

Belmont Iceland Adult 4-on-4 Hockey League Officiating

This letter is intended to outline the approach to officiating at Belmont Iceland Adult 4-on-4 Hockey League games.

It is a common misconception among players that a penalty is a penalty and that the science of refereeing should be very straightforward. However, in actuality, referees are taught to be game managers. Certainly some infractions are very black and white and should be called according to the letter of the law every time. These include offsides, icing, high sticking, boarding, checking from behind, butt ending, and other injury-potential penalties. Other infractions are more grey. The emphasis the last couple years from USA Hockey has been to lean towards calling more penalties. Many players appreciate a game called as it was before the new emphasis except that impedence/interference penalties should be called more often. Many times these situations can be headed off by warning the player (away from the other team) for the first infraction.

These are the criteria for calling a "grey" penalty that were in place before the new emphasis and which are proposed for Belmont Iceland games:

1. An injury potential infraction
2. An infraction which causes the loss of an immediate scoring opportunity
3. An infraction which causes an immediate change of possession
4. An infraction which is blatantly obvious (tripping, obscene gesture, roughing)

Also, there is special emphasis by the refs to lean towards calling penalties that could head off a potential problem.

Rules as outlined by USA Hockey will be followed with the following modifications:

1. 5 players a side, including goalie
2. no body checking or unnecessary physical contact
3. 3 15 minute stop time periods; 5 minutes OT (running time) and 4 player shootout if needed for regular season and semi final games, 15 minute OT for finals. If the game is still tied after a 4 player shootout, one player from each team will continue the shootout until the game has been decided. All players except for the goalies must shoot once before any player shoots twice.
4. icing called when puck is shot from behind the defensive zone blue line
5. poking at covered puck by goalie not permitted (will be considered slashing), even before whistle
6. official's discretion for hooking, tendency to allow subtle contact that does not impede player with the puck
7. 2-man advantage: when one team has 2 men in the penalty box, play will proceed with 5 skaters from the opposing team against 3 skaters for the penalized team (5 on 3). After the first of the 2 penalties expires, play will continue at 5 on 4 until the next stoppage of play, then 4 on 3 thereafter until the second penalty expires.
8. Players receiving 3 penalties in a game will be suspended for the rest of the game

Rough play and unsportsmanlike behavior cannot and will not be tolerated. This league's goal is to provide our players with a safe and friendly venue for ice hockey. Officials have been instructed to hand out misconduct penalties in response to dangerous or irresponsible behavior. League management will consult with the referee(s) that assessed the misconduct penalty and will determine the appropriate suspension. Offenders will not be refunded for games missed. Attempts to harm or

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injure fellow players will result in expulsion from the league as well as Belmont Iceland.

All participants in our League should be adults who want to play hockey free from physical altercations, nasty or retributive conduct and who have a high regard for protecting everyone's well-being while at our facility. While we understand that hockey is a competitive game that can bring tempers to the surface, please remember that the goal is to have fun and to be safe.

Players that are assessed a game misconduct penalty will be automatically suspended for the next game. Most of the time, these penalties are a result of a player verbally abusing the referees. In general, this happens very rarely. The progression for abuse of official penalties is:

1. Original penalty (usually 2 mins)
2. 2 minute unsportsmanlike penalty
3. 10 minute misconduct penalty
4. Game misconduct

The player should be given every opportunity to calm down (referee skating away from the penalty box area).

In very rare occasions a match penalty is warranted for a serious injury-potential penalty either to another player or the referee. Typically these players are suspended for a certain number of games and may not be allowed to play in the league for many years.

Occasionally, on ice discussions/explanations are required or requested. These are preferred to be made through the team captain or designate, and at the intermissions between periods. This is to minimize delay during play and to keep games to the allotted ice time.

The referees have the responsibility to ensure the game is completed within the 1 hour and 15 minute time frame. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.