

SECTION 11 – MALTREATMENT (NEW)

NOTE: This rule has been updated and relocated from Section 9.

NOTE: **Bold text** represents additions and updates to the Hockey Canada Playing Rules.

Hockey Canada is committed to contributing to the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual health of individuals of varying abilities, backgrounds, and interests. Hockey Canada firmly believes that only when sport environments are safe and inclusive can these values be realized. Maltreatment includes volitional acts that result in harm or the potential for physical or psychological harm. Maltreatment in all its forms is a serious issue that undermines the health, well-being performance and security of everyone associated with the game of hockey and is incompatible with the core values that lie at the heart of Canadian sport. Participants in Hockey Canada's programming should have the reasonable expectation that it will be in an environment that is accessible, inclusive and is free from all forms of Maltreatment.

Team officials shall always be responsible for their conduct and that of their players. They must endeavour to prevent disorderly conduct before, during or after the game, on or off the ice and any place in the rink. The Referee may assess penalties to any team officials for failure to do so and shall report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Rule 11.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- (a) A Minor penalty shall be assessed to any player, goaltender or team official who challenges or disputes the rulings of any Official during the game or who displays unsportsmanlike conduct.
Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Minor penalty under this rule before assessing a Misconduct or Game Misconduct penalty but may assess either penalty initially.
- (b) A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goaltender who after receiving a penalty under Rule 11.1 (a), persists in any of the actions described above.
Note 2: A team official who receives a minor penalty in 11.1 (a) will receive a Game Misconduct penalty if their actions continue.
- (c) A Game Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goaltender who, after receiving a penalty under Rule 11.1 (b), persists in any of the actions described above.
- (d) A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goaltender who intentionally knocks or shoots the puck out of reach of an Official who is retrieving it. Any player or goaltender who, after receiving a Misconduct penalty under this Rule 11.1 (d), persists in any of the actions described above, shall be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty.
- (e) A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who does not proceed immediately and directly to the penalty bench when they have been penalized. Where the penalized player causes any delay by returning for their equipment (gloves, sticks, etc.), the Misconduct penalty shall apply. The equipment shall be delivered to

them on the penalty bench by a player from their team on the ice at the time of the infraction.

Note 3: It shall be necessary to place a substitute on the penalty bench to serve the original penalty assessed against the player. Such substitute may return to the ice as soon as the Misconduct penalty to the offending player commences.

- (f) A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goaltender who enters or remains in the Referee's crease while the Referee is reporting to or consulting with any game official, including the Linespersons, Timekeeper, Penalty Timekeeper, Official Scorer or Announcer
- (g) Where a team official has been assessed a Game Misconduct penalty under this rule, the Referee shall report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Important: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.1 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

SITUATION 1 Rules 11.1 and 11.2

There appears to be some misunderstanding as to when and how this rule should be used. This rule does not replace any other already in effect, nor is it a substitute for the corresponding penalties. The Referee may assess a penalty under this rule when unsportsmanlike actions are directed against either a game official (On-Ice or Off-Ice) or any opposing player. Any unsportsmanlike actions that are directed at an individual should be penalized promptly. The overzealous application of this rule to restrict enthusiasm displayed by a player who has made an important play or scored a goal is not the intent of this rule. Officials should not penalize enthusiasm unless it has crossed the line that separates enthusiasm from baiting, good taste or disrespect. Due to the wide scope of this rule, guidelines for judgment are difficult to describe. The preceding comments should provide some assistance for the interpretation of this rule.

SITUATION 2 Rule 11.1

Any team official who is assessed a penalty shall not be permitted to serve that penalty on the penalty bench. If a time penalty is to be served, it shall be served by a player of that team who was on the ice at the time of the infraction.

SITUATION 3 Rule 11.1

The following situations are at the discretion of the Referee:

1. *A player who deliberately sprays snow from their skates into an opponent's face (i.e. goaltender) may be assessed a Minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.*
2. *Shooting the puck at or near the goal after the whistle could result in a Minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.*
3. *Pushing or sliding the puck after the whistle could be dealt with by a warning.*
4. *Shooting the puck out of the rink after the whistle could result in a Delay of Game minor penalty.*
5. *Shooting the puck away from a Linesperson who is retrieving the puck could result in a Misconduct penalty under Rule 11.1 (d) at the discretion of the Referee.*

SITUATION 4 Rule 11.1

In cases where a single Minor penalty has been assessed and the penalized player is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the Referee is encouraged to assess an additional Minor penalty for “Unsportsmanlike Conduct”. However, if a teammate on the ice is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, the Referee is encouraged to assess a Misconduct penalty to that teammate.

Rule 11.2 Disrespectful, Abusive, and Harassing Behaviour

- (a) A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goaltender who uses disrespectful language or gestures directed to the Referee or any other individual. Any team official who engages in such behaviour shall be assessed a Minor penalty, rather than a Misconduct penalty.

Note 1: For the purpose of Rule 11.2(a), “disrespectful” is defined as actions or words deemed rude, unpleasant, inappropriate, or unprofessional and found to be offensive to others, but not rising to the level of conduct described in Rule 11.4.

Note 2: A Referee is not required to assess a Bench Minor or Misconduct penalty under this rule before assessing a Game Misconduct penalty.

- (b) A player, goaltender or team official who, after receiving a penalty under rule 11.2 (a), persists in the use of disrespectful language or gestures shall be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty.
- (c) If the Referee is unable to identify the person responsible for the use of disrespectful language or gestures, a Bench Minor penalty shall be assessed to the offending team.
- (d) A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goaltender who shows any course of conduct designed to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty.
- (e) Notwithstanding the above, at the discretion of the Referee, a Gross Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player, goaltender or team official who conducts themselves in a manner as to make a travesty of the game by using obscene, profane or threateningly abusive language, gestures or actions towards any person. Such actions may also be described as verbal or physical taunts or gestures that intend to humiliate, demean, belittle, cause offense to or harm the reputation of the person or group targeted.
- (f) Where any player, goaltender or team official has been assessed a Game Misconduct or Gross Misconduct penalty under this rule, the Referee shall report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Important: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.2 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

SITUATION 1 Rules 11.2 (a)(b)

Where disrespectful language is directed at the official, a Misconduct or Game Misconduct penalty may be assessed, without assessing the Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty first.

SITUATION 2 Rule 11.2 (a)

QUESTION:

What penalty is assessed a goaltender or any player who harasses the Goal Judge by banging their stick against the glass?

ANSWER:

A Minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct. If the action persists, assess a Misconduct or Game Misconduct penalty.

SITUATION 3 Rule 11.2

QUESTION:

A player on the penalty or players' bench directs a choke signal or similar gesture at the Referee who does not observe it. However, a Linesperson sees the infraction. Can a Linesperson call a Bench Minor penalty? What action should the Linesperson take?

ANSWER:

Technically, the Linesperson cannot assess a Bench Minor penalty. They should report the incident to the Referee, who may then assess a penalty.

SITUATION 4 Rule 11.2

QUESTION:

The play is in progress and a player verbally harasses a Linesperson. Can a Linesperson stop the play to assess the Misconduct penalty?

ANSWER:

The Linesperson cannot stop play to assess the penalty. They must wait for a stoppage of play, then notify the Referee.

SITUATION 5 Rule 11.2 (e)

Wherever a Referee has reasonable grounds to believe that a player, goaltender or team official is impaired by **alcohol and/or drugs**, such player, goaltender or team official is encouraged to voluntarily withdraw from the game. However, should a further incident occur requiring penalties that entail a written report, the possible use of alcohol and/or drugs should be noted in the Official Game Report.

SITUATION 6 Rule 11.2 (e)

When a player, goaltender or team official sprays water out of a drinking bottle on **or at any person**, the Referee is directed to assess a Bench Minor penalty (11.1). If the player, goaltender or team official guilty of such action can be identified, a Gross Misconduct penalty shall also be assessed.

Rule 11.3 Spitting

A Match penalty shall be assessed to any player, goaltender or team official who deliberately spits on or at an opponent, Official, team official or any other individual. The Referee shall report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Important: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.3 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to 11.3 and any other penalties that individual might receive.

SITUATION 1 Rule 11.3

Where a team official has been removed from the bench and ordered to the dressing room for a spitting infraction, the offending team would be required to place a player on the penalty bench to serve the five-minute time penalty. That player would have to be selected from the players on the ice at the time of the infraction.

Rule 11.4 Discrimination

Any player, goaltender or team official who engages in verbal taunts, insults or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty. Discriminatory grounds include the following, without limitation:

- **Race, national or ethnic origin, skin colour or language spoken;**
- **Religion, faith or beliefs;**
- **Age;**
- **Sex, sexual orientation or gender identity / expression;**
- **Marital or familial status;**
- **Genetic characteristics;**
- **Disability.**

The Referee shall report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Note 1: If an incident occurs that was not witnessed by the Officials and is reported to the Referee, the Referee shall report the individual(s) to an appropriate member of each team's bench staff and shall complete a Game Incident Report including full details and shall submit the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Important: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.1, 11.2 or 11.3 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

Rule 11.5 Physical Harassment of Officials

Any player, goaltender or team official who, before, during or after a game:

- (a) threatens the well-being of a Referee, Linesperson or any Off-Ice Official.
- (b) attempts to strike a Referee, Linesperson, or any Off-Ice Official.
- (c) deliberately touches, holds, or pushes a Referee, Linesperson or Off-Ice Official; or
- (d) deliberately strikes, trips or body checks a Referee, Linesperson or Off-Ice Official.

shall be assessed a Match penalty and the Referee shall report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate. Such player, goaltender or team official shall be suspended indefinitely pending investigation by the appropriate governing body.

Important: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.5 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to 11.5 and any other penalties that individual might receive.

SITUATION 1 Rule 11.5

QUESTION:

A player on the penalty bench grabs a Timekeeper or any Off-Ice Official. What penalty is to be assessed?

ANSWER:

A Match penalty must be assessed.

SITUATION 2 Rule 11.5

This Rule shall apply whenever a Stand-by Official has been appointed to a game and where that Stand-by Official has been harassed or molested by any player, goaltender or team official.