
611(a)	Elbowing	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
612(c)	Face-off Locations	Clarifies that stoppages caused by the attacking team in the attacking zone shall result in a neutral zone face-off.
613	Face-off Procedures	Removes “player warning” for face-off violation. Outlines new guidelines and resolutions for face-off procedure violations.
615(a)	Fighting	Replaces game ejection penalty with game misconduct.
615(g)	Fighting	Adds note to clarify guidelines for assessing game misconduct for removing helmet during an altercation.
615(h)	Fighting	Removes game ejection penalty option for game officials.
616.Note 2	Fouled from Behind	Broadens guidelines for awarding penalty shot to player who is fouled from behind while attempting to gain control of the puck.
617(d)	Goals and Assists	Clarifies offending team may not score a goal during a delayed penalty unless non-offending team shoots puck into their own net.
618(b)	Handling the Puck With Hands	Clarifies result if non-offending team elects to not play the puck during a potential hand-pass situation.
620(a)	Head Contact	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
621(a)	High Sticks	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
621(d)	High Sticks	Updates face-off location for high stick contact with puck, and clarifies result if non-offending team elects to not play the puck during a potential high stick offense.
622(b)	Holding an Opponent or Opponent’s Facemask	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
623(a)	Hooking	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
624(c)	Icing the Puck	Disallows player substitution if a team uses their timeout following an icing violation.
624(d)	Icing the Puck	Requires center-ice face-off location if game officials err in calling icing.
628(a)	Kneeing	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
629(a)	Leaving the Player’s Bench or Penalty Bench	Reduces automatic suspension for leaving the bench to enter an altercation to one game, with note referencing supplemental discipline review process of all incidents.
630(a)	Offside	Removes “skate contact” with neutral zone or blue line as factor while determining offsides during attacking zone entry.
630(d)2	Offside	Adds note clarifying skate contact with blue line must be made during delayed/tag-up offside situation.
631(d)	Puck Out of Bound or Unplayable	Requires a face-off located in the same zone the puck was located in if the puck leaves the playing surface or becomes unplayable.

631(e)	Puck Out of Bound or Unplayable	Requires stoppage of play if puck strikes curved glass at either end of team bench.
634(a)	Slashing	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option.
636(b)	Start of Game and Time of Game/Time-Outs	Removes team fines for not leaving playing surface at end of warm-up period and replaces with penalty guidelines.
639(a) & Note 2	Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing	Removes stand-alone major penalty as option, and clarifies penalty guidelines for leaving feet and tripping an opponent.
640(b), (c), & (d)	Unnecessary Roughness	Adds automatic game misconduct for all major penalties assessed under Rule 640
641 (New)	Video Review	Add options to team to install and utilize video review system.