



Determination

Inspiration

Courage

Equality



IPC Rule Changes

Agenda

- IPC Rule Change Process
- NPC Rule Change Recommendations
- STC Rule Change Recommendations

- **Note:** Other mistakes/errors etc. have been identified and will be cleaned up but are ***not*** part of this process

IPC Rule Change Process

- Recommendations from NPC's and STC for rule changes to be presented at the Sport Forum
 - A vote will follow each recommendation
- STC will then review, then forward their recommendations to Governing Board
- Governing Board will then decide which recommended rule changes to adopt

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #1 (Canada & USA): Change the time of periods from 15 minutes to 20 minutes (Rule 600)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- Provide opportunity for advancement and growth of the sport of sledge hockey (Canada)
- Align the sport of sledge hockey with able-bodied hockey at the IIHF level (Canada)
- To fall in line with able body hockey and give the players more playing time (USA)

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #2 (Canada & USA): Increase the team roster size from 15 to 17 (Rule 700)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- Provide more playing opportunities for the growing pool of elite-level sledge hockey players (Canada)
- Allow for additional players in case of injury during a tournament (Canada)
- Prevent the possibility of losing athletes to other sports by providing competitive opportunities within international sledge hockey (Canada)
- Give more player the opportunity to play and counter injuries on site (USA)

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #3 (Canada): A discussion needs to take place regarding goaltender equipment and specifically the size of the equipment

Rationale for the recommendation:

- Goaltender equipment is often disability-specific, so there should be some guidelines based on various seating positions in the sled
- Pads, gloves, blockers, masks, and other equipment need to be brought in line with IIHF and/or NHL regulations so that there is consistency

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #4 (Canada): Change the high sticking rule (Rule 915)

Recommendation:

- Change the high sticking rule so that players can reach for pucks with their sticks as long as the picks remain below the shoulders and the top the stick remains below the top of the player's head

Rationale for the recommendation:

- Shorter players are at a distinct disadvantage compared to taller players when it comes to deflecting pucks especially around the net area in the offensive zone
- Shots often go just as high as in able-bodied hockey but players are much more limited to the height of shots that they can reach with their sticks

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #5 (Poland): Change the high sticking rule (Rule 915)

Recommendation:

- In all cases when a player reaches for the puck above his/her shoulder intending to block the puck with a glove (punching the puck with a fist), as long as the blocking hand is positioned on or near the blade of the stick, the play should not be whistled down as a high sticking penalty, rather than counted as a normal defensive block

Rationale for the recommendation:

- In “stand-up” Ice Hockey when the puck is shot or lobbed above the player’s shoulder, he/she has an option to catch the puck and later drop it to continue the play or, block the puck with the glove by punching it. Obvious advantage to that as there is only one stick to hold

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #5 (Poland): Change the high sticking rule **(Continued)**

- In Ice Sledge Hockey catching the puck with either hand is not effective since that involves dropping the stick first and later catching the puck. No time for that. In the case of punching the puck with the fist above the shoulder is taken as a high sticking penalty, regardless if a player intends to make a legitimate fist block, not batting the puck with the stick
- I propose that rule 915 be changed to allow to reach for the puck above the shoulders as long as:
 1. The blocking hand is positioned near or on the blade of the stick
 2. The stick is vertically positioned at the time of the block to prevent injuries with the pick end to players nearby

NPC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #5 (Poland): Change the high sticking rule **(Continued)**

- The question follows, what happens when the puck still hits exposed part of the stick (blade), or even the lower portion of the stick (shaft) when the player miscalculates his approach to block. I leave this part and other missed details for discussion at the Summit in Prague
- The current rule prevents us from such crucial defensive moves such as the block, as well as I believe we should be able to have some options to this situation

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #6: Do not allow offending team to make player substitutions on an icing. (Rules 705 and 905)

705d) A team that is in violation of the icing rule shall not be permitted to make any player substitutions prior to the ensuing face-off.

Should the stoppage of play following the icing infraction coincide with a commercial time-out, or should the offending team elect to utilize their team time-out at this stoppage of play, they are still not permitted to make any player substitutions.

However, a team shall be permitted to make a player substitution to replace a goalkeeper who had been substituted for an extra attacker, or to replace an injured player or goalkeeper, or when a penalty has been assessed which affects the on-ice strength of either team.

The determination of players on ice will be made when the puck leaves the offending player's stick.



STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #6 (cont'd): Do not allow offending team to make player substitutions on an icing. (Rules 705 and 905)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC
- To stop teams from icing the puck in order to make a player change

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #7: Remove "imaginary" lines between neutral zone face-off spots. (Rule 901b)

Recommendation:

901b) All face-offs shall be conducted exclusively:

- At the nine designated face-off spots, or
- ~~— On two imaginary lines parallel to the side boards and extending from one neutral zone face-off spot to the other neutral zone face-off spots~~

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #8: Face-offs to be conducted at the end zone face-off spot of the offending team after a penalty is called (Rule 901)

901g) Face-offs shall be conducted at one of the two end zone face-off spot of the offending team:

1. When players are penalized at a stoppage of play so as to result in penalties being place on the penalty time clock to one team except:
 - a) When a penalty is assessed after the scoring of a goal – face-off at center ice
 - b) When a penalty is assessed at the end (or start) of a period – face-off at center ice
 - c) When the defending team is about to be penalized and the attacking players enter the attacking zone beyond the outer edge of the end zone face-off circle – face-off in the neutral zone (see item (f) of this rule)
 - d) When the team not being penalized ices the puck – face-off in the neutral zone outside the blue line of the team icing the puck
 - e) When the infringement of a rule has been committed by the players of both sides in the play resulting in the stoppage, the ensuing face-off will be made at the nearest face-off spot in that zone

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #8 (cont'd): Face-offs to be conducted at the end zone face-off spot of the offending team after a penalty is called (Rule 901)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC
- To further penalize the offending team and generate more offense

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #9: Bench minor penalties shall be served by a player on the ice (Rule 1002a)

Recommendation:

- Currently, any player (including players on the bench) can serve a bench minor penalty
- Change this so that a bench minor penalty must be served by a player on the ice at the time of the infraction

Current Wording: “For a Bench Minor penalty, any player, other than the goalkeeper, of the penalized team, designated by the Manager or the Coach through the Captain, will be ruled...”

Proposed Wording: “For a Bench Minor penalty, any player, who was on the ice at the time of the infraction, will be ruled...”

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #9 (cont'd): Bench minor penalties shall be served by a player on the ice (Rule 1002a)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #10: Change which penalty expires when a team who is already shorthanded and has another penalty on delay is scored upon by the non-offending team (Rule 1013d)

Recommendation:

- Currently, the penalty which is on delay is washed out upon the scoring of a goal
- Change this to the penalty which is currently being served

Current Wording: “If, after the Referee has raised his arm signifying the calling of the penalty, a goal is scored by the non-offending team, the goal shall be allowed and the first Minor penalty shall NOT be assessed. All other penalties shall be assessed. If the offending team is already short handed, ~~the signalled Minor penalty shall be washed out but all penalties served in the penalty bench will remain.~~”

Proposed Wording: “...the first Minor or Bench Minor penalty being served shall be terminated and all penalties being signalled shall be assessed in the normal manner.”

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #10 (cont'd): Change which penalty expires when a team who is already shorthanded and has another penalty on delay is scored upon by the non-offending team (Rule 1013d)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC
- The offending team is often not really penalized under the old rule

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #11: Add new Interference rule regarding players distracting goalkeepers (Rule 1028e)

Recommendation:

- Add new wording to handle players placing themselves directly in front of a goalkeeper and engaging in actions such as waving his arms or stick in front of the goalkeeper's face, for the purpose of interfering and/or distracting the goalkeeper as opposed to positioning himself to try to make a play

Proposed Wording: “When an attacking player positions himself facing the opposition goalkeeper and engages in actions such as waving his arms or stick in front of the goalkeeper’s face, for the purpose of interfering and/or distracting the goalkeeper as opposed to positioning himself to try to make a play, the player shall be assessed a Minor penalty.”

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #11 (cont'd): Add new Interference rule regarding players distracting goalkeepers (Rule 1028e)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC
- There is currently nothing in the rule book which deals with this situation

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #12: Remove contradictory rule regarding players playing with broken sticks (Rule 1034b)

Recommendation:

- Remove rule 1034b as it contradicts Rules 1034c and 1034d.
- b) ~~If a player whose stick is broken does not immediately drop the broken portions and continues to play, he shall be assessed a minor penalty.~~
- c) A player with a broken stick may use the pick portion of the stick to propel himself to his bench for a replacement, while doing so the player must not participate in the play in any manner. If he participates in the play, he shall be assessed a Minor penalty.
- d) A goalkeeper may continue to play with a broken stick until the next stoppage of play or until the goalkeeper has been legally provided with a new stick.

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #12 (cont'd): Remove contradictory rule regarding players playing with broken sticks (Rule 1034b)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- Rule 1034b contradicts Rules 1034c and 1034d

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #13: Change the wording for players handling the puck (Rule 1048a)

Recommendation:

- Change the current wording from "Any player, except the goalkeeper, who closes his hand on the puck shall be assessed a minor penalty" to:
- "Any player, except the goalkeeper, who closes his hand on, or places a closed hand on top of the puck, and while doing so, gains an advantage on an opponent shall be assessed a minor penalty"

Rationale for the recommendation:

- The wording was vague and did not handle all situations regarding players using their hands on the puck

STC Rule Change Recommendations

Recommendation #14: Add new penalty signal for Rule 1042 - Delay of Game – Shooting or Throwing the Puck Outside the Playing Area (Section 11 - Referees and Linesmen Signals)

Rationale for the recommendation:

- This is an IIHF Rule Change that should be incorporated into the IPC Rule Book
- This will maintain consistency between able bodied hockey and sledge hockey
- This will contribute to continuity for officials between IIHF and IPC



Thank You





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