

CLARIFICATIONS TO THE RULEBOOK OF RINK HOCKEY

Recently, the official Regulations of Rink Hockey (Rules of the Game/Rulebook, Technical Regulations, Referee Rules) were approved and sent to all the Federations, as the new Regulations, to be applicable after August 1, 2025, in Europe and after January 1, 2026, in the rest of the World.

After its implementation, a few doubts and a few differences of interpretation, in some articles, were detected, needing to be clarified, which we do now, with this information on an article-by-Article basis and in general.

1 - In the **ARTICLE 8 (SUBSTITUTIONS)**, we wish to clarify that when there is an irregular substitution, as typified in the point 7, this will be considered as a Serious misconduct, as stated in the item j. of the Article 18 and a blue card must be shown, implying a period of inferiority. As there are no double sanctions, the game will not restart with a direct free hit, under normal circumstances, when the game is active.

2 - In the **ARTICLE 12 (PLACEMENT AND INTERVENTION OF GOALKEEPERS)**, in its point 3, it should be understood as the loss of any component of its protective equipment (helmet, gloves and/or shin pads) in an accidental or occasional way.

3 - In the **ARTICLE 16 (WARNINGS)**, it should be clear that these warnings in the form of yellow cards, are for the infractions committed by a player or by a team representative.

4 - In the **ARTICLE 18 (SERIOUS MISCONDUCT)**, it should be understood as the infractions that force the main referees to show a blue card to the offender player on the rink, as there are no blue cards to the players that are on the bench.

5 - In the **ARTICLE 24 (SERIOUS MISCONDUCT)**, it should be understood as the fouls classified as serious, committed by a player or goalkeeper on the rink, as there are no blue cards to the players or goalkeeper that are on the bench. Also, the references to the red cards shown to the technical representatives, must be understood as shown to any member of the bench (either a technical representative or a player).

6 - In the **ARTICLE 25 (VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES)**, the sanction of the period of inferiority for each card that has been shown should be understood as to a player on the rink, as the red cards shown to the players and to the team representatives on the bench, do not imply a sanction of a period of inferiority.

7 - In the **ARTICLE 28 (DIRECT FREE HIT)**, it must be clear that a direct free hit is awarded for serious or very serious faults suffered by an opponent, in possession of the ball and in a situation of an eminent goal.

8 - In the **ARTICLE 30 (COMMON ISSUES DURING A DIRECT FREE HIT OR PENALTY)**, at the point 9, it must be reminded the need to reset the chronometer to five seconds left on the game (or half time), which is the time required for the player to execute the direct free hit or the penalty, being allowed the simulation but with no time for a second hit.

9 - In the **ARTICLE 31 (PLAYING IN INFERIORITY)**, it should be understood as the sanction that penalizes the team whose players on the rink are shown a blue or red card.

10 - In general, all warnings done to the bench, which imply the showing of a yellow card, this card is individual but also must be understood as a warning to all the members of the bench and, in the case of a second warning, which will always imply the sent off (red card), the yellow card must be shown first and, only after, the red card is shown.

11 - In what concerns the intentional throwing of the ball off the rink, to delay the restarting of the game, this action should be sanctioned with a Team Fault and with a Yellow Card.

12 - All the situations of eminent goal, which must be sanctioned with a card (blue/red) and with a direct free hit, are the actions in which a player, being in the possession of the ball, goes in the direction of the goal, alone and without opposition and suffers a serious or a very serious fault, committed by the last defender.



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