

Implementation of Referee Standards - 2008

NZIHA have received the following comments from the Referee Chairperson and his committee related to the implementation of referee standards advised to all clubs with a request to also circulate to as many of their members and referees as possible.

There are no changes to the rules – these are the same rules that we have been playing to but we are only just reminding and advising our referees how the game should be controlled.

There is no change to the interpretation of the rules – all that is happening is that referees are being told they must become more strict in their application of the rules.

Daniel Christie's report, after officiating at the IIHF World Championships, has been circulated to all referees and clubs, players, coaches etc, in the August NZIHA Bulletin. All clubs have been asked to circulate this information to their registered members (including referees) by email and/ or place on their club notice board.

The Referee Chairpersons advice to the NZIHA Executive, is that all games will be officiated using these recommended standards.

In summary coaches need to tell their players -

- Penalty will be assessed if stick contact is made on opponents gloves.
- Penalty will be assessed for a wild swing with a stick making contact with an opponent's stick regardless of the puck being turned over.
- Penalty will be assessed if stick is used to hold an opponent ie: stick held across opponent's mid-drift (quite often seen being done immediately in front of goal by a defender)
- Penalty will be assessed if players hook their sticks over an opponent's stick (not in possession of the puck) but trying to get to the puck or trying to get into a position to receive the puck – Interference.
- Any holding/interference no matter how innocent looking
- All a coach needs to do is drum into their players keep your stick on the rink's surface.

Finally the standard of acceptable play can be summarised in 2 aspects:

- Play the puck at all times, and
- No stick contact with opponents body/limbs.

Krystyna Beardman
NZIHA Executive Officer

Sent on behalf of NZIHA Chief Referee and his committee