



**SECTION 11
MALTREATMENT**

Rule 11.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike Conduct includes, but is not limited to, any player or team official challenging or disputing an official's decision, or displaying any other form of unsportsmanlike behaviour towards any person.

This may include, but is not limited to, the following actions, which will be penalized at the discretion of the Referee:

- i. Deliberately spraying snow from their skates into an opponent's face (e.g. "spraying" the goaltender).
- ii. Shooting the puck at or near the goal after the whistle.
- iii. Shooting the puck out of the playing area, after the whistle.
- iv. Diving or embellishing in order to draw a penalty.
- v. Engaging in any inappropriate or unwanted discussion with the referee, following the game.
- vi. A team official who does not remain on their players' bench during the game, per Rule 1.9 – Players' Bench.
- vii. Any other display of unsportsmanlike behaviour that would be considered disorderly or contrary to the spirit of the game.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.1 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.1 (a) A Minor penalty will be assessed to any player who is guilty of Unsportsmanlike Conduct, as outlined above.

11.1 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

11.1 (c) No Match penalty may be assessed for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

11.1 (d) A Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player who:

- i. Persists in Unsportsmanlike Conduct, after receiving a Minor penalty under Rule 11.1 (a).
- ii. Distracts a player taking a Penalty Shot or a goaltender defending a Penalty Shot.
- iii. Intentionally knocks or shoots the puck out of reach of an Official who is retrieving it.
- iv. Does not proceed immediately and directly to the Penalty Bench when they have been penalized.
- v. Enters or remains in the Referee's crease while the Referee is reporting to or consulting with any game official.

Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Minor penalty under this rule before assessing a Misconduct penalty, but may assess either penalty initially.

Note 2: A team official may not be assessed a Misconduct penalty under this rule.

11.1 (e) A Game Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who persists in Unsportsmanlike Conduct, after receiving a Minor penalty under Rule 11.1 (a) or a Misconduct penalty under Rule 11.1 (d).

Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Minor or Misconduct penalty under this rule before assessing a Game Misconduct penalty, but may assess either penalty initially.

Note 2: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Game Misconduct penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Rule 11.2 Disrespectful and Abusive Behaviour

"Disrespectful" is defined as words or actions deemed rude, unpleasant, inappropriate, or unprofessional and found to be offensive to others, but not rising to the level of conduct described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination. This also includes any behaviour intended to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty and is often of a personal nature.

"Abusive" is defined as targeted, persistent, or excessively profane words or actions that are intended to intimidate, threaten, belittle, or demean an individual, which is often of a personal nature, but does not rise to the level of conduct described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.2 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.2 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.2 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.2 (c) No Match penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.2 (d) A Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player who uses disrespectful or abusive words or actions towards the Referee or any other person.

11.2 (e) A Game Misconduct will be assessed:

i. To any player who persists in the use of disrespectful or abusive words or actions.

ii. To any team official who uses disrespectful or abusive words or actions to the Referee or any person.

Note 1: A Referee is not required to assess a Bench Minor or Misconduct penalty under this rule before assessing a Game Misconduct penalty.

Note 2: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Game Misconduct penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

11.2 (f) A Gross Misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who conducts themselves in a manner as to make a travesty of the game by using obscene, profane or threateningly abusive language, gestures or actions towards any person. Such actions may also be described as verbal or physical taunts or gestures that intend to humiliate, demean, belittle, cause offense to or harm the reputation of the person or group targeted.

Rule 11.3 Spitting

This rule is intended to address players or team officials who deliberately spit at or on any individual. Referees must be vigilant and ensure that players are not simply spitting on the ice but are directing this at another person, regardless of whether contact occurs.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.3 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.3 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.3 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.3 (c) A Match penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who deliberately spits on or at any individual.

Note 1: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Match penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

11.3 (d) No Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.3 (e) No Game Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

Rule 11.4 Discrimination

Any player or team official who engages in verbal taunts, insults, or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds will be assessed a **Gross Misconduct penalty**. Discriminatory grounds include the following, without limitation:

- Race, national or ethnic origin, skin colour, or language spoken;
- Religion, faith or beliefs;
- Age;
- Sex, sexual orientation or gender identity / expression;
- Marital or familial status;
- Genetic characteristics;
- Disability.

The Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report including full details and submitting the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Note 1: If an incident occurs that was not witnessed by the Officials and is reported to the Referee, the Referee will report the individual(s) to an appropriate member of each team's bench staff and will complete a Game Incident Report including full details and will submit the Report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

Note 2: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.1, 11.2 or 11.3 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4, the player, goaltender or team official must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

Rule 11.5 Physical Harassment of Officials

Physical harassment refers to any player or team official who, before, during or after a game:

- i. Threatens the well-being of a Referee, Linesperson or any Off-Ice Official.
- ii. Attempts to strike a Referee, Linesperson, or any Off-Ice Official.
- iii. Deliberately touches, holds, or pushes a Referee, Linesperson or Off-Ice Official; or
- iv. Deliberately strikes, trips or body checks a Referee, Linesperson or Off-Ice Official.

Note 1: If any behaviour described in Rule 11.5 includes behaviour described in Rule 11.4 – Discrimination, the individual must be penalized under Rule 11.4, in addition to any other penalties that individual might receive.

11.5 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.5 (b) No Major penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.5 (c) A Match penalty will be assessed to any player or team official who commits any act of physical harassment against an official.

Note 1: Where a player or team official has been assessed a Match penalty under this rule, the Referee will report the individual(s) by completing a Game Incident Report, including full details and submitting the report to the appropriate Member or League delegate.

11.5 (d) No Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.

11.5 (e) No Game Misconduct penalty may be assessed under this rule.