

How well do you know your NHL rule book?

What does the NHL rulebook say for these situations?

1/ A player takes a shot at goal. The goalkeeper is well in position, but the puck deflects off the referee - then accidentally glances off another player's skate and into the goal.

- The goal is allowed; deflection off an official is not defined as a reason to interrupt play.
- The goal is allowed; the rules only state that a goal should be disallowed if it is a direct deflection off an official.
- The goal is disallowed; a goal cannot be scored following a deflection off an official.

2/ In a crowded goal, an attacking player deliberately kicks the puck at the goal. The puck deflects off the handle of a defenseman's stick and goes into the goal.

- Disallowed. Intentional kicking of the puck is permitted but no goal can be scored if the referee (a) judges the kick to be intentional, and (b) judges any deflection to be unintentional on the part of the deflecting player.
- Allowed. The rules state that 'kicking the puck shall be allowed in all zones', and there is no separate rule about scoring from a kick.
- Allowed. Although a goal cannot be scored directly from a kick, it is a good goal if it deflects off the stick of any player except the goalkeeper.

3/ A player deliberately hooks his foot around another player's skate, causing him to trip and fall.

- The player is automatically assessed a match penalty.
- The player is automatically assessed a minor penalty.
- The offense comes under the hooking rules and is penalized in the same way.

4/ A player lets go of his stick, and it flies outside the playing area. No one is hit, and the referee believes it was accidental.

- No penalty is imposed, and play is not stopped.
- No penalty is imposed. The referee or linesman can stop play (but does not have to) because the rules state that every player must be properly equipped while on the ice. Any goal scored while the player has no stick is disallowed.
- A misconduct penalty is imposed.

5/ The goalkeeper for one team has been removed for an additional attacking player, and a player for the opposing team has possession of puck in the neutral zone. A defending player throws his stick across the ice, striking the attacker's skate and partially obstructing the goal.

- If the referee judges that the attacking player was prevented from taking a shot because of the action, a penalty shot is imposed. Otherwise, the action is judged as any other throwing offense.
- A goal is awarded to the attacking team.
- The player who threw the stick is assessed a major penalty. The referee may also choose to assess a match penalty.

6/ A player deliberately jabs another player with the handle of his stick. No injury or fall results.

- A butt-ending offense is penalized in the same way as a cross-checking offense.
- The player is assessed a double-minor penalty and may be assessed a match penalty and/or fines or suspensions if the referee judges that the foul was intended to cause injury.
- The player is assessed a major penalty and a game misconduct penalty.

7/ Team's skaters are all in the area around their own goal when a defender manages to strike the puck down the ice to his own goalkeeper. The keeper traps the puck for several seconds so his team can get back into position.

- The goalkeeper is assessed a minor or major penalty if he continues to trap the puck once an opposing team's player crosses the neutral zone.
- Trapping of the puck by the goalkeeper is permitted without restriction except in the final five minutes of regulation time or extra time. (Any deliberate delay of play in the final five minutes of regulation time or extra time is penalized with an automatic major penalty and a game misconduct penalty. Other penalties, fines, and suspensions can also be imposed.)
- The goalkeeper is immediately assessed a minor penalty.

8/ A very aggressive cross-checking foul in the final few minutes of a match occurs right next to one team's player's bench, and a fight starts. Two of the players on the bench get up and join the fight.

- The first player to leave the bench is suspended for the next 10 League and/or Play-off games. The second player is suspended for 5 games.
- Both players are suspended for the remainder of the game. Both players are then subject to disciplinary proceedings and suspensions of between 5 and 10 games and/or fines of not less than \$5000.

- Penalties for the players are decided by the referee. The minimum penalty is suspension for the remainder of the game, but the referee may also impose match suspensions and/or fines. The players' Club is automatically fined a minimum of \$5000 and a maximum of \$10000.

9/ After stopping a shot on goal, the goalkeeper skates the puck around the wall behind the net.

- A minor penalty is assessed against the goalkeeper. There is a restriction on where the goalkeeper can play the puck behind the net.
- A minor penalty is assessed if the referee judges this action to delay the game. A major penalty is assessed if (a) the referee judges this action to delay the game, and (b) this foul takes place in the final five minutes of either regulation time or extra time.
- This action is permitted.

10/ During the play, a spectator throws a puck onto the ice in an attempt to distract and confuse the players. The puck is clearly on the ice and within the area of play.

- No illegal puck is permitted on the ice at any time. Play is stopped immediately until the illegal puck has been removed. Penalties may be assessed against any player who deliberately plays the illegal puck if the referee judges this to be an attempt to disrupt play.
- Play continues despite the presence of the illegal puck.
- Play continues, but any goal scored while the illegal puck is on the ice will be disallowed.