

## **New Rules and Points of Emphasis - 2011/2012 Season**

In order to continue to develop our sport and to help our stakeholders stay informed, the following memo will outline the "Points of Emphasis" for the coming season along with the new rules being implemented this fall. Please give this memo the widest possible distribution.

### **Points of Emphasis (POE) – 2011-2012 playing season**

POE are not new rules but refer to areas where we have identified the need to re-emphasize these rules to ensure the standard of play is consistent across Canada and with the directives in our Rule Book.

The following are the POE for this season:

#### **Emphasis 1 - Cross-Checking and Slashing Penalties**

We need to consider intent & safety, not solely advantage when assessing penalties for Cross Checking or Slashing. Both of these infractions, involving the use of the stick can be unsafe, regardless of advantage being gained or not.

#### **Why the Emphasis?**

Our game has evolved over the years and we have begun to allow intentional infractions to occur as not deemed to be a significant enough advantage. This has created, at times, situations where physical contact is not penalized significantly enough and physical play has become too prevalent in our sport.

#### **Cross Checking**

If player makes contact with a cross check by pushing their stick outwards and onto an opponent, this must be called a penalty.

If a player keeps stick close to body and does not push, only guides an opponent, this continues to NOT be a penalty.

#### **Slashing**

When a player checks opponent and contacts an exposed area (upper arm or midsection) a penalty must be called.

When a player checks an opponent and contacts the stick followed by the glove followed by the stick, etc, a verbal warning should be given to the player, and a penalty may assessed for subsequent offences.

When a player takes a one-handed swing at an opponent who is going by them to try and slow them down – and makes contact, a penalty must be assessed.

#### **Emphasis 2 - Deliberate Contact Around the Crease**

Deliberately pushing an opponent into the crease to get a stoppage in play is prohibited in the rules and should be enforced more often:

If the official deems contact into the crease to be deliberate, an Interference or Body Contact penalty will be assessed, depending on the severity of the contact.

#### **Summary of 2011-2013 Rule Changes**

Several new rules come into effect this year. While this overview of these rules will be helpful, all stakeholders are encouraged to consult with the Official Rules and Case Book for the full information about new and all pre-existing rules.

#### **Section 3 – Dress of Players (Page 8 of Official Rule Book and Case Book)**

3.1 Players of the same team, including goalkeepers, must wear identically colored sweaters or tops. Snug fitting clothing must be worn which cover the arms and legs.

This rule ensures that goalkeepers are required to cover their legs as this was not explicitly mentioned in the rulebook previously.

#### **Section 16– Major Penalties (Page 122 of Officials Rule Book and Case Book)**

16.2 Major penalty is committed if a player commits a boarding, body contact, charging, cross checking or elbowing infraction that includes initial contact to the head or contact from behind. Should the on-ice official deem this contact was as a result of any intent to injure a Match Penalty shall be assessed.

This rule ensures that offences committed from behind or to the head are penalized more severely. This new rule creates a more severe penalty for these offences, but does not create a new penalty. The major penalty is only applied for acts that are already illegal as "elbowing", "body contact", etc.