



INTERNATIONAL  
**ICE HOCKEY**  
FEDERATION

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Rules *Main Focus* 2006-2010  
*Summary*

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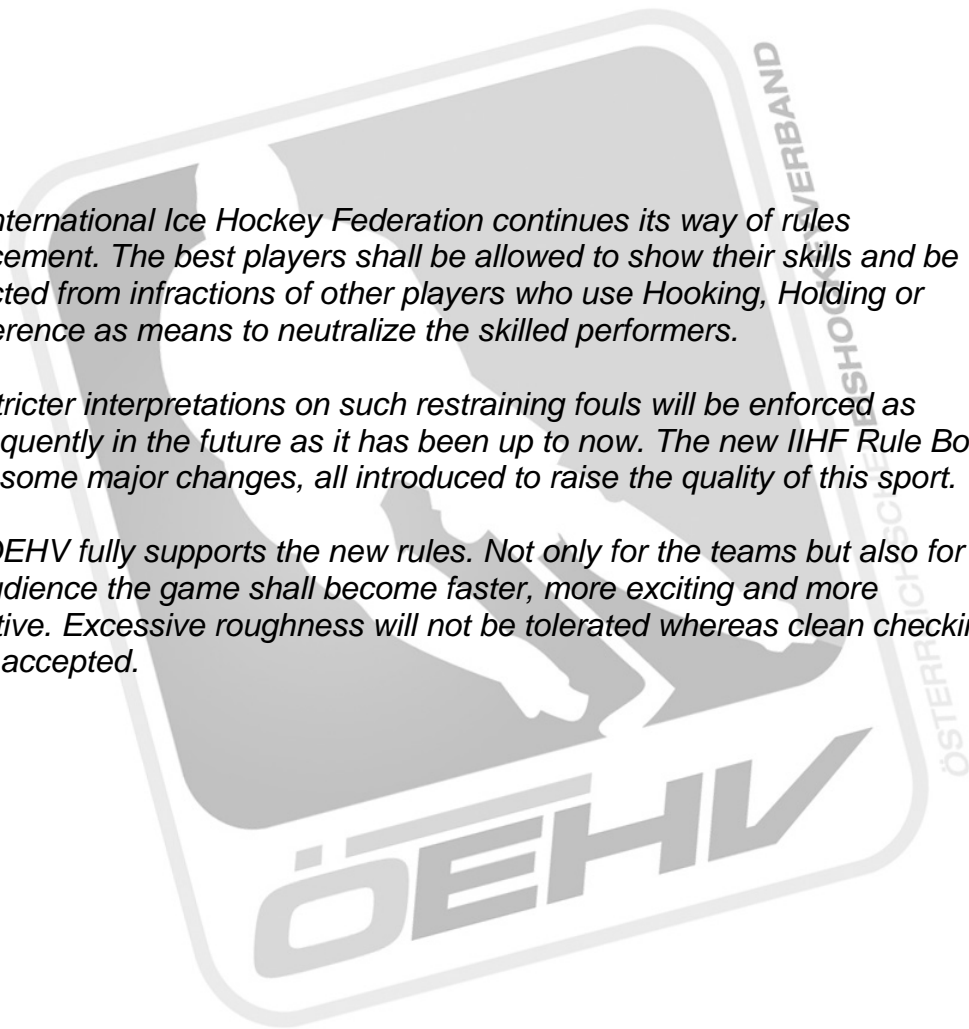


## Preamble

*The International Ice Hockey Federation continues its way of rules enforcement. The best players shall be allowed to show their skills and be protected from infractions of other players who use Hooking, Holding or Interference as means to neutralize the skilled performers.*

*The stricter interpretations on such restraining fouls will be enforced as consequently in the future as it has been up to now. The new IIHF Rule Book holds some major changes, all introduced to raise the quality of this sport.*

*The ÖEHV fully supports the new rules. Not only for the teams but also for the audience the game shall become faster, more exciting and more attractive. Excessive roughness will not be tolerated whereas clean checking is still accepted.*



## **Ice Hockey is about to change**

With the introduction of the new IIHF rules Teams, Team Officials, Coaches, Players and Referees will notice multiple changes.

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The stricter interpretations on such restraining fouls will be enforced as consequently in the future as it has been up to now. The new IIHF Rule Book holds some major changes, all introduced to raise the quality of this sport.

The ÖEHV with its president Dr. Dieter Kalt fully supports the new rules: "Not only for the teams but also for the audience the game shall become faster, more exciting and more attractive.

Excessive roughness will not be tolerated whereas clean checking is still accepted", says Kalt.

Dr. Gartner, head of the "MOBA" within the ÖEHV, strengthens the rule enforcement as well. Participating in the annual Referee Seminar he discussed the past season and appropriate instructions were set for the new season emphasizing the new rules interpretations.

Everybody is sitting in the same boat – clarifying Referees are the ones to enforce the new rules. Definitely not an easy task for the Game Officials and everyone else involved. Above all Referees will be under pressure even more this season facing the difficult task to set the level concerning the IIHF rule enforcement.

The ÖEHV and the Referee Committee have also implemented a new structure of Game Supervision to check the new rules enforcement and observance of the regulations.

"To be a referee is the most difficult job in ice hockey nowadays", notices Harald Springfeld, Sports Manager of the ÖEHV. "If you take a look at the games of the last season – from Austria's top league down to the lowest division – a lot of calls were criticized and questioned wrongly", says Springfeld.

The motto "Fair Play & Respect" should be known to everyone in ice hockey world. Unfortunately it is no longer followed with full encouragement. Originally initiated by the IIHF and adopted by all hockey nations worldwide describes the mutual acceptance of Referees, Team Officials, Players and Spectators especially on and also off the ice. Fair Play & Respect again will be enforced and emphasized by the ÖEHV, announces Springfeld.

Coaches, Team Officials and Players in the first place are the ones to strictly follow this guideline. Of course there will be discussions in the beginning. Everybody in hockey world – internationally and nationally - is convinced to do the right thing with these new rulings.

At the annual Referee Meeting the new rules were the main topic on the agenda as well as further rule emphases. About 40 participants including referees, linesmen and supervisors of the Erste Bank League had to officiate all the games of the Face-Off Tournament 2006 in Salzburg.

Checking from behind into the boards and checking or slashing to the head and neck area was another main point in discussions referring to the Fair Play & Respect ...

The official Rule Book is in English and was issued some time ago, the German translation has just been finished and delivered from Switzerland to Austria just in time and shall be implemented immediately.

“There will be some difficulties with the new rules in the beginning but we have to accept them”, says Renato Hagen, the new Austrian Referee In Chief. “The games refereed by our Game Officials were supervised and analyzed accordingly. Apart from that kind of practice the rule knowledge and fitness was tested strictly.”

With the reduction concerning the size of the goalkeepers' equipment more goals should be scored. Teams were informed about this issue some time ago.

“The implementation of the new sizes where approved at the annual congress by the IIHF during the World Championship in Riga. Affected by these new rules are the catching & blocking glove and the leg guards”, says Peter Schramm, Austrian's Game Operation chief.

The conditions were set for a faster and more attractive game. Schramm: “Now we have to inform everybody even more intensively and make contact with Teams, Referees and Players who had to deal with the rule enforcement in the past season.”

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## **Equipment measurements**

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The equipment measurements were adjusted to the ones of the NHL – that's why some of the dimensions are indicated in millimeter.

Players are not allowed to wear a colored or tinted visor. (*Rules 100 – 250*)

If a team that is two men short in the last two minutes of the game or at any time in overtime, requests an equipment measurement that proves to be legal, a Penalty Shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team (since the Bench Minor Penalty could not be served before the end of the game). (*Rule 260*)

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## **Face-offs**

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Face-offs in the End Zones will exclusively be conducted at one of the two end zone face-off spots. In the Neutral Zone face offs shall be conducted at the neutral zone spots or at any point on the imaginary line running between them. (*Rule 440, 450*)

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## **Icing**

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The icing call is now dependent on the goalkeeper's action. If he leaves his goal crease and moves in the direction of the puck no icing shall be called. Another introduction concerning the icing rule: if the puck crosses through the goal crease icing shall be called. (*Rule 460*)

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## **Termination of penalties**

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The rule concerning the termination of penalties when a team playing power play has been changed: if, while a team is "Short Handed" because of one or more Minor or Bench Minor penalties, the opposing team scores a goal, the first of such penalties shall automatically terminate unless such penalty was assessed at the same time as an opposing player's penalty which originally caused both teams to play one player short, in which case the next Minor or Bench Minor penalty assessed to the scored upon shall terminate. (*Rule 501, 502*)

An example:

*At 03:00 Minor Penalties are called against players A4 and B9, causing a 4 on 4 situation. Player B6 is penalized with a Minor Penalty at 03:30, resulting in a 4 on 3 situation. Team A scores at 04:30. Through this goal the penalty of B6 terminates (since his penalty made his team play short-handed). According to the old rule the penalty of B9, who has been sent off at the same time as A4, would terminate.*

Another example:

*If B6 had caused his Team's minority by being penalized with a Major Penalty (5'), no penalty would terminate after Team A's goal at 04:30. B9's penalty can not terminate according to the new rule, since he got penalized at the same time as A4 and therefore did not cause the minority. B6's Major Penalty, can not terminate for it is not a Minor Penalty. There is no penalty that can terminate in this example.*

### **Penalty Shot**

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After a goal scored through a Penalty Shot no Minor or Bench Minor Penalty can terminate. A team being awarded a Penalty Shot can not choose between a Penalty Shot or a Minor Penalty anymore. (Rule 502b, 508)

### **Goalkeeper penalty**

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All penalties for the **goalkeeper** shall be served by a player who was on the ice during the stoppage of the game. (Rule 511)

### **Own goal**

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An own goal scored by the non-offending team after the Referee has raised his arm signifying the calling of a penalty will be allowed. (Rule 514)

### **Unsportsmanlike conduct**

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Unsportsmanlike conduct: Any player or team official making an obscene gesture on or off the ice at any time shall be penalized with a Match Penalty. (Rule 550, 551)

### **Delaying the game**

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Any player (not only the goalkeeper) shooting the puck directly outside the playing area in the defending Zone shall be penalized with a Minor Penalty for delaying the game. (Rule 554c)

### **Player leave the penalty bench**

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The first **player to leave the penalty bench during an altercation** breaches two rules and shall therefore be penalized with two Game Misconduct Penalties in addition to the Minor Penalties (the player misses at least one match). (Rule 563, 564)

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## **Security**

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Where an injury has occurred to a player and there is a stoppage of play, a team doctor (or designate) may go on the ice to attend an injured player. *(Rule 565)*

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## **Throwing a stick**

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The position of the puck or the puck carrier is the determining factor for the call of a penalty for throwing a stick (or any object) within the playing area. A Minor Penalty shall be called where a stick or any object is thrown on the ice in the direction of the puck or puck carrier in the Neutral or Attacking zone, whereas a Penalty Shot shall be awarded for this infraction in the Defending Zone. In a Breakaway Situation a Penalty Shot shall be awarded as usual if the attacking player is outside his Defending Zone and no player is between him and the goalkeeper. *(Rule 569, 570)*

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## **Team Captain**

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If a Captain comes to complain about a penalty, whether he was on the ice or he comes from the player's bench, he shall be assessed a Misconduct Penalty (10'). *(Rule 572, 201)*

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## **Penalty Shot - Competition**

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The number of players have been reduced from 5 to 3 players



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**FAIR PLAY**   
**AND RESPECT**