

USA HOCKEY

RULE CHANGE SUMMARY *For Youth, Girls'/Women's and Adult Classifications*

For the 2003-04 and 2004-05 Seasons

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
	Philosophy of Hockey	Adds the Zero Tolerance Policy, from page 66 of Annual Guide, to this Section of the Rule Book.
	Philosophy of Hockey	Adds the USA Hockey Code of Conduct policies, from pages 59-61 of Annual Guide, for Administrators, Coaches, Officials, Players, Parents and Spectators to this section of the Rule Book.
	Points of Emphasis	Establishes intimidation tactics and stickwork as the USA Hockey Points of Emphasis for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons. Intimidation tactics includes the late avoidable body check, high hits, stick infractions and contact after the whistle.
102(a)	Dimensions of Rink	Recommends the kickplate at the bottom of the boards be yellow in color.
103(a)	Goal Posts and Nets	Establishes the goal line to be placed thirteen feet from the ends boards. If 13 feet is not used, then the distance shall be between 12 and 15 feet.
	Equipment	Diagrams outlining the dimensions of sticks and goalkeepers equipment will be added to this section of the rule book.
301(b & c)	Sticks	Eliminated unnecessary verbiage by combining sections (b) and (c) of this rule. Sections (d) thru (f) will be re-lettered.
303(a)	Goalkeeper's Equipment	Officially adopts the maximum dimensions of the goalkeeper's gloves as was written in Note 2 of the 2001-03 Official Playing Rules.
303(d)	Goalkeeper's Equipment	Requires the measurement of goalkeeper's equipment to be conducted immediately upon request.
304(a)	Protective Equipment	Requires a player whose helmet/facemask has come off to be removed from the ice until the completion of the ensuing face-off.
304(b)	Protective Equipment	Adds verbiage that identifies ear protection as a mandatory part of HECC approved helmets.
304(b) 502(b)	Protective Equipment Referee	Moves the verbiage requiring an official to wear a black hockey helmet and the recommendation to wear a half-shield visor to rule 502(b) Referee.

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
304(c)	Protective Equipment	Calls for a team warning to be issued for a player who is not properly wearing a mouthpiece. For a second violation of this rule by the same team, a misconduct penalty shall be assessed to the offending player.
305(b)	Dangerous Equipment	Changes the penalty from a minor to a misconduct for a glove with a cut or removed palm.
305(c)	Dangerous Equipment	Removes the requirement that jewelry must remain visible when taped to the body.
306(a)	Puck	Requires the use of the lightweight blue puck in the 10-or-under youth and 10-or-under girls' age classifications and below.
307(b)	Equipment Measurement	Removes the possibility of an official from measuring a stick, at his/her discretion, when used for the first time in a game.
402(c) 409(d)	Minor Penalties Calling of Penalties	Clarifies and cross-references the definition of being shorthanded.
403(b)	Major Penalties	Clarifies the verbiage used to determine the suspension(s) for a player receiving two major penalties in the same game.
404(c) Glossary	Misconduct Penalties Game Suspension(s)	Cross-references and clarifies the rule pertaining to the serving of game suspension(s).
506 (a)	Official Scorer	Specifies responsibility of the official scorer to include the necessary Coaching Education Program information, for each team official, on the official scoresheet prior to the start of the game.
601(i)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct	Adds a game misconduct penalty to be assessed to a team official for interfering in any physical manner with an on-ice or off-ice game official.
609(d)	Delaying the Game	Adds the possibility of assessing a bench minor penalty for players who fail to line up properly for a face-off.
611(a)	Face-Offs	Requires all players to properly line-up, within five seconds, for a face-off at the conclusion of the line change procedure. Once the line change procedure has been completed, the official conducting the face-off will blow the whistle to indicate the players have five seconds to properly line up for the face-off before the puck may be dropped.
611(g-n)	Face-Offs	Eliminates unnecessary language pertaining to face-offs and deletes several sections of this rule, making the verbiage clearer and more precise.
612(c)	Falling on Puck	Cleans up language with no change to the rule.

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
616 616(a) Glossary	Head Checking	Will now be referred to as Head Contact. Eliminated double minor penalty option and added a major penalty option.
617(a) Note	High Sticking	Prohibits the use of the slap shot in the Girls' 10-or-under age classification and below. This rule is now consistent with the youth age categories.
619(a)	Hooking	Adds a major penalty option for hooking.
621(f) 639(c)	Interference Tripping	Moves the reference point for a fouled from behind penalty shot infraction to include the entire neutral zone.
626	Off-Sides	Eliminates any reference to delayed off-sides in all youth and girls' age classifications. Any off-sides play now requires an immediate whistle.
635(c)	Start of Game and Periods	Requires each team to warm-up on their side of the center red line.
639(a)	Tripping	Adds the term poke-checking to Note 1 in reference to a non penalized action where a player is unquestionably hook-checking or poke-checking the puck and gains possession. Adds a major penalty option and identifies the action of tripping an opponent from behind with an extended leg as a tripping infraction.
Official Signals	Head Contact	Establishes a signal for a head contact infraction by placing the non-whistle hand, palm inward, to the back of the helmet.
Glossary	Team Official	Re-defines the term Team Official and allows only USA Hockey registered coaches on the bench. Also allows for a rostered player(s) not participating in the game, for reasons other than serving a suspension, to be on the bench provided they are wearing the team jersey and the proper head/face protective equipment. This player is not to be considered a team official.

FOR JUNIOR "A" AND "B" ONLY

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
404(C)	Misconduct Penalties	Restricts the ability of a suspended team official to direct or have contact with his team for a period thirty minutes prior to the start of the game and at least ten minutes after the conclusion of the game.
616(a)	Head Checking	Eliminated this rule.