

Ringette Canada

Summary of Rule Changes for 2007-2008

1. Actual Rule Change

Section: Definitions
Subsection: D.3 Control

D.3 Control. Control of the ring is gained when:

D.3.a a **skater** places the stick into the ring, propels the ring with the stick, or bats or kicks the ring.

D.3.b a goalkeeper, within the goal crease, prevents the ring from entering the net **and the ring comes to rest inside or contacting the goal crease.**

D.3.c a **goalkeeper, while not preventing the ring from entering the net, propels the ring with the stick, or bats or kicks the ring.**

D.3.d the ring comes to rest inside or contacting the goal crease.

NOTE: For the free pass and goalkeeper ring, the team awarded the ring is deemed to be in control of the ring until it exits the free pass circle or crease.

Commentary – the definition of control has been adjusted to differentiate between skaters and goalkeepers and defines the actions that are required by each in order to be judged as gaining control. The effect of this is that when a goalkeeper is in the act of making a save, the ring must come to rest inside or contacting the goal crease in order for the goalkeeper to be deemed as gaining control. Other actions by a goalkeeper may also be deemed control when they are not in the act of making a save.

2. Actual Rule Change

Section: 2 – Rink Markings
Subsections: 2.1 Goal Lines
2.2 Blue Lines

2.1 Goal Lines. Red lines 5.08cm (2 in.) wide shall be marked on the ice parallel to the end boards, **3.35m (11 ft.)** from each end of the rink. Each line, known as the “goal line”, shall extend across the ice surface and continue vertically on the boards. **Where rinks do not conform to this goal line measurement, a distance of no less than 3.20m (10 ft. 6 in.) is permitted.** On rinks over 60.96m (200 ft.) in length, the goal lines may be up to 4.57m (15 ft.) from the end boards.

2.2 Blue Lines. On rinks 56.39m (185 ft.) or more in length, blue lines 30.48cm (12 in.) wide shall be marked on the ice parallel to the goal lines, positioned **19.50m (64 ft.) from each goal line.** Each line, known as the “blue line” shall extend across the ice surface and continue vertically on the boards. **On rinks less than 56.39m (185 ft.) in length, the blues lines shall be positioned such they divide the area between the goal lines into three equal parts.**

Commentary – These changes adjust the rink marking measurements to changes recently made by Hockey Canada.

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3. Actual Rule Change

Section: 2 – Rink Markings
Subsection: 2.5 Goal Net
Paragraph: 2.5.a(1)

For the **Petite** and younger age divisions, the goal nets must be completely free moving.

Other Resulting Changes

Section: 2 – Rink Markings
Subsection: 2.5 Goal Net
Paragraph: 2.5.a(2)

For the **Tween** and older age divisions, the goal nets may be either free moving or stabilized by the use of magnetic anchors or a similar system. Should the nets be stabilized, they must remain easily moveable from their regular position when minimal force is applied.

4. Actual Rule Change

Section: 4 – Equipment
Subsection: 4.2 Ringette Stick
Paragraph: 4.2.a (new paragraph)

Skaters may only use a Ringette stick. Skaters cannot use a goalkeeper's stick.

Commentary – current paragraphs 4.2.a through 4.2.f will be renumbered in the next edition of the Official Rules of Ringette.

5. Actual Rule Change

Section: 7 – The Play
Subsection: 7.3
Paragraph: 7.3.b

A skater may be substituted for the goalkeeper **at any time**.

Other Resulting Changes

Section: 6 – Team Rules
Subsection: 6.1

A team shall have no more than eighteen and no fewer than seven players.

Commentary – as a result of the change to rule 7.3.b, the second sentence of rule 6.1 will be deleted due to it no longer being relevant. It is now permissible for a team to play an entire game (or any portion thereof) without a goalkeeper.

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Section: 6 – Team Rules

Subsection: 6.2

Once the game has started, a team must be able to ice a minimum of four players. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game.

Commentary – as a result of the change to rule 7.3.b, the second sentence of rule 6.2 will be deleted due to it no longer being relevant.

Section: 10 – Goal Scoring Regulations

Subsection: 10.4

Paragraph: 10.4.b

if a skater in excess of the maximum number permitted in the defending zone restricted area deliberately enters that area and prevents the scoring of a goal by playing as the AGK.

Commentary – as a result of the change to rule 7.3.b, the introductory portion of rule 10.4.b will be deleted due to it no longer being relevant.

Section: 13 – Minor Penalties

Subsection: 13.10 Illegal Substitution

Paragraph: 13.10.d

Commentary – as a result of the change to rule 7.3.b, rule 13.10.d will be deleted due to it no longer being relevant.

6. Actual Rule Change

Section: 9 – The Free Pass and Goalkeeper Ring

Subsection: 9.1 Free Pass

Paragraph: 9.1.a

the player taking the free pass **can only enter the half of the free pass circle in which the ring has been placed and** is the only player permitted in the free pass circle. If there is no player from the team awarded the free pass in the free pass circle when the whistle is blown, then the first player from that team to enter the free pass circle must take the free pass.

Commentary – this additional wording is an editorial change that formalizes the manner in which the rule has been interpreted and applied for several years.

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7. Actual Rule Change

Section: 9 – The Free Pass and Goalkeeper Ring

Subsection: 9.4 Resuming Play

Paragraphs: 9.4.d Violation
9.4.e Injury
9.4.f Foreign Object
9.4.g Spectator Interference

9.4.d Violation. If play was stopped due to a violation, the ring is awarded to the team that did not cause the stoppage in play in the **nearest circle within the zone** in which play was stopped, with the following exceptions ...

9.4.e Injury. If play was stopped due to an injury, a free pass is awarded to the team that was in possession of the ring when play was stopped, in the **nearest circle within the zone** in which they last contacted or controlled the ring.

9.4.f Foreign Object. If play was stopped due to a foreign object affecting play, the ring is awarded to the team that was in possession of the ring when play was stopped, in the **nearest circle within the zone** in which they last contacted or controlled the ring.

9.4.g Spectator Interference. If play was stopped due to spectator interference, the ring is awarded to the team that was in possession of the ring when play was stopped, in the **nearest circle within the zone** in which the interference occurred.

Commentary – these changes are all considered to be editorial in nature and do not change the application of the rules.

8. Actual Rule Change

Section: 10 – Goal Scoring Regulations

Subsection: 10.2

Paragraph: 10.2.b

if the ring is shot and is **deflected by or** deflected off any player or on-ice official into the net.

Commentary – this clarifies the legality of a goal under both types of deflection and provides consistency with definitions that are already in place.

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9. Actual Rule Change

Section: 11 – Violations
Subsection: 11.2
Paragraph: 11.2.a

accidentally shoots or holds the ring out of play, **is the last player to contact the ring prior to it leaving the playing area**, or dislodges the net.

Commentary – this change provides rule book guidance to clarify a common occurrence in the game. The ruling is consistent with current application.

10. Actual Rule Change

Section: 12 – Consequences of Violations
Subsection: 12.1 Stoppages of Play
Paragraph: 12.1.a

If the team in **control** of the ring commits a violation, play is stopped immediately.

Other Resulting Changes

Section: 7 – The Play
Subsection: 7.6 Free Play Line
Paragraph: 7.6.f

While the ring is in an end zone, if the team in **control** of the ring has more than the maximum number of skaters permitted in that restricted area, play is stopped immediately.

Section: 7 – The Play
Subsection: 7.7 Goal Crease
Paragraphs: 7.7.a and 7.7.b

7.7.a If a skater from the team in **control** of the ring in that zone enters the goal crease, play is stopped immediately.

7.7.b If a skater from the team not in **control** of the ring enters the goal crease, play is stopped if that team gains control of the ring in that zone, before it exits the same zone and within five seconds of:

Section: 9 – The Free Pass and Goalkeeper Ring
Subsection: 9.4 Resuming Play
Paragraph: 9.4.d(2)

The ring is awarded to the non-offending team in their attacking zone when:

9.4.d(2)(a) **play was stopped due to a two blue line pass violation.**

9.4.d(2)(b) **play was stopped due to the goalkeeper throwing the ring, or the AGK directing the ring in any manner, into the opposing net directly, off the defending goalkeeper, or off an on-ice official.**

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Section: 10 – Goal Scoring Regulations
Subsection: 10.3
Paragraph: 10.3.b

and a violation is assessed **if an attacking player commits a violation before the ring enters the net.**

Commentary – items (1) and (2) of rule 10.3.b have been eliminated and replaced with a more general approach to nullifying goals when an attacking player commits any violation prior to the ring entering the net. The NOTE to rule 10.3.b is still applicable.

Section: 10 – Goal Scoring Regulations
Subsection: 10.3
Paragraph: 10.3.d

10.3.d(1) **if a goalkeeper throws the ring into the opposing net directly, off the defending goalkeeper, or off an on-ice official.**

10.3.d(2) **if an AGK directs the ring in any manner into the opposing net directly, off the defending goalkeeper, or off an on-ice official.**

Section: 12 – Consequences of Violations
Subsection: 12.1 Stoppages of Play
Paragraph: 12.1.b

If the team not in **control** of the ring commits a violation, play continues and a delayed violation is signalled. Play is stopped when that team gains control of the ring, unless the violation has been nullified.

11. Actual Rule Change

Section: 12 – Consequences of Violations
Subsection: 12.2
Paragraph: 12.2.a

Delayed free play line violations are nullified when **both the ring and the excess player(s) have exited** the restricted area by contacting or crossing the free play line in that zone.

Commentary – this additional wording is an editorial change that formalizes the manner in which the rule has been interpreted and applied for several years.

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12. Actual Rule Change

Section: 13 – Minor Penalties
Subsection: 13.5 Delay of Game
Paragraph: 13.5.f

a player throws a stick, or a stick is thrown from a bench onto the ice surface to a skater or goalkeeper.

Commentary – the primary purpose for this change is safety. It is to prevent sticks being thrown onto the ice to a skater or goalkeeper who has lost or broken their stick. The term “bench” includes both the player’s bench and the penalty bench.

13. Actual Rule Change

Section: 13 – Minor Penalties
Subsection: 13.5 Delay of Game
Paragraph: 13.5.k (new paragraph)

A skater becomes involved in the play when holding onto a goalkeeper’s stick.

Commentary – current paragraphs 13.5.k through 13.5.r will be renumbered in the next edition of the Official Rules of Ringette.

14. Actual Rule Change

Section: 13 – Minor Penalties
Subsection: 13.11 Interference
Paragraph: 13.11.d

Commentary – this rule will be removed and replaced with 11.2.c noted below. Current paragraphs 13.11.e through 13.11.g will be renumbered in the next edition of the Official Rules of Ringette.

Other Resulting Changes

Section: 11 – Violations
Subsection: 11.2
Paragraph: 11.2.c (new paragraph)

checks an opponent when not eligible to play a loose ring.

Commentary – this changes the effect of checking an opponent, when not eligible to play a loose ring, from an interference penalty to a violation. Current paragraphs 11.2.c through 11.2.e will be renumbered in the next edition of the Official Rules of Ringette.

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15. Actual Rule Change

Section: 13 – Minor Penalties
Subsection: 13.12 Slashing
Paragraph: 13.12.d (new paragraph)

contacts the opposing goalkeeper with their stick when the goalkeeper is entirely inside the goal crease.

Commentary – this new rule is consistent with current rule 10.3.c and requires the calling of a penalty in which non-forceful stick contact occurs on a goalkeeper who is entirely inside the goal crease.

16. Actual Rule Change

Section: 19 – Consequences of Penalties
Subsection: 19.2 Stoppages of Play
Paragraph: 19.2.a

If the team in **control** of the ring commits a penalty, play is stopped immediately.

Other Resulting Changes

Section: 9 – The Free Pass and Goalkeeper Ring
Subsection: 9.4 Resuming Play
Subparagraphs: 9.4.d(3) and 9.4.d(3)(b)

9.4.d(3) If a penalty was committed by the team not in **control** of the ring and the ring traveled untouched from one end zone to the other end zone:

9.4.d(3)(b) and play was stopped because the ring **was controlled** by the non-penalized team, the free pass is awarded to the penalized team in their attacking zone.

Section: 10 – Goal Scoring Regulations
Subsection: 10.2
Paragraph: 10.2.d

if the ring is directed into the net by a defending player, **unless it is the direct result of an illegal act by the attacking team.**

Section: 10 – Goal Scoring Regulations
Subsection: 10.3
Paragraph: 10.3.c

and a penalty is assessed if any attacking player **commits a penalty before the ring enters the net.**

Commentary – rule 10.3.c has been reworded with a more general approach to nullifying goals when an attacking player commits any penalty prior to the ring entering the net.

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Section: 13 – Minor Penalties
Subsection: 13.5 Delay of Game
Paragraph: 13.5.e

while the ring is in an end zone, a skater of the team not in **control** of the ring, in excess of the maximum number permitted in that restricted area, enters the restricted area and any skater of that team becomes involved in the play in the restricted area while there are too many skaters in that area.

Section: 19 – Consequences of Penalties
Subsection: 19.2 Stoppages of Play
Paragraphs: 19.2.b, 19.2.b(2) and NOTE

19.2.b If the team not in **control** of the ring commits a penalty, play continues and a delayed penalty is signalled. Play is stopped:

19.2.b(2) when the team in **control** of the ring commits an infraction.

NOTE: *Play may be stopped immediately when a member of the team not in **control** of the ring commits a blatant Misconduct, Major or Match penalty.*

Section: 19 – Consequences of Penalties
Subsection: 19.2 Stoppages of Play
Paragraph: 19.2.c

If neither team is in control of the ring and both teams have a delayed penalty, play is stopped when the penalty is committed by the second team.