



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

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Glove Dimensions Headline Ice Hockey Rules Changes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (May 16, 2005) — Rule changes pertaining to player equipment and penalties headline four revisions approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Ice Hockey Rules Committee at its April 17-18 meeting in Indianapolis. The rules subsequently were approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The dimensions of the goalkeeper's blocker and catching glove have been modified to be consistent with the measurements of other governing bodies.

Rule 3-3-c now states, "The protective padding attached to the back or forming a part of the goalkeeper's blocker glove shall not exceed 9 inches in width at any point, nor shall it exceed 17 inches in length."

Previously, goalkeeper gloves could not exceed 8 inches in width or 16 inches in length.

Ray Streicher, chairman of the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee, said that the rule change is due in part to the lack of gloves being manufactured with the NFHS' current dimensions.

"This rule change will make the NFHS requirement in line with or less restrictive than other governing bodies, such as USA Hockey and the NCAA," Streicher said. "It will make it easier for players to buy the correct gloves."

The rules book was also amended to list the blocker glove and catching glove separately.

Rule 4-3-d was added as an extension of the five-penalty rule passed in 2004, which stated that "any player who incurs five penalties, any combination of minors, majors or misconducts in the same

game, shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.” Now, any player who incurs two major penalties in the same game will be assessed a game misconduct penalty and subsequently will be removed from the game.

Players who do not comply with Rule 3-4-a, which deals with protective equipment, will now be assessed a misconduct penalty. Also, the rule, which states that “equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn,” now applies to “padded hockey pants/hockey pants,” as well.

Hockey pants were added to the list of recommended equipment after it became apparent that some players were wearing “breezers,” or hockey pants with snaps or slits along the side.

“The committee was concerned with pants being worn that had zippers or Velcro opened, or even intentionally ripped,” Streicher said. “Making hockey pants part of the recommended equipment ensures that players will wear them correctly.”

A statement regarding mouth protectors was added to the ice hockey rules book. All NFHS sports that require mouth protectors must now carry the following statement:

“A dental guard is a tooth and mouth protector (intraoral) which shall include an occlusal (protecting and separating the biting surfaces) and a labial (protecting the teeth and supporting structures) portion and covers the posterior teeth with adequate thickness. It is recommended that the protector be properly fitted: 1) Constructed from a model made from an impression of the individual’s teeth or 2) Constructed and fitted to the individual by impressing the teeth into the tooth and mouth protector itself.”

Ice hockey is played by 36,184 boys in 1,467 high schools nationwide, according to the 2003-04 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS. Additionally, 6,931 girls in 404 high schools nationwide participate in ice hockey.

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