



USA HOCKEY

June 16, 2007

For Immediate Release:

Mass Hockey Playing rules update;

Mass Hockey implements an icing call when teams are shorthanded.

Standards Of Play

Mandatory Helmets for Coaches

Please be advised: All play in Massachusetts will be required to incorporate the no icing / shorthanded pilot rule for the 2007-08 season for all play in Massachusetts.

Pilot Rule: Icing will be called when shorthanded

A Team playing shorthanded shall not ice the puck...upon an icing call a face –off will be held in the defensive zone of the offending team. Clarification- there is no penalty associated with this call. It is simply an icing infraction that creates a face-off in the offending teams defensive end zone. Intent: The intent of this rule is to create an environment that will assist in promoting skill development, i.e., mental, tactical, and technical etc., by not allowing players while they are shorthanded to simply throw the puck down the ice with out looking. This also brings this rule in line with the immediate offside rule in terms of skill development.

USA Hockey Rule 620 w/ MH Pilot new to read (pilot change in bold)

(a) For the purpose of this rule, the center- line will divide the ice into halves. Should any player of a team, **SHORTHANDED**, Equal or superior in numerical strength to the opposing team, shoot, bat, with the hand or stick or defect the puck from his own half of the ice, beyond the goal line of the opposing team, play shall be stopped and the puck faced-off at the end face-off spot the offending team. If the puck shall have entered the goal of the opposing team, after being legally shot, batted with the stick or deflected, the goal shall be allowed etc .

Effective 2006-07 USA Hockey, Mandatory Helmet Rule for Coaches

All ice hockey coaches and instructors of USA Hockey youth/high school, disabled, girls/women 19U & under and below programs must properly wear an approved ice helmet during all on-ice sessions including practices, controlled scrimmages etc.

Standards of Play

In every aspect of hockey at all levels the offensively skilled players will now decide outcomes.

“Points of Emphasis” will continue to guide the standard of play