

Rule amendments and procedures for the 2018/2019 Championship Season – Update January 2019

IIHF Rules 58, 59, 136 and 137

The IIHF Council has decided at its meeting on 04.12.2018 to amend the current Rules 58, 59, 136 and 137 and introduce an “Updated False Faceoff Rule”. The rules will take immediate effect upon each Championship Directorate’s approval.

IIHF RULE 58 – PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING FACEOFFS

- i. The on-ice official must drop the puck only on one of the nine designated faceoff spots
- ii. Only one skater from each team is allowed to participate in a faceoff.
- iii. The two skaters taking the faceoff must be positioned squarely facing their opponent’s end, approximately one stick length apart, with the tip of the stick blade stationary on the white part of the faceoff spot. For end zone faceoffs, their skates must be positioned inside the markings on either side of the faceoff dot (double “L”), and players cannot encroach on each other’s space above the midway point of the dot with any part of their body.
- iv. If either skater taking the faceoff makes helmet-to-helmet contact with his opponent, **he must receive a first violation warning**. If the linesman cannot differentiate which skater caused the contact, both skaters **must receive a first violation warning**.
- v. The on-ice official may drop the puck if only one skater is ready for the faceoff provided all other skaters not involved in the faceoff are onside and in ready position.
- vi. When the faceoff is in the defending half of the ice, the skater of the defending team must place his stick on the ice first followed immediately by the skater of the attacking team.
- vii. When the faceoff is at the centre-ice faceoff spot, the skater of the visiting team must place his stick on the ice first.
- viii. All skaters not taking the faceoff must keep their skates outside the circle (contact with the line is permitted). A skater’s stick may be inside the circle provided there is no contact with an opponent’s body or stick.
- ix. A skater must keep his skates on his side of the hash marks (contact with the line is permitted). A skater’s stick may be inside the area 45 between the two hash marks provided there is no contact with an opponent’s body or stick.
- x. All skaters must be on their side of the ice at a suitable distance removed from the skaters taking a faceoff between the blue lines. They must remain stationary and cannot skate freely during the faceoff procedure or influence or interfere with the faceoff procedure.
- xi. Once all skaters are in the set position for a faceoff, they cannot change positions.

IIHF RULE 59 – FALSE FACEOFFS

- i. If one or both of the skaters taking the faceoff fail to take their proper position immediately when directed to do so, the on-ice official **may provide a first faceoff violation warning**.
- ii. After the **first faceoff violation warning** has been made, the linesman will notify **the offending team(s)** that a second violation will result in a bench-minor penalty for delay of game.

- iii. If one of the other skaters not taking the faceoff enters the faceoff circle prematurely, the on-ice official will stop the faceoff. **The skater of the offending team taking the faceoff must receive a first violation warning.**
- iv. If one of the other skaters not taking the faceoff enters the faceoff circle prematurely, and the puck has already been dropped, game action will be stopped, and the faceoff will be re-taken, unless the opposing team gains possession of the puck. If play is stopped, the skater of the offending team taking the faceoff must **receive a first faceoff violation warning.**
- v. No substitution of players is allowed after a false faceoff until the faceoff has been properly executed, except when a penalty is assessed that affects the on-ice strength of either team.
- vi. If a skater wins a faceoff by kicking the puck to a teammate, game action will be stopped, and the faceoff re-taken. The skater of the offending team taking the faceoff must **receive a first faceoff violation warning.**
- vii. If a faceoff is won by a hand pass, play will be stopped, and the faceoff re-taken, and the skater of the team which committed the hand pass must **receive a first faceoff violation warning.** If a skater gloves the puck on a faceoff and the opposing team gains possession, play will continue. Any on-ice official may make this call.
- viii. A team that commits a second violation of faceoff procedures at the same faceoff will be assessed a bench-minor penalty.
- ix. No faceoff may be won by virtue of a player knocking or batting the puck with his hand in the air immediately after it has been dropped by an on-ice official.
- x. If the skate of a skater not taking the faceoff crosses the hash mark prior to the drop of the puck at a faceoff, it will be considered a faceoff violation.
- xi. Any contact with an opponent or his stick prior to the drop of the puck at a faceoff will be considered a faceoff violation.
- xii. If the scoreclock runs during a false faceoff, the lost time must be added to the clock before the faceoff can be re-taken.

IIHF RULE 136 – DELAY OF GAME/SUBSTITUTION AFTER AN ICING CALL

- i. A team charged with icing cannot substitute any of its players except:
 - 1. To replace a goaltender who had been substituted for an extra skater;
 - 2. To replace an injured player;
 - 3. If either team is assessed a penalty during an icing call which alters on-ice manpower, the team icing the puck is allowed to make player changes, but the ensuing faceoff will take place in the defending zone of the team incurring the penalty.
- ii. A coach who attempts to make an illegal substitution after an icing call, forcing a delay in the game while the referee or linesmen organize the correct line-up, will be issued a warning by the referee for the first violation. A coach who attempts for a second time to make substitutions for the purpose of delaying the ensuing faceoff will be assessed a bench-minor penalty.
- iii. Any skater on the defending team who intentionally commits a faceoff violation after an icing call for the purpose of delaying the game **must receive a first faceoff violation warning.** A second violation **during the faceoff** will result in a bench-minor penalty for delay of game.

IIHF RULE 137 – DELAY OF GAME/VIOLATION OF FACEOFF PROCEDURES

- i. When a skater not taking the faceoff enters the faceoff circle before the puck is dropped, the **offending team** taking the faceoff **must be issued the first faceoff violation warning**. For a second violation by any skater on that team at the same faceoff, the offending team will be assessed a bench-minor penalty.
- ii. When a skater taking the faceoff **has issued a first faceoff violation warning** by an on-ice official and another skater of the same team delays taking up his proper position **after the issued warning**, the offending team will be assessed a bench-minor penalty.
- iii. A skater who lines up for a faceoff in an offside position or improperly in any way and, after a warning from an on-ice official continues to line up offside or improperly, will be assessed a bench minor penalty.