

Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions

(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. Beginning with the 2014-15 playing season, the Progressive Suspensions rule will take effect nationally.

(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 627 Kicking
- Rule 628 Kneeing
- Rule 634 Slashing
- Rule 635 Spearing
- Rule 639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking
- 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 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.

Rule 615 Fighting

(a) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who engages in fighting. An additional minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who starts or instigates fighting. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who drops his stick and/or removes his glove(s) during an altercation and is not a participant in the original altercation. A game misconduct penalty shall be added if, in the judgment of the Referee, such player is deemed to be the instigator of a subsequent altercation. A minor, double minor or major plus game misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the Referee, shall be assessed to any player who, having been struck, continues the altercation by retaliating.

(Note) The Referee is provided very wide latitude in the penalties that he may impose under the rules, including Rule 601 "Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct" in an effort to discourage fighting. This is done intentionally to enable him to differentiate between the obvious degrees of responsibility of the participants either for starting the fighting or persisting in continuing the fighting.

(b) A major plus game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player involved in fighting off the playing surface, before, during or after the game.

(c) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player whose helmet/facemask comes off their head during an altercation.

A match penalty (*for all Youth, Girls'/Women's Classifications*) shall be assessed to any player who deliberately removes his (or opponent's) helmet/facemask prior to or during an altercation.

A game misconduct penalty (*for Adult Male Classifications*) shall be assessed to any player who deliberately removes his (or opponent's) helmet/facemask prior to or during an altercation.

(d) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goalkeeper who is the first to intervene in an altercation then in progress. This penalty is in addition to any other penalty incurred in the same incident.

(e) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who fails to move immediately and directly to their players' bench (or goal crease for a goalkeeper) when instructed to do so by the Referee during an altercation.

(f) Any player who receives a second major penalty for fighting with the same team during the same season shall receive a three-game suspension. For a third fighting major with the same team in the same season, the player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.