



Committee of Rink Hockey Referees

Playing the ball with skates

ARTICLE 22 - PLAYING THE BALL - SPECIFIC RULES

1. PLAYING OR SHOOTING THE BALL WITH THE STICK – REFEREEING PROCEDURES

1.1 Safeguarding what is established in paragraph 1 of Article 21 of these Rules, the ball may only be played with the stick, having in mind that – every time the player is out of the penalty area of both teams –he can stop the ball with her/his skates or with any part of her/his body, but never with the hand.

Previously, this rule has been ignored, instead, the way we had refereed it was “foot to ball is a foul”. To move us fully in line with the international rules, this rule will now be enforced as it is written.

While players still can’t kick the ball, they may now move their skates to stop the ball, so long as they are not in either of the penalty areas.

This is similar to the high stick rule that was brought in this season, where players can “control” but not “play” the ball with a high stick. In this case, players can “stop” the ball with skates or body, but not “play” it.

Stop (while outside of a penalty area) ALLOWED	Play NOT ALLOWED
Moving skates together to block a ball moving between the legs	Turn skate sideways to deflect the ball towards another player
Turning skate sideways to block the ball	With the ball between the player’s skates, knocking the ball forward with a skate towards their stick
While stood next to the boards, moving skate against the boards to block the ball.	While the ball is in the air, a player stops the ball with their chest, the ball falls to the ground and another player on the same team plays the ball with their stick
While the ball is in the air, a player stops the ball with their chest, the ball falls to the ground and the same player plays the ball with their stick	While the ball is in the air, a player stops the ball with their knee, the ball falls to the ground and another player on the same team plays the ball with their stick
While the ball is in the air, a player stops the ball with their knee, the ball falls to the ground and the same player plays the ball with their stick	

A deflection, where the player does not make any movement of the skate or body towards the ball, is not a foul, even if they gain control or the ball passes to another player. There must be a distinct motion that changes the direction of the ball.

Players still can’t use their hand to play or stop the ball.

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