

SECTION 11

# WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

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## RULE 100 WOMEN'S HOCKEY - AGE CATEGORIES

### 100.1. DEFINITION WOMEN'S HOCKEY AGE CATEGORIES

According to the IIHF Statutes and Bylaws, the Player eligibility and age categories are defined as follows:

#### Women's Hockey "Senior"- Age Category

Players participating in any IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship must be eligible to compete as a female athlete and be at least eighteen (18) years old by December 31 of the year in which the Championship Season ends.

Players who do not meet the minimum age requirements, but who will have their 16th or 17th birthday in the year in which the Championship Season ends, may participate if they have a signed an "Under-age" waiver as stipulated in IIHF Bylaw 10.6.2.

#### Women's Hockey "Under 18" and "Under-aged" Category

Players participating in any IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship must be eligible to compete as a female athlete and be no younger than fifteen (15) years of age, and no older than eighteen (18) years of age, by December 31 of the year in which the Championship Season ends. No "Under-age" waiver is permitted.

← For more information refer to IIHF Sport Regulations and IIHF Statutes & Bylaws.

## RULE 101 WOMEN'S HOCKEY – SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES

### 101.1. ILLEGAL HIT IN WOMEN'S HOCKEY

In Women's Hockey "bodychecking" is allowed when there is a clear intention of playing the puck or attempting to "gain possession" of the puck with the exception from the situation described in this rule.

If two (2) Players are in pursuit of the puck, they are reasonably allowed to push and lean into each other provided that "possession of the puck" remains the sole object of the two (2) Players.

**A player that makes an illegal hit on an opponent described in this rule will be assessed one of a:**

- (I) Minor Penalty (2')
- (II) Major Penalty (5') and automatic Game Misconduct Penalty
- (III) Match Penalty (MP)

If two (2) or more Players are competing for "possession of the puck", they are not allowed to use the boards to make contact with an opponent to eliminate her from the play, push her into the boards, or pin her along the boards.

A Player, who is stationary, is entitled to that area of the ice. It is up to the opponent to avoid body contact with such a Player. If that Player is stationed between the opponent and the puck, the opponent is obliged to skate around the stationary Player.

If a Player with the puck is skating directly at an opponent who is stationary, it is the obligation of the puck carrier to "avoid contact". But, if the puck carrier makes every effort to "avoid contact" and the opponent moves into the puck carrier, that opponent will be assessed at least a Minor Penalty (2') for an "illegal hit".

Players are allowed to "hold their ground" any time that they have established their position on the ice. No player is required to move out of the way of an oncoming player to avoid a collision.

Any move by a Player to step or glide into an opposing Player will be assessed at least a Minor Penalty (2') for an "illegal hit".

# WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

## RULE 102 WOMEN'S HOCKEY - SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT RULES

→ For more information refer to Appendix III – Ice Hockey Equipment



CAGE PROTECTION



FULL PROTECTION

### 102.1. FACIAL PROTECTION – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “SENIOR” – AGE CATEGORY

All Players in the "Senior" age category must wear a full-face protection (full-visor, or cage facial protection), properly fixed to the helmet.

→ [Rule 9.6 – Helmets.](#)

→ [Rule 9.7 – Facial Protection.](#)

Players without the mentioned protection are not allowed to participate in a game.

Younger Players in the “Under 18” age category who participate in the “Senior” age category must wear the protective equipment as specified and described for the “Under 18” age category.

### 102.2. FACIAL PROTECTION – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “UNDER 18” AND “UNDER-AGED” CATEGORY

All Players in the "U18" age category must wear a full-face protection (full-visor, or cage facial protection), properly fixed to the helmet.

→ [Rule 9.6 – Helmets.](#)

→ [Rule 9.7 – Facial Protection.](#)

Players without the mentioned protection are not allowed to participate in a game.

All Goalkeepers in this “Under 18” age category must wear a facemask constructed in such a way that neither a puck nor a stick blade can penetrate the openings.

### 102.3. MOUTHGUARD – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “SENIOR” – AGE CATEGORY

It is strongly recommended that all Players wear a mouthguard, preferably of the custom-made variety.

→ [Rule 9.13 – Mouthguard.](#)

The mouthguard is designed to protect the teeth and jaws from impact and may also serve to reduce the risk of concussions. It is recommended to wear this mouthguard in a compliant manner at all times when on the ice.

# WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

## 102.4. MOUTHGUARD – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “UNDER 18” AND “UNDER-AGED” CATEGORY

It is strongly recommended that all Players wear a mouthguard, preferably of the custom-made variety.

→ [Rule 9.13 – Mouthguard.](#)

The mouthguard is designed to protect the teeth and jaws from impact and may also serve to reduce the risk of concussions. It is strongly recommended that Players use a custom-made mouthguard. It is recommended to wear this mouthguard in a compliant manner at all times when on the ice.

## 102.5. NECK- AND THROAT PROTECTOR – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “SENIOR”– AGE CATEGORY

It is recommended that all Players wear a certified Neck- and Throat Protection.

→ [Rule 9.12 – Neck- and Throat Protector.](#)

A Goalkeeper is allowed to attach a throat protector to the chin of her facemask. It must be made of a material that will not cause injury.

## 102.6. NECK- AND THROAT PROTECTORS – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “UNDER 18” AND “UNDER-AGED” CATEGORY

All Players must wear a certified Neck- and Throat Protection.

→ [Rule 9.12 – Neck- and Throat Protector.](#)

A Goalkeeper is allowed to attach a throat protector to the chin of her facemask. It must be made of a material that will not cause injury.

## 102.7. HELMET / EAR-PROTECTION – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “SENIOR” – AGE CATEGORY

Players must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.

→ [Rule 9.6 – Helmets](#)

Players without the mentioned protection are not allowed to participate in a game.

## 102.8. HELMET / EAR-PROTECTION – WOMEN'S HOCKEY “UNDER 18” AND “UNDER-AGED” – AGE CATEGORY

Players must wear the ear-protection, attached to their helmets.

→ [Rule 9.6 – Helmets](#)

Players without the mentioned protection are not allowed to participate in a game.

## 102.9. PROCEDURE – NON-COMPLIANCE WITH PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

The On-ice officials will respond appropriately if a Player on the ice is wearing her protection equipment not in accordance with the rules (e.g., face protection not properly attached, etc.).

The On-ice officials will then take the offending Player to the appropriate Player's Bench and issue a warning to the Team through the Coach. The Game Officials shall also inform the other Team at the same time and warn them as well. Both teams are now warned that Players requested to wear the protection equipment properly.

The next Player found not to be wearing the protection equipment not in accordance with the rule shall be penalized with a ten (10) minute Misconduct Penalty.