

Comments on the Rules of the Game 2022 edition

Background

The purpose of this document is to shortly describe the meaning and background of some of the changes made in the new edition of the IFF Rules of the Game and therefore be a support the member associations in finding an appropriate translation. A more comprehensive educational material is planned to be presented in the spring of 2022.

The process

The process started early in 2020 when all National Associations were invited to propose rule changes. The IFF Reference group, consisting of representatives from the IFF office, the Rules and Competition Committee (RACC), the Athletes Commission and Coaches together with the IFF Rules Group then proposed to the IFF Central Board what proposals to test, to analyse further and possibly implement.

From there the Rules Group analysed the proposed changes, wrote new rule text and after a series of meetings and feedback rounds a new edition of the Rules of the Game started to form. The final decision was taken by the IFF Central Board on the 5th of September 2021.

General editorial changes

Gender neutral

The Rules of the Game are now gender neutral and the pronoun he is no longer used in the rules.

Glossary

A glossary of common floorball terms has been added. This is a change aimed at making the rules easier to understand for the ones who are new to floorball and to better define terms used throughout the rule book.

Rule changes that affect many rules

2+2- instead of 5-minutes bench penalty

The former 5 minutes bench penalty is replaced by a 2+2-minute bench penalty. The implementation of this change implies the new terms of minor and major bench penalties. The handling of major bench penalties is comprehensively defined in rules 603, 605 and 606. These changes will not be commented individually in every rule that is affected.

The background of this change is that a 5-minute bench penalty often decided games in floorball and therefore was rarely enforced. In consequence, serious offences were often penalised with 'only' a 2-minutes bench penalty. By slightly lowering the severity and the impact of the bench penalty serious offences shall get punished correctly more often and players over time adjust their play due to the higher risk of a major penalty.

Keywords for physical play

The keywords *careless*, *reckless*, *violent* and *brutal* – corresponding to minor bench penalty (2-minutes), major bench penalty (2+2-minutes) and two offences leading to a match penalty – are introduced. These changes will not be commented individually in every rule that is affected.

The background to this change is that the wording in the rules regarding physical offences were inconsistent and therefore difficult to understand and translate correctly. In the new rules the four keywords: *careless*, *reckless*, *violent* and *brutal* are introduced, which corresponds to the three levels of penalties: minor, major, and match penalties where violent and brutal are considered as different offences, leading to the same penalty.

Comments on selected rules

Chapter 1 - Rink

107.1 Moved from Chapter 4 since the ball is not considered equipment in the same way as e.g. the stick, but rather as part of the rink, such as e.g. goal cages.

Chapter 5 – Fixed situations

503.9 (old numbering) Rule removed and 503.11 (new) New rule. Changes due to the rule change that play is resumed with a free hit after a delayed penalty.

507.1 No rule change. Including hits against the opponent's body that was not covered in the rule text before. (adaption to practice)

507.8 (old numbering) Rule removed. A player is now allowed two kick the ball more than once.

507.19 and 507.20 No rule change. Clarification of terms: The wording 'passive play' is used during play and 'delaying play' when play is interrupted.

507.20 Rule change. It's an offence to play systematically passive behind the imaginary extended goal line instead of behind the goal cage.

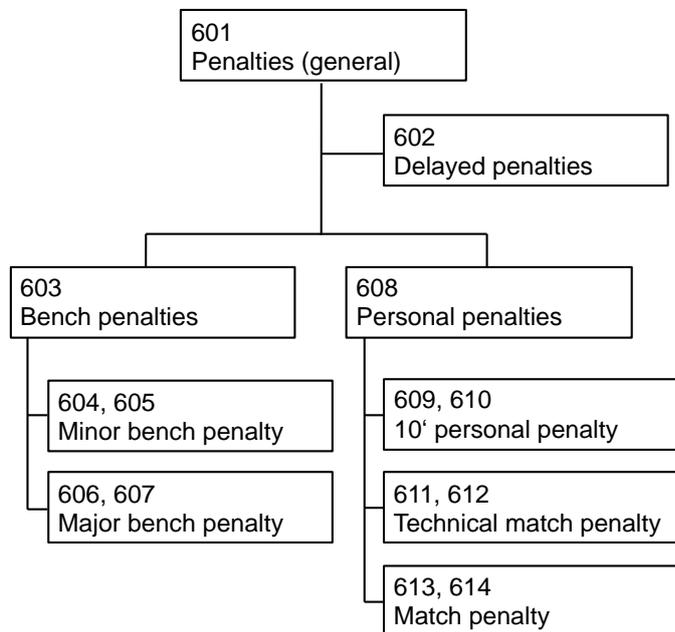
507.22 New rule. Change due to the rule change that play is resumed with a free hit after a delayed penalty.

508.3 Rule change. The goalkeeper shall be in the goalkeeper area when a penalty shot starts.

508.4 Clarification. A penalty shot is over when the ball crosses the imaginary extended goal line.

Chapter 6

General changes in 602-604 to make the whole chapter more logically structured:



605.1 No rule change. Including hits against the opponent's body that was not covered in the rule before. (adaption to practice)

605.13 Rule change. A field player should only be penalised when the offence is committed in order to gain a considerable advantage, e.g., not when slipping and briefly touching the floor with the hand while playing the ball.

605.21 Clarification. Defining late after intermission.

605.25 Rule change. A player does not have to pick up a broken stick from the rink until play is interrupted. However, a player is still not allowed to participate in play with a broken stick or without a stick.

611-614 The match penalties are simplified by having only two different levels: Technical match penalty and Match penalty. The Technical match penalty covers offences of a more technical nature e.g. non-approved sticks, too much hook and when a player is not noted in the match record. The Technical match penalty shall, besides the accompanying major bench penalty and the suspension for the rest of the match, not lead to any further punishment for the player.

The new Match penalty consists of both the offences leading to the old Match penalty 2 and 3. Besides the accompanying major bench penalty and the suspension for the rest of the match, all match penalties shall lead to suspension from the following match in the same competition. The administrating authority decides the conditions and routines regarding possible further punishment of the offences leading to a Match penalty.

The background of this change is that several National Associations have requested that match penalties should be simplified. There is also a vast difference in how further punishment regarding match penalties are handled juridically in different countries and therefore there is a need for possible adaption.

Chapter 7

702.1 Clarification. Defining an own goal.