



2021-25 PLAYING RULE CHANGE SUMMARY

The following is a summary of rule changes adopted by the USA Hockey Board of Directors on June 12, 2021. These changes will go into effect starting with the 2021-22 playing season through the 2024-25 playing season.

YOUTH EDITION RULE CHANGES

Rule #	Rule	Description
All	All	Transitioned all gender specific references to gender neutral language.
Preface	Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect	Added the Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect. Updates have been made to reflect changes made in the rules for consistency and accuracy.
Preface	Code of Conduct	Rename "On-Ice Officials Code of Conduct" to "Game Officials Code of Conduct."
Preface	Zero Tolerance	Update "Zero Tolerance" Policy to version adopted June 2020.
Preface	Preface	Adds New Standardized Discipline Policy that establishes procedure and recommended penalty standards for match penalties.
102(b)	Dimensions of Rink	Recommends boards to be white in color to better establish advertising guidelines.
102(c & d)	Dimensions of Rink	Better defines the material and location of the shielding enclosing the rink.
106(a)	Player's Bench	Better defines the use of shielding to protect spectators around the players' bench area.
107(a)	Penalty Bench	Better defines the use of shielding to protect spectators around the penalty bench area.
108(a)	Timekeepers Bench	Adds new Rule 108 "Timekeepers Bench" to establish specifications for the area where the Timekeeper sits.
109	Signal and Timing Devices	Moves to Rule 109.
201(b)	Composition of Teams	Adds language from Glossary "Team Personnel" pertaining to players who are unable to play into this rule.
201(c)	Composition of Teams	Specifies prohibited actions for a suspended Team Official.
204	Playing Line-Up and Substitution of Players	Change title to "Playing Line-up and Substitution of Players." Includes language pertaining to substitution of players to more clearly distinguish between player substitutions and goalkeeper substitutions.
204(c)	Playing Line-Up and Substitution of Players	Eliminates requirement of having to place a substitute player on the penalty bench for Major and Match penalties in Adult classifications ONLY. Allows player from the bench to return to the ice when the penalty expires.
205	Substitution of Goalkeepers	Change title to "Substitution of Goalkeepers" and more clearly defines rules specific to goalkeeper substitutions.
206(d)	Injured Players	Deletes old language that no longer applies and clarifies placement of substitute player on penalty bench.
301(b)	Sticks	Provides for taller players to use longer stick (65").
304(a)	Protective Equipment	Changes "players" to "skaters to be consistent with Rule 201. Skaters plus goalkeepers = players.
304(e)	Protective Equipment	Cleans up language to more clearly distinguish between skaters and goalkeepers and eliminates the Adult exception that allows them to replace helmet and continue play. Stoppage now required at all levels for removed helmet.
304(g)	Protective Equipment	Adds new (g) that recommends all players wear a neck laceration protector that covers as much of neck area as possible.

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Rule #	Rule	Description
401(b)	Penalties	Calls for a player to be assessed a game misconduct after 4 penalties in the same game and a coach receiving a game suspension when team accumulates 12 penalties during same game.
401(c)	Penalties	Establishes guidelines for what is allowable in interacting with their team for a player or coach who has been suspended.
402 (Note)	Minor Penalties	Establishes shorter minor penalty recommendations for periods less than 20 minutes in length (Excluding Adults). For periods 12-minutes or less the minor penalty length shall be 1:00. The minor penalty time shall be 1:30 for more than 12 and less than 17-minute periods and 2:00 for periods 17-minutes in length or greater.
403	Major Penalties	Updates major penalty language to reflect changes that require a game misconduct penalty to be assessed with major penalties.
403(a)	Major Penalties	Provides Affiliates or local governing bodies the option to pro-rate length of major penalties based on length of period (Excluding Adults).
403(d)	Major Penalties	Establishes that Adults do not need to place an additional player on penalty bench for a major penalty and that they can add a player from the bench when penalty expires.
404(Note)	Misconduct Penalties	Provides Affiliates or local governing bodies the option to pro-rate length of misconduct penalties based on length of period (Excluding Adults).
404(c)	Misconduct Penalties	Adds language that more clearly defines the unacceptable actions of a coach/player who has been assessed a game misconduct.
405(d)	Match Penalties	Adds language that more clearly defines the unacceptable actions of a coach/player who has been assessed a match penalty.
405(a)	Match Penalties	Provides Affiliates or local governing bodies the option to pro-rate length of match penalties based on length of period (Excluding Adults).
405(a)	Match Penalties	Establishes that Adults do not need to place an additional player on penalty bench for a match penalty and that they can add a player from the bench when penalty expires.
405(c) Note	Match Penalties	Clarifies the timing required for submission of a game report to establish consistency with other rules.
405(c)	Match Penalties	Establishes the minimum suspension for a match penalty as one full game and that the next game on the schedule of that team must be included in any suspension.
405(c)	Match Penalties	Updates language to reflect the Standardized Discipline Policy included in Preface.
407(b)	Goalkeeper Penalties	Clarifies the guidelines for a "Temporary" Goalkeeper and specifies who must replace a goalkeeper if removed from the game by penalty.
409(a)	Calling of Penalties	Calls for a face-off to take place in end zone of offending team when a penalty is assessed that results in time being placed on the penalty clock. Exceptions to this rule is covered in Rule 612(b).
410(c)	Supplementary Discipline	Updates language to reflect the Standardized Discipline Policy included in Preface.
411(b) Note	Progressive Suspensions	Clarifies the timing required for submission of a game report to establish consistency with other rules.
411(c)	Progressive Suspensions	Adds new (c) that establishes progressive suspensions for coaches who receive their 2 nd game misconduct for Abuse of Officials in same season (3 games) and 3 rd game misconduct for Abuse of Officials in same season (suspended until hearing).
501(a)	Appointment of Officials	Allows 4-Official system to be used at the 14 & Under age classification.
501(c)	Appointment of Officials	Allows local leagues/areas to assign numbers to officials and that required visors cannot be altered.

Rule #	Rule	Description
503(c.11)	Linesman	Adds new (11) that clarifies any official is allowed to stop play if helmet comes off player or goalkeeper.
#65B NEW 601(b)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Adds in specific language pertaining to banging the boards on the bench that identifies doing so to celebrate a legal or illegal body check is deemed to be unsportsmanlike conduct.
601(c,d,e)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	More clearly identifies specific actions and places them into Misconduct, Game Misconduct or Match penalty option categories.
601(d.1)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Allows the official to assess a game misconduct for 2 nd incident involving verbal abuse by team official without assessing another bench minor provided the abuse is clearly a continuation of initial incident.
601(e.2)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Clarifies actions considered to be critically detrimental.
601(e.3)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Removes term "offensive" from hateful, discriminatory language.
601(e,3)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Incorporates the President's Directive on Hateful/Discriminatory Language under the Match Penalty rule.
601(e) Note	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Clarifies the timing required for submission of a game report to establish consistency with other rules.
601(f)	Abuse of Officials and Other Misc.	Adds vaping to actions deemed prohibited under this rule and replaces bench minor with a game misconduct penalty for violation.
* 602	Attempt to Injure or Recklessly Endangers an Opponent	Changes references to "deliberate injury" to "recklessly endangers" to better allow officials to judge the action that occurs instead of trying to determine whether an injury has occurred. Removed similar language from old Rule 601(f.2) to avoid duplication.
603	Boarding	Incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect into Boarding rule and incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties.
604	Body Checking (Competitive Contact Categories)	Removes references to "Non-Check Adult Classifications" in the title and the rule.
604	Body Checking (Competitive Contact Categories)	Incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect into this rule and incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
606	Butt-Ending	Replaces reference to "injury" with "recklessly endangers" or "reckless endangerment".
607	Charging	Incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect into Charging rule and incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties.
608	Checking from Behind	Incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect into Check from Behind rule and incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties.
609	Cross-Checking	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
610(b)	Delaying the Game	Adds note that specifies the goalkeeper can only cover the puck while in the "act of playing goal" (see Glossary).
611	Elbowing	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
* 612(b)	Face-Off Locations	Calls for an end zone face-off in defending zone of penalized team except for when the stoppage of play is caused by the non-offending team.

Rule #	Rule	Description
612(c)	Face-off Locations	Allows for attack zone face-off any time an attacking team attempts a shot on goal and puck goes out of play off of the posts, boards or glass.
617(c)	Goals and Assists	Adds language that clarifies a goal shall be disallowed as a result of actions by an attacking team that propels the puck into the goal by any means other than the stick.
617(c)	Goals and Assists	Adds language from Casebook regarding a goal cannot be scored if the scoring team has an illegal player on the ice or the puck entered the zone illegally.
618(a) Note	Handling the Puck with the Hands	Adds note that establishes the goal crease extends to the top of the cross-bar.
619	Head-Butting	Replaces reference to "injury" with "recklessly endangers" or "reckless endangerment."
620	Head Contact	Incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect into Charging rule and incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties.
621	High Sticks	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
* 621(d)	High Sticks	Eliminates restriction on slapshots at 10 & under age classification and below.
622(c)	Holding an Opponent	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties.
623	Hooking	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
* 624(b)	Icing the Puck	Prohibits all Youth levels of play to legally ice the puck during shorthanded situations. Only exceptions are High School and Adult classifications.
624(d)	Icing the Puck	Removes language referencing boarding, charging or roughing as to not limit penalty options.
626	Interference By or With Spectators	Change title to: "Interference By or With Spectators."
626	Interference By or With Spectators	Moves sub-section (c) to Rule 601(d.6) for physically interfering with a spectator.
627	Kicking Opponent or Puck	Replaces reference to "injury" with "recklessly endangers" or "reckless endangerment."
628	Kneeing	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
630	Offside	Corrects proper grammar for terms "offside" and "onside."
* 630(d)	Offside	Eliminates tag-up offside at all Youth levels of play. Immediate offside is now applied at all levels except High School and Adult classifications.
634	Slashing	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
634(c)	Slashing	Clarifies the penalty options to be assessed for a player who swings their stick during an altercation.
636(f)	Start of Games and Time of Match/Time-Outs	Changes "players" to "skaters to be consistent with Rule 201. Skaters + goalkeeper = players.
637(a)	Throwing Stick/Object	Clarifies penalty options for throwing objects in the direction of the puck.
638	Tied Games	Adds reference and guidance for management of shoot-outs.
639	Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing	Incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Establishes minimum penalty for Slew Footing as major plus game misconduct. Adds Match penalty option.

Rule #	Rule	Description
640	Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)	Incorporate language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect into rule and incorporates "reckless endangerment" terminology for assessment of major plus game misconduct or match penalties. Adds Match penalty option.
640(a) Note	Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)	Adds note that mandates that officials strictly enforce contact after the whistle, and especially scrum situations, and to assess additional penalties for aggressors in these situations.
640(d)	Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)	Adds new sub-section (d) from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect that establishes a penalty for delivering a body check with no effort to gain possession of the puck and the stick is above the knees.
640(e)	Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)	Adds new sub-section (e) from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect that establishes a penalty for delivering a body check to an opponent who is already physically engaged.
640(f)	Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)	Adds new sub-section (f) that specifies a goalkeeper shall be penalized for body checking an opponent.
Glossary	Act of Playing Goal	Adds Glossary definition for "Act of Playing Goal" and is defined as: Any action by the goalkeeper that prevents the puck from entering the goal, or prevents an immediate scoring opportunity within the goalkeeper's privileged area.
Glossary	Age Classifications	Removes description of each age group (i.e. Squirt) and adds in 15 Only Tier I age classification.
Glossary	Angling	Adds new Glossary definition for "Angling" and is defined as: A legal defensive skill used to direct/control the puck carrier to an area that closes the gap and/or creates an opening that is too small for the puck carrier to advance.
Glossary	Body Checking	Incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect to more completely define legal body checking.
Glossary	Collision	Adds new Glossary definition for "Collision" and is defined as: Occurs when players maintain their established position on the ice. A player shall not be penalized if the intention is to play the puck and in so doing collides with an opponent. No player is required to move out of the way of an oncoming player to avoid contact.
Glossary	Competitive Contact	Changes "Body Contact" to "Competitive Contact" and incorporates language from Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play and Respect to more completely define competitive contact.
#BB Glossary	Contact with the Puck	Establishes first level of involvement with the puck as "Contact with the Puck" and is defined as: The last skater or goalkeeper to have touched the puck (puck touch). This includes a puck that is deflected off a player or any part of their equipment.
#BB Glossary	Control of the Puck	Establishes 3 rd level of involvement with the puck as "Control of the Puck" and is defined as: The skater or goalkeeper that, in the opinion of the official, has "possession of the puck" and is guiding the puck in any desired direction. "Contact with the puck" is not considered "control of the puck." A player in "possession of the puck" may also immediately establish "control of the puck". A skater considered to be in "control of the puck" is eligible to be body checked and/or engage in competitive contact.

Rule #	Rule	Description
Glossary	Late Body Check	<p>Adds new Glossary definition for “Late Body Check” and is defined as: A late check is when a player delivering the check has an opportunity to avoid contact, or minimize contact, once it is realized the opponent no longer has control of the puck.</p> <p>The concept of “finishing the check” is an unacceptable action as it is one that is meant to intimidate or punish the opponent with no intent, or possibility, to gain possession of the puck. The responsibility is on the player delivering the check to avoid forceful contact (minimize impact) to a vulnerable or defenseless player who is no longer in control of the puck.</p>
Glossary	Physical Engagement	<p>Adds new Glossary definition for “Physical Engagement” and is defined as: Two players who are in pursuit of the puck are allowed to use competitive contact provided that possession of the puck remains the sole objective of the two players. This includes opposing players competing for the puck in front of the goal or along the boards.</p>
Glossary	Possession of the Puck	<p>Establishes 2nd level of involvement with the puck as “Possession of the Puck” and defined as: Placing your stick on the puck in an effort to establish control or to deliberately direct the puck with any part of the body. The last player to have intentionally played the puck is considered to have “possession of the puck.” A player may be in “possession of the puck” without establishing “control of the puck.” However, a player must first gain “possession of the puck” prior to being considered in “control of the puck.” A player considered to be in “possession of the puck” is NOT eligible to be body checked and/or engage in competitive contact.</p> <p>A skater attempts to gain “possession of the puck” by using the stick, and then body, in an effort to establish “control of the puck” or prevent an opponent from maintaining or gaining “control of the puck.”</p> <p>A skater considered to be “attempting to gain possession of the puck” is eligible to body check an opponent in “control of the puck” and/or engage in competitive contact.</p>
Glossary	Recklessly Endangers (Reckless Endangerment)	<p>Adds Glossary definition for “Recklessly Endangers” to be used as criteria for assessing major or match penalties instead of injury. Defined as: Engaging in conduct, without regard to the consequences, which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to an opponent.</p>
Glossary	Team Official	<p>Changes to “Team Official” and removes language pertaining to players who are unable to play.</p>
Glossary	Vulnerable or Defenseless	<p>Adds Glossary definition for “Vulnerable or Defenseless” and is defined as: A skater is considered to be in a vulnerable or defenseless position when they are unaware, unprepared or unsuspecting of an impending body check and/or competitive contact.</p>

#3B

Note: This document is a brief summary of playing rule changes and does not reflect the actual language used in the official rules. The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference to the rule changes. For specific language related to each rule, please see the 2021-25 USA Hockey Official Playing Rules Book.

QUESTIONS

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**PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #151 AMENDED (SEE PROPOSALS #152 & #153)
PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY PRC**

RULE : Preface

**CURRENT
RULE READS**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add New

USA Hockey Standardized Discipline Policy – Match Penalties

USA Hockey has established a ~~minimum~~ suspension ~~requirement~~ range recommendations for match penalties. These ~~minimum~~ suspensions ranges shall serve as a means to create consistency in the application of suspensions involving players or team officials assessed match penalties. The following procedure shall be followed by the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate in each instance when a match penalty is assessed.

(Note) Any match penalty assessed under Rule 601(f.1) (Physical Assault of Official) is excluded from this policy. Original jurisdiction in any hearing resulting from a match penalty assessed under Rule 601(f.1) (Physical Assault of Official) shall reside with the Affiliate and is governed by USA Hockey's "Resolutions of Disputes, Arbitration and Suspensions" section of the current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

When a match penalty has been assessed, the official(s) will submit the required incident report to the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate. The proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate will designate an individual who shall review the report and make a preliminary determination of one of the following:

1.) The incident report is accurate and the proper application of the rule(s) has been implemented. The action warrants the ~~minimum~~ suspension as outlined in the policy. The offending party is then notified of this finding and offered the opportunity to accept the ~~minimum~~ suspension or ~~appeal~~ reject the decision and request a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the hearing shall be offered in accordance Playing Rule 405(c) and with Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules).

(Note) If the offending party requests a hearing under this section, the hearing body may, as a result of that hearing, reduce the ~~minimum~~ suspension, maintain the ~~minimum~~ suspension or increase the suspension imposed.

-or-

~~2.)~~ 2.) The incident report was determined to be inaccurate (mis-application of the rule(s) or wrong player identified), in which case the matter shall be turned over to the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate for further review.

-or-

~~3.)~~ 3.) The incident report is accurate and the proper application of the rule(s) has been implemented. However, the action and/or history warrants further disciplinary review. The proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate shall notify the offending party that a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Playing Rule 405(c) and Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules).

In all instances where a player or team official has been suspended for a period of time as a result of a match penalty, the player or team official shall be prohibited from participating in all USA Hockey activities for the length of the suspension. The required game(s) suspensions shall include the next regularly scheduled games that appear on the schedule of their team at the time of the incident. A player or team official who is rostered on multiple USA Hockey registered teams must serve the suspension in full before they are permitted to participate on any other USA Hockey registered team, unless otherwise specified by the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate.

For the purpose of this policy, there shall be ~~four~~ three levels of standardized ~~minimum~~ suspension. They are:

Level 1 – Match penalties assessed under the below rules ~~require a minimum~~ have a recommended range of a 6 - 10 Game Suspension

- Rule 305(b) Dangerous Equipment
- Rule 601(f) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct (*This includes all match penalties assessed under this rule except 601(f.1) Physical Assault of an Official*)
- Rule 602(a) Attempt to Injure/Deliberate Injury of Opponent
- ~~Rule 633(a or b) Refusing to Start Play~~

Level 2 – Match penalties assessed under the below rules ~~require a minimum~~ have a recommended range of an 4 - 8 Game Suspension

- Rule 603(c) Boarding
- Rule 606(b) Butt-Ending
- Rule 607(e) Charging
- Rule 608(c) Checking from Behind
- Rule 619(b) Head Butting
- Rule 620(c) Head Contact
- Rule 634(d) Slashing (Swinging Stick During Altercation)
- Rule 635(b) Spearing

Level 3 – Match penalties assessed under the below rules ~~require a minimum~~ have a recommended range of a 3 - 5 Game Suspension

Rule 601(e.3) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct – Hateful/Discriminatory Language

- Rule 604(e) Body Checking- Competitive Contact Category
- Rule 609(c) Cross-Checking
- Rule 611(c) Elbowing
- Rule 615(c) Fighting (Helmet Removal)**
- Rule 621(c) High Sticks
- Rule 622(c) Holding an Opponent
- Rule 623(c) Hooking
- Rule 627(b) Kicking Opponent or Puck
- Rule 628(c) Kneeing

Rule 633(a or b) Refusing to Start Play

- Rule 634(c) Slashing
- Rule 639(c) Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing
- Rule 640(e) Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

Level 4 – Match penalties assessed under the below rules require a minimum of a 3 Game Suspension

- ~~Rule 615(c) Fighting (Helmet Removal)~~

**Committee
Recommendation:**

APPROVE AS AMENDED BY PRC

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #20 PROPOSED AMENDMENT FROM PRC (SEE ALSO #12)	
RULE : 201 Composition of Teams	
CURRENT RULE READS	PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Amend to Read
<p>(a) A team must start a game with a minimum of six players. Any time that a team has been reduced to less than four players, the game shall be declared a forfeit.</p> <p>A maximum of 20 players, in which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in the game.</p> <p>(b) Each team shall designate on the scoresheet a Head Coach prior to the start of the game. The Head Coach shall be in control of and responsible for the actions of all team personnel, including players.</p> <p>A team may have up to four Team Officials on the players' bench. Only players in uniform and properly rostered Team Officials may occupy the players' bench.</p> <p>If at any time during the game, through penalties, illness, or any other reasons, there are no Team Officials on the players' bench to be in control of and responsible for the team, the game shall continue provided there is adult supervision on the bench. If no adult supervision is available, the referee shall suspend the game and submit a report to the proper authorities.</p> <p>(c) Any Team Official serving a suspension penalty may not sit near the bench of his team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of his team.</p>	<p>(a) A team must start a game with a minimum of six players. Any time that a team has been reduced to less than four players, the game shall be declared a forfeit.</p> <p>A maximum of 20 players, in which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in the game.</p> <p>(b) Each team shall designate on the scoresheet a Head Coach prior to the start of the game. The Head Coach shall be in control of and responsible for the actions of all team personnel, including players.</p> <p>A team may have up to four Team Officials on the players' bench. Only players in uniform and properly rostered Team Officials may occupy the players' bench.</p> <p>A player or goalkeeper on the team roster who is unable to play (other than through suspension), may be on the team bench without being considered a Team Official if he is wearing the team jersey and all required head and face protective equipment. However, this player must not be included on the game sheet as an eligible player.</p> <p>If at any time during the game, through penalties, illness, or any other reasons, there are no Team Officials on the players' bench to be in control of and responsible for the team, the game shall continue provided there is adult supervision on the bench. If no adult supervision is available, the referee shall suspend the game and submit a report to the proper authorities.</p> <p>(c) Any Team Official serving a suspension penalty may not sit near the bench of his team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of his team.</p>
Committee Recommendation:	APPROVE AS AMENDED BY PRC

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #40A

RULE : 401 Penalties

CURRENT RULE READS

No Change to (a)

(b) Any player, except in Adult age classifications, who receives five penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty. Any Adult player who receives five penalties in the same game shall be immediately ejected for the remainder of the game with no further suspension.

Any Head Coach whose team, except in Adult age classifications, receives 15 or more penalties during one game shall be suspended for the next scheduled game of that team.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add new (c)

No Change to (a)

(b) Any player, except in Adult age classifications, who receives five penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty. Any Adult player who receives five penalties in the same game shall be immediately ejected for the remainder of the game with no further suspension.

Any Head Coach whose team, except in Adult age classifications, receives 15 or more penalties during one game shall be suspended for the next scheduled game of that team.

(c) For any Team Official or Player serving a suspension for a prior game misconduct violation or disciplinary suspension, the suspension will commence 45 minutes prior to the start of each game and conclude 30 minutes following the conclusion of each game.

The Team Official or Player serving the suspension shall be prohibited from:

- (a) having any interaction, involvement or communication "in person", electronically or otherwise with the team**
- (b) being present in the locker room**
- (c) being on or near the bench of their team**

Any violation of this Rule may result in supplementary discipline and may subject such Team Official or Player to further disciplinary proceedings.

Committee Recommendation:

APPROVE

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #40B

RULE : 404 Misconduct Penalties

CURRENT RULE READS

No Change to (a) or (b)

(c) If any Team Official is assessed a game misconduct penalty, he may not remain near the bench of his team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of his team.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add new (d)

No Change to (a) or (b)

(c) If Any Team Official or player who is assessed a game misconduct penalty, he may not remain near the bench of his ~~his~~ **their** team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of his ~~his~~ **their** team **for the balance of the game in which the game misconduct penalty has been issued.**

Committee Recommendation:

APPROVE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS PERTAINING TO PENALTY TIME LENGTH

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #34 AMENDED	
RULE : 402 Minor Penalties	
CURRENT RULE READS	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
<p><i>(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of minor penalties to no less than one and one-half minutes for games under their jurisdiction where the period length is reduced to 15 minutes or less.</i></p> <p>(a) For a “MINOR PENALTY,” any player, other than a goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for two minutes during which time no substitute shall be permitted.</p> <p>(b) For a “BENCH MINOR” penalty one player shall be ruled off the ice for a period of two minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted. Any non-penalized player of the team who was on the ice at the time of the infraction, except the goalkeeper, may be designated to serve the penalty by the Manager or Coach through the playing captain, and such player shall promptly take his place on the penalty bench.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Change (c) thru (f)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AND HIGHSCHOOL</p> <p><i>(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of minor penalties to no less than one and one-half minutes for games under their jurisdiction where the period length is reduced to 15 minutes or less. The length of minor penalties shall be pro-rated for the following:</i></p> <p><i>Period Length: 12 minutes or less – 1:00 minor penalty</i> <i>Period Length: 13 More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 1:30 minor penalty</i> <i>Period Length: 18-17-20 minutes – 2:00 minor penalty</i></p> <p><u><i>All minor and bench minor penalties in the Adult classifications shall be 2:00 in length.</i></u></p> <p>(a) For a “MINOR PENALTY,” any player, other than a goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for two minutes the designated minor penalty time during which time no substitute shall be permitted.</p> <p>(b) For a “BENCH MINOR” penalty one player shall be ruled off the ice for the designated minor penalty time a period of two minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted. Any non-penalized player of the team who was on the ice at the time of the infraction, except the goalkeeper, may be designated to serve the penalty by the Manager or Coach through the playing captain, and such player shall promptly take his place on the penalty bench.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Change (c) thru (f)</p>
Rationale:	Pro-rate minor penalty times according to the length of periods to get more kids on the ice and have less special teams play.
Committee Recommendation:	PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY YOUTH COUNCIL (EXCLUDE ADULTS)

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #36B AMENDED

RULE : Rule 403 Major Penalties

CURRENT RULE READS

(a) For the first "MAJOR PENALTY" in any one game, any player, except the goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for five minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted.

No Change (b) thru (d)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add New Note

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of major penalties for games under their jurisdiction according to the following period lengths:

Period Length: 12 minutes or less – 3:00 major penalty

Period Length: ~~13~~ More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 4:00 major penalty

Period Length: ~~18~~ 17-20 minutes – 5:00 major penalty

(a) For the first "MAJOR PENALTY" in any one game, any player, except the goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for five minutes, or the designated major penalty time, during which time no substitute shall be permitted.

No Change (b) thru (d)

Rationale:

Committee would prefer to allow local governing bodies have flexibility to adjust time based on period length to enhance participation.

Committee Recommendation:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY YOUTH COUNCIL (EXCLUDE ADULTS)

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #38B AMENDED

RULE : Rule 404 Misconduct Penalties

CURRENT RULE READS

(a) A "MISCONDUCT" penalty involves the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, from the game for a period of 10 minutes with immediate substitution taking place on ice. A player whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain on the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.

Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental minor penalty rule 402(f), when a player receives a minor penalty plus a misconduct or game misconduct penalty at the same time, the penalized team shall immediately place an additional non-penalized player, other than a goalkeeper, on the penalty bench and such player may not be changed.

In the case where a player receives a major plus misconduct or game misconduct penalty, unless immediate substitution is allowed under the coincidental major penalty rule 403(c), the penalized team shall place a substitute player on the penalty bench immediately (for

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add New Note

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of misconduct penalties for games under their jurisdiction according to the following period lengths:

Period Length: 12 minutes or less – 6:00 misconduct penalty

Period Length: ~~13~~ More than 12 but less than 17 minutes

– 8:00 misconduct penalty

Period Length: ~~18~~ 17-20 minutes – 10:00 misconduct penalty

(a) A "MISCONDUCT" penalty involves the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, from the game for a period of 10 minutes, or the designated misconduct penalty time, with immediate, substitution taking place on ice. A player whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain on the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #41B AMENDED

RULE : Rule 405 Match Penalties

CURRENT RULE READS

(a) A “MATCH” penalty involves the immediate removal of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game and a five minute time penalty shall be assessed.

(Note) For all “MATCH” penalties, regardless of when imposed, or prescribed additional penalties, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player or Team Official.

(For all Youth, High School and Girls’ Age Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall immediately place a substitute player on the penalty bench and such player shall not be changed.

(For Adult Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall place a substitute player on the penalty bench before the penalty expires. No other replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench upon expiration of the penalty. For violation of this rule a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution shall be imposed.

No Change (b) thru (e)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add New Note

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of major penalties for games under their jurisdiction according to the following period lengths:

Period Length: 12 minutes or less – 3:00 match penalty

Period Length: ~~13~~ More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 4:00 match penalty

Period Length: ~~18-17~~-20 minutes – 5:00 match penalty

(a) A “MATCH” penalty involves the immediate removal of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game and a **five minute, or the designated match,** time penalty shall be assessed.

(Note) For all “MATCH” penalties, regardless of when imposed, or prescribed additional penalties, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player or Team Official.

(For all Youth, High School and Girls’ Age Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall immediately place a substitute player on the penalty bench and such player shall not be changed.

(For Adult Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall place a substitute player on the penalty bench before the penalty expires. No other replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench upon expiration of the penalty. For violation of this rule a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution shall be imposed.

No Change (b) thru (e)

Rationale:	Committee would prefer to allow local governing bodies have flexibility to adjust time based on period length to enhance participation.
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Committee Recommendation:	PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY YOUTH COUNCIL (EXCLUDE ADULTS)
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PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #50

RULE : 411 Progressive Suspensions

CURRENT RULE READS

(Note) USA Hockey is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all participants. While the vast majority of players participate within the rules and respect the game and their opponents, USA Hockey recognizes the need to hold those players and coaches deemed to be repeat offenders accountable for their actions.

(a) Any player who receives their third major penalty during the same season for any combination of aggressive infractions listed below shall receive an additional three game suspension. For any player who receives their fourth major penalty in this category, the player shall receive an additional five-game suspension. Any player who receives their fifth major penalty in this category during the same season shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate). These designated game suspensions shall be in addition to any other suspensions imposed through the official playing rules. The aggressive infractions that fit into this category are:

- Rule 603 Boarding
- Rule 604 Body Checking (Body Contact categories)
- Rule 606 Butt-Ending
- Rule 607 Charging
- Rule 608 Checking From Behind
- Rule 609 Cross-Checking
- Rule 611 Elbowing
- Rule 619 Head-Butting
- Rule 620 Head Contact
- Rule 621 High Stick
- Rule 622 Holding an Opponent (Grabbing Facemask)
- Rule 627 Kicking
- Rule 628 Kneeing
- Rule 634 Slashing
- Rule 635 Spearing
- Rule 639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing
- Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

(Note) A separate progressive suspension rule for Fighting is covered under Rule 615(f) Fighting.

(b) Any team that receives three major penalties in the same game shall have its Head Coach suspended for the next game of that team. For any subsequent game where that team receives three or more major penalties in the same game, the Head Coach shall serve a three-game suspension. For a third game with three or more major penalties by the same team during the same season, the Head Coach shall be suspended indefinitely until a

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add new (c)

(Note) USA Hockey is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all participants. While the vast majority of players participate within the rules and respect the game and their opponents, USA Hockey recognizes the need to hold those players and coaches deemed to be repeat offenders accountable for their actions.

(a) Any player who receives their third major penalty during the same season for any combination of aggressive infractions listed below shall receive an additional three game suspension. For any player who receives their fourth major penalty in this category, the player shall receive an additional five-game suspension. Any player who receives their fifth major penalty in this category during the same season shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate). These designated game suspensions shall be in addition to any other suspensions imposed through the official playing rules. The aggressive infractions that fit into this category are:

- Rule 603 Boarding
- Rule 604 Body Checking (Body Contact categories)
- Rule 606 Butt-Ending
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- Rule 608 Checking From Behind
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- Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

(Note) A separate progressive suspension rule for Fighting is covered under Rule 615(f) Fighting.

(b) Any team that receives three major penalties in the same game shall have its Head Coach suspended for the next game of that team. For any subsequent game where that team receives three or more major penalties in the same game, the Head Coach shall serve a three-game suspension. For a third game with three or more major penalties by the same team during the same season, the Head Coach shall be suspended indefinitely until a hearing

hearing has been conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate).

(Note) The role of the Official is to enforce all playing rules at all times and they are expected to strictly enforce playing rules that fall under the aggressive infraction category. Players and coaches must be held accountable for dangerous actions and the onus is on them to teach and play the game within the rules. Officials are required to submit a game report immediately following the game for any major penalty falling in the aggressive infraction category, game misconduct or match penalty that is assessed.

has been conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate).

(Note) The role of the Official is to enforce all playing rules at all times and they are expected to strictly enforce playing rules that fall under the aggressive infraction category. Players and coaches must be held accountable for dangerous actions and the onus is on them to teach and play the game within the rules. Officials are required to submit a game report immediately following the game for any major penalty falling in the aggressive infraction category, game misconduct or match penalty that is assessed.

(c) Any coach who receives their second game misconduct penalty in the same season for a violation of Rule 601 shall automatically receive an additional three game suspension.

Any coach who receives their third game misconduct penalty in the same season for a violation of Rule 601 shall automatically be suspended from USA Hockey activities until a hearing is conducted by the Proper Authority.

**Committee
Recommendation:**

APPROVE

**PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #65B NEW PROPOSAL FROM PRC TO REPLACE PROPOSALS
#63, #64, & #65**

RULE : 601 Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct

CURRENT RULE READS

No Change (a) or (b)

(c) A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who commits the following actions:

- (1) Persists in any conduct where they were previously assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (2) Using obscene, profane or abusive language to any person anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.
- (3) Intentionally knocking or shooting the puck out of the reach of an official who is retrieving it during a stoppage of play.
- (4) Not proceeding directly and immediately to the penalty bench or to the dressing room, after being penalized and ordered to do so by the officials (equipment shall be delivered to him by a teammate, if necessary).
- (5) Entering or remaining in the Referee's Crease, unless invited to do so.
- (6) Interfering in any non-physical manner with any Game Official including the Referee, Linesman, Timekeepers or Goal Judges in the performance of their duties.

(d) A misconduct or game misconduct, at the discretion of the Referee and based on severity, shall be assessed to any player who commits the following actions:

- (1) Touches or holds any official with his hand or stick.
- (2) Attempts to continue an altercation after being ordered to stop, or resists the linesman in stopping the altercation.
- (3) Intentionally bangs the boards or protective glass or goal frame with his stick or any other object at any time. If done in protest of an officials' decision, an additional minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall also be assessed.

(e) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who is guilty of the following actions:

- (1) Persists in any course of conduct for which he has previously been assessed a misconduct penalty (player)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Amend to Read,
Delete (d) and place actions into (c) and (e).
Re-letter sub-sections (e) thru (g)**

No Change (a) or (b)

(c) A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who commits the following actions:

- (1) Persists in any conduct where they were previously assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- (2) Using obscene, profane or abusive language to any person anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.
- (3) Intentionally knocking or shooting the puck out of the reach of an official who is retrieving it during a stoppage of play.
- (4) Not proceeding directly and immediately to the penalty bench or to the dressing room, after being penalized and ordered to do so by the officials (equipment shall be delivered to him by a teammate, if necessary).
- (5) Entering or remaining in the Referee's Crease, unless invited to do so.
- (6) Interfering in any non-physical manner with any Game Official including the Referee, Linesman, Timekeepers or Goal Judges **on-ice or off-ice official** in the performance of their duties.
- (7) **Touches or holds any official with his hand or stick.**
- (8) **Attempts to continue an altercation after being ordered to stop.**
- (9) **Intentionally bangs the boards or protective glass or goal frame with his stick or any other object at any time (when not done in protest of an official's decision).**
- (10) **Shoots or bats the puck outside of the playing area during a stoppage of play (when not done in protest of an official's decision or in the direction of a spectator).**

~~(d) A misconduct or game misconduct, at the discretion of the Referee and based on severity, shall be assessed to any player who commits the following actions:~~

- ~~(1) Touches or holds any official with his hand or stick.~~
- ~~(2) Attempts to continue an altercation after being ordered to stop, or resists the linesman in stopping the altercation.~~
- ~~(3) Intentionally bangs the boards or protective glass or goal frame with his stick or any other object at any time. If done in protest of an officials' decision, an additional~~

or bench minor penalty assessed to the team (Team Official).

(2) Uses an obscene gesture anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.

(3) Uses language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.

(4) Interferes in any physical manner with any game official, including off-ice officials, in performing their duties.

(5) A player who receives their second misconduct penalty (for any rule infraction) during the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty in lieu of the second misconduct penalty.

f) A match penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who commits the following actions:

(1) Deliberately inflicting physical harm, or attempting to do so, to any game official, including off-ice officials.

(Note) Any match penalty assessed under this rule must be reported via written game report by the officials to the USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief within 48 hours.

(2) Deliberately injuring, or attempting to do so, any opposing player or team official.

(3) Behaving in any manner that is critically detrimental to the conducting of the game, including spitting at an opponent, spectator, game or team official, or verbally threatening a Game Official, opposing Team Official or opposing player with physical harm.

No Change (g)

~~minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall also be assessed.~~

~~(e)~~ **(d)** A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who is guilty of the following actions:

(1) Persists in any course of conduct for which he has previously been assessed a misconduct penalty (player) or bench minor penalty assessed to the team (Team Official).

(2) Uses an obscene gesture anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.

~~(3) Uses language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.~~ **(Moved to New (e)) See Proposal #66**

(3) Bangs the boards, goal frame or protective glass in protest of an official's decision.

(4) Interferes in any physical manner with any ~~game on-ice official, including or~~ off-ice officials, in performing their duties, **including resisting the linesman during an altercation.**

(5) A player who receives their second misconduct penalty (for any rule infraction) during the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty in lieu of the second misconduct penalty.

(6) Shoots or bats the puck outside of the playing area during a stoppage of play when done in protest of an official's decision.

(7) Attempts to intimidate or physically contacts an on-ice or off-ice official by throwing a stick, water bottle, puck or any other piece of equipment in the general direction of a game official.

(8) Shoots the puck in the general direction of an on-ice official, or in the direction of a spectator during a stoppage of play.

(Note) A match penalty shall be assessed to any player who shoots the puck directly at an official or spectator in a manner that recklessly endangers the official or spectator under Rule 601(e.3).

~~(f)~~ **(e)** A match penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who commits the following actions:

(1) **Applies ~~to~~ deliberately physical force or attempts to** inflicting physical harm, ~~or attempting to do so,~~ to any game official, including off-ice officials.

~~(Note) Any match penalty assessed under this rule must be reported via written game report by the officials to the USA Hockey District Referee in Chief within 48 hours.~~

	<p>(2) Deliberately injuring, or attempting to do so, any opposing player or team official.</p> <p>(3) Behaving in any manner that is critically detrimental to the conducting of the game, including spitting at an opponent, spectator, game or team official, or verbally threatening or intimidating a Game Official with physical contact, opposing Team Official or opposing player with physical harm.</p> <p><i>(Note) Any match penalty assessed under this rule must be reported via written game report by the officials to the USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief within 48 hours.</i></p> <p>Re-letter (g) to (f).</p>
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<p>Committee Recommendation:</p>	<p>APPROVE AS PROPOSED BY PRC (Include Juniors)</p>
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PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #8B

RULE : Glossary

CURRENT RULE READS

Possession of the Puck

The last player or goalkeeper to make contact with the puck (puck touch). This includes a puck that is deflected off a player or any part of his equipment.

Possession and Control of the Puck

The player or goalkeeper that, in the opinion of the official, has control of the puck and is propelling the puck in a desired direction. A "puck touch" is not considered possession and control of the puck.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Amend to Read

Possession of Contact with the Puck

The last skater or goalkeeper to make contact with **have touched** the puck (puck touch). This includes a puck that is deflected off a player or any part of his equipment.

A player considered to be in "contact with the puck" is NOT eligible to be body checked and/or engage in competitive contact.

ADD NEW

Possession of the Puck

Placing your stick on the puck in an effort to establish control or to deliberately direct the puck with any part of the body. The last player to have intentionally played the puck is considered to have "possession of the puck". A player may be in "possession of the puck" without establishing "control of the puck". However, a player must first gain "possession of the puck" prior to being considered in "control of the puck".

A player considered to be in "possession of the puck" is NOT eligible to be body checked and/or engage in competitive contact.

A skater attempts to gain "possession of the puck" by using the stick, and then body, in an effort to establish "control of the puck" or prevent an opponent from maintaining or gaining "control of the puck."

A skater considered to be "attempting to gain possession of the puck" is eligible to body check an opponent in "control of the puck" and/or engage in competitive contact.

Possession and Control of the Puck

The player **skater** or goalkeeper that, in the opinion of the official, has control **"possession** of the puck" and is propelling **guiding** the puck in **any** desired direction. A "puck touch" **"Contact with the puck"** is not considered possession and "control of the puck". **A player in "possession of the puck" may also immediately establish "control of the puck".**

A skater considered to be in "control of the puck" is eligible to be body checked and/or engage in competitive contact.

		<i>(Note) This includes using the stick, skates or hands in directing the puck with purpose and will allow the player to maintain extended possession. It does not require the player to be in immediate contact with the puck (i.e. the puck does not need to be touching the stick to be considered in "control of the puck").</i>
Committee Recommendation:	APPROVE (Include JR)	

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #9		
RULE : Glossary		
CURRENT RULE READS	PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Amend to Read	
<i>Possession and Control of the Puck</i> The player or goalkeeper that, in the opinion of the official, has control of the puck and is propelling the puck in a desired direction. A "puck touch" is not considered possession and control of the puck.	<i>Possession and Control of the Puck</i> The player or goalkeeper that, in the opinion of the official, has control of the puck and is propelling the puck in a desired direction. A "puck touch" is not considered possession and control of the puck.	
Committee Recommendation:	DEFEAT	

PLAYING RULE PROPOSAL #10		
RULE : Glossary		
CURRENT RULE READS	PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Add New	
	<i>Recklessly Endangers (Reckless Endangerment)</i> Engaging in conduct, without regard to the consequences, which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to an opponent.	
Committee Recommendation:	APPROVE (Include JR)	