

Points of Emphasis

Overall Rules Enforcement

The committee was pleased overall with the effect of last season's focus on proper rules enforcement.

It remains the responsibility of coaches, players, officials and administrators to support this initiative. In addition to last year's focal points, the committee points attention to the following two areas:

--Diving. An unintended result of the rules initiative was an increase in diving. *A player shall not attempt to draw a penalty through any exaggerated or deceitful action.*

--Strength. A player should not be penalized in a contact situation solely because of their size or strength.

Hitting From Behind

This dangerous act continues to be an area of concern to the committee. Any hit from behind must be penalized without exception and regardless of the severity of the hit. Boarding and charging penalties were redefined by the committee to distinguish from hitting from behind.

Goalkeeper Interference

The committee voted to alter the rule regarding the crease. However, this should not be construed as a lessening on the protections allowed the goalkeeper. Anytime an opposing player prevents the goalkeeper from preventing a goal, interference must be called.

Freezing the Puck

The committee also points to Rule 4-7-e, which refers to the privileges of the goalkeeper. The committee feels there are too many unnecessary whistles in situations where the goalkeeper freezes the puck illegally and added several approved rulings to assist officials and players with this rule.