



PLAYING RULES



Playing Rules

Like most organized sports, hockey is governed by a set of rules designed to ensure equality for all participants. The coach is responsible for ensuring that they have a good knowledge of the rules of ice hockey and to ensure that they teach these rules accurately to their players.

It is recommended that all coaches should contact their National Association to receive all information regarding the playing rules within their nation. This information should include the rule book and case book being used during that season. In order to increase the coaches' knowledge of the game further, it is recommended that they participate in a National Association Official's Development Program Clinic.

All too often, officials are subject to unjust criticism from parents and coaches who are not fully aware of the rules. This criticism, due to lack of knowledge, creates a negative example for players who rely on coaches and parents as role models and educators.

Establishing a solid foundation of the rules of ice hockey for your players starts with you, the coach. If you do not have a thorough knowledge of the basic rules it is unlikely that your players will understand them.

Taking the time to learn and teach the rules of hockey is time well spent. Both the coach and their players will have a better understanding of the game and the role the officials play in it.

Having a good knowledge of the rules and officiating procedures will enable the coach to be more effective in all areas of the game.

Quality of the Game

Ice hockey must be played according to the rules which have been established to ensure the best quality game, in a safe environment for the players and spectators, while maintaining the spirit of the game at all times. Therefore, game officials have been instructed to penalize all infractions contrary to these aims.

The players who possess the skills of the game must be given the opportunity to use their skills. Referees **MUST** apply the rules so that such players can use their skills and be given the opportunity to play in a safe atmosphere. Actions to take a player out of the game are not to be tolerated and such infractions must be severely penalized