

CENTRAL VERMONT WOMEN'S
BROOM BALL ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

UPDATED OCTOBER 21, 2004; MARCH 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Recommended Facilities	Page 1
Article 1: The Rink	
Article 2: Face-Off Spots	
Article 3: Goal Crease	
Article 4: Goal Cages	
Article 5: Side & End Boards	
Article 6: Penalty Bench	
Article 7: Team Bench	
Section 2: Equipment	Pages 2-3
Article 1: Recommended/Required Equipment	
Article 2: The Ball	
Article 3: Brooms	
Article 4: Uniforms	
Article 5: Legal Equipment	
Article 6: Goalkeeper's Equipment	
Article 7: Illegal Equipment	
Section 3: Team Composition	Pages 3-4
Article 1: Number of Players	
Article 2: Minimum Team Size	
Article 3: Maximum Team Size	
Article 4: Additions to Roster During Season	
Article 5: League Subs	
Article 6: Game Captain	
Article 7: Player Identification	
Section 4: Officials	Pages 4-5
Article 1: Specification of Officials	
Article 2: Referees' Uniforms	
Article 3: Duties of the Officials	
Section 5: Description of the Game	Page 5
Article 1: General Description	
Article 2: Scoring	
Section 6: Game Structure	Pages 5-8
Article 1: Period of Play	
Article 2: Time-Outs	
Article 3: Forfeits	
Article 4: Tie Breaking System for League Stats	
Article 5: Settling Tied Games— <i>Tournament Games Only</i>	
Article 6: Offsides	
Article 7: Intentional Offsides	
Article 8: Icing	
Section 7: Substitutions	Page 8
Article 1: Frequency	
Article 2: Substitution Procedures	
Article 3: Penalties Procedures	
Article 4: Substitution Due to Injury	

Section 8: Scoring Goals	Pages 9-10
Article 1: Legal Goals	
Article 2: Goalie Scoring	
Article 3: Illegal Goals	
Article 4: Assists	
Section 9: Use of Broom & Body	Pages 10-11
Article 1: Use of Broom	
Article 2: Use of Body	
Article 3: Goalkeeper's Privileges	
Article 4: Prohibited Body Action	
Section 10: Penalties	Pages 12-15
Article 1: Penalties	
Article 2: Penalties Applicable to the Goalkeeper Only	
Article 3: Misconduct Penalties (10 min)	
Article 4: Miscellaneous Penalty Regulations	
Article 5: Penalty Shots	
Section 11: Fouls	Pages 15-16
Article 1: Personal & Physical Fouls	
Article 2: Conduct	
Article 3: Participating While Under the Influence	

APPENDIX 1: RINK LAYOUT

APPENDIX 2: REFEREE SIGNALS

SECTION 1: RECOMMENDED PHYSICAL FACILITIES

Article 1: The Rink

The rink should be a rectangular area with rounded corners, with lines, markings and goals as shown on the accompanying diagram. The rink should be divided into three parts by two blue lines twelve (12) inches in width, drawn sixty (60) feet out from the goal line when the rink measures no less than 185'x85', or no less than 240 feet when the rink measures no less than 80'x60'. The lines shall be extended completely across the rink, parallel with the goal lines, and continue vertically up the side of the boards. That portion of the ice in which the goal is situated shall be called the defending zone of the team defending that goal; the central portion shall be known as the "neutral zone", and that portions farthest from the defending goal shall be called the "attacking zone". The zone line shall be considered part of the zone in which the ball is temporarily located.

Article 2: Face-Off Spots

Red face-off spots, two feet in diameter, shall be marked in each end zone, one on each side of both goals. A blue face-off spot, twelve (12) inches in diameter, shall be marked at the exact center of the rink. Four additional red face-off spots, two (2) feet in diameter shall be marked in the neutral zone five (5) feet from each blue line. (See diagram)

Article 3: The Goal Crease

The goal crease shall be a two (2) inch wide red line, six (6) feet in radius, marked on the ice, using the center of the goal line as the center point. (See diagram)

Article 4: Goal Cages

Goal cages shall be placed at least ten (10), but not more than fifteen (15) feet from the end of the rink, in the center of a red goal line two (2) inches wide drawn completely across the width of the ice and continued vertically up the side of the boards. On an ice surface measuring less than 10,000 square feet, standard ice hockey goals (4'H x 6'W x 1.5'D) are recommended. There shall be a net attached to each goal frame.

Article 5: Side and End Boards

Side and end boards shall surround the rink, and should be to the highest degree possible, smooth and free of protuberances or any such object that could cause injury to the players. The boards should be white in color. All doors giving access to the playing surface shall swing away from the ice surface. Glass, wire or other types of protective screens and materials used to hold the boards, doors and protective screens in place must be mounted on the boards on the side facing away from the ice surface.

Article 6: Penalty Bench

A penalty bench should be provided in the form of a bench or a number of chairs. It should be situated in the neutral zone and away from the players benches. Entry to this area is restricted to players officially listed on the team's roster, officials, the timekeeper and scorer.

Article 7: Team Bench

The rink shall provide a bench for each team. Only players in uniform (listed on the team roster) and coaches are allowed on the team bench during the game. No children are allowed in the team bench area. **(Previous Amendment)**

SECTION 2: EQUIPMENT

Article 1: Recommended/Required Equipment

The following minimum equipment is recommended for all broomball players and is required for all ISIA endorsed tournaments.

Paragraph 1:

Equipment must include: Uniform jerseys, official broom, helmet, and broomball shoes. It is recommended that players also use elbow pads, shin and/or knee pads, and gloves.

All players must wear a helmet. Face protectors are required. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 2: The Ball

The ball shall be spherical in shape measuring approximately 18"-21" inches in circumference, weighing approximately 8 ounces, and commercially manufactured for broomball.

Teams must provide their own balls and sticks. The league will be responsible for supplying a regulation ball to the officials before each game. The league balls are for the league games only – not to be used by any team for warm-up or practice.

Article 3: Brooms

Brooms shall be of the type commercially manufactured for broomball. No brooms may be “modified” in any way or have any “attachments” added. Brooms may be shortened, taped or have the corners of the bases cut to shape. **(Clarified March 2011)**

Article 4: Uniforms

Players must wear identical jerseys. The jerseys of opposing teams shall be of contrasting color and each jersey shall bear non-duplicating numbers on the back. If opposing teams have jerseys that the officials determine to be too similar, each player on the “away” team shall wear an orange pinny.

Article 5: Legal Equipment

a. Shoes: To be acceptable, shoes must be rubber soled and free of any abrasives, spikes, metals, foreign objects, or the application of chemicals. Boots are illegal. All commercially produced broomball shoes are approved provided that they have not been altered in any way so as not to conform to the rule.

b. Gloves: All gloves, as long as they pose no hazard to the players, should be approved for use, subject to the approval of the referee.

c. Mouth protectors: Mouth protectors are recommended for use by all players and are approved so long as they pose no hazard to any player, subject to the approval of the referee.

d. Helmets: Helmets are required for use by all players. Face protectors are required. **(Amended March 2011)**

e. Pads: Pads protecting the elbows, knees and shins are recommended for use by all players. They are approved for use as long as they are worn beneath the clothing of the respective player(s), and so long as they have a soft protective covering or insulation of sponge rubber or similar pliable material, subject to the approval of the referee. Shin pads can have a hard covering such as plastic, as is standard in hockey and broomball equipment. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 6: Goalkeeper's Equipment

Goalkeeper's equipment shall be similar to that worn by the other players and must be worn beneath their clothing. AHAUS approved hockey helmets with an approved face protector must be worn. Blocking and trapping gloves may be used; however, hockey-type goalkeeper's leg pads may not be worn. The goalkeeper is allowed either a waffle or glove – not both. The glove may be a softball glove. **(Previous Amendment)**

Article 7: Illegal Equipment

Illegal equipment includes, but is not limited to, protective metal or other hard materials on the person, broom or pads of the player. This includes pads of plastic, metal or other hard material even if covered with other soft padding. A hinged knee brace, if properly covered, with no metal protruding in front of the knee is legal. All equipment is subject to the approval of the referee, and he/she is authorized to forbid the use of any equipment that he/she deems dangerous.

SECTION 3: TEAM COMPOSITION

Article 1: Number of Players

A team shall consist of no more than five (5) players plus a goalkeeper. **(Amended March 2011)** All players must be at least eighteen (18) years old. No pregnant players shall be allowed to participate.

Article 2: Minimum Team Size

A team shall have no fewer than five (5) players plus a goalkeeper to commence play. Play shall continue if a team is reduced to fewer than five (5) players plus a goalkeeper once play has begun.

Article 3: Maximum Team Size

No team shall have more than 20 players on their team roster at any time. No player may be on more than one team roster. **(Amended March 2011)** No player may participate on more than one team during tournament play. All team rosters must be turned into the League President or other designated officer by the required due date, prior to the start of the season. A team will not be allowed to start their season if their completed, signed team waiver, roster and league fees are not paid in full and passed in by the due date, prior to the start of the season.

Article 4: Additions to Roster During Season

Additions to a team roster after the season has began due to player injury, pregnancy, or other uncontrollable issues must be added by contacting the League President. The team captain must contact the President before the player can play. The player must also sign the team waiver before participating in any games.

Article 5: "League Subs"

A team may have up to two (2) players substitute on their team for any game during the regular season, for a maximum of eight (8) players for the team for a game. **(Amended March 2011)** Substitute players can be from the "Master League Sub List" submitted to each team captain or they can be added at the beginning of a game using players who are on a team roster and are at the rink and willing to play. **(Amended March 2011)** The substitute must be clearly marked on the team's roster for that game in the score book. No "league subs" may be used during tournament play. If a player wants to become a "league sub" she must ** their name on their team roster in order to be added to the Master List.

Article 6: Game Captain

A game captain and alternate shall be designated by the team and so identified to the officials and only they shall communicate with the officials on behalf of their team. They shall be so identified to the official no less than five (5) minutes before the game.

Article 7: Player Identification

All players of opposing teams shall wear jerseys of contrasting colors, each team member wearing a jersey identical in color differing only in the number worn on such jersey. Numbers are to be worn on the back of each jersey. If the referee or a team captain (**Amended March 2011**) determines the opposing team's jerseys are too similar in color, then each player on the "away" team shall wear an orange pinny.

SECTION 4: OFFICIALS

Article 1: Specification of Officials

The game shall be administered by one or more (**Amended March 2011**) referees, wearing broomball shoes, who shall have sole authority and control over the game. The decision of the referee(s) shall be final and there shall be no appeals. The referee(s) may change any decision provided that play has not resumed. The referee(s) shall enforce all rules of the game.

Paragraph 1

A scorer/timekeeper with specifically designated duties must be appointed each game. The "home" team is responsible for providing a scorer/timekeeper for their game. The scorer/timekeeper should be shown how to run the clock and be clear on the operation prior to the game beginning. **Only the referee(s) may instruct the scorer/timekeeper to stop the clock during play.**

Article 2: Referees' Uniforms

The referees shall wear a uniform consisting of alternating black and white vertical striped jacket or shirt, and a whistle.

Article 3: Duties of the Officials

Paragraph 1

The referees should run along the sideboards following play, if necessary to a point even with the crease in the attacking zone. When utilizing two referees each shall follow play into the end zone to their right when facing the center of the ice. He/she shall be termed the "lead referee" and the other the "trail referee". The lead referee should primarily watch the play of and around the ball. The trail referee should primarily observe play away from the ball following as far as the blue line of the attacking team.

As the ball is advanced toward the opposite end of the rink, the referee's roles have reversed. Each official should call any infraction that he/she sees. In addition, the referees shall:

- a. Prior to the game:
 1. See that the goal cages and rink markings conform to the rules.
 2. See that all players are properly uniformed and equipped.
 3. See that all timing equipment is in order and set to start the game.
 4. See that there are at least three (3) game balls ready and with the scorer in case they are needed during the game.

- b. During the game:
1. Start the game with a face-off at center ice.
 2. Make sure at all face-offs that the ball touches the ice prior to any player touching it, otherwise a whistle and stoppage of play will occur and there will be a new face-off at the same spot.
 3. Stop the play as provided for in the rules for offsides, injuries, ball leaving the playing area, and outside infringements, except when stoppage would remove any advantage from the fouled team. In such a case the referee shall signal for a delayed whistle and let play continue until the offending team gains possession of the ball.
 4. Administer all face-offs.
 5. If there is an inadvertent whistle by one of the referees, there will be a faceoff at the circle nearest to where the ball was being played when the whistle was blown. **(Amended March 2011)**
 6. Report to the timekeeper/scorer the number of the penalized player and the penalty imposed.
 7. Determine goals and report to the scorer/timekeeper the number of the scorer and any player(s) receiving assists.
 8. Ensure that the proper game time is kept.
 9. Terminate the game should playing conditions become unsafe or unsatisfactory.

Paragraph 2

The scorer/timekeeper shall record all goals and assists as announced by the referee.

Paragraph 3

The scorer/timekeeper shall time the periods, intermissions, penalties, and timeouts. An audible signal shall be sounded by the timer at the commencement and conclusion of each period.

SECTION 5: DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME

Article 1: General Description

The game is played by two opposing teams on an ice surface wearing broomball shoes -- not skates. It is suggested that on a regulation hockey size rink, the teams shall consist of five players plus a goalkeeper. No team, at the onset of the game, shall have more than five players plus a goalkeeper. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 2: Scoring

Goals are scored when the ball, entering from the front, passes between the cage posts, below the top cage post and goes completely across the goal line. The team accumulating the most goals within the prescribed period of play shall be the winner.

SECTION 6: GAME STRUCTURE

Article 1: Period of Play

The game shall consist of three (3) sixteen-minute running time (the clock will not stop) periods. The clock will start when the ball is legally touched in a face-off. There will **(Amended March 2011)** be a five-minute warm-up prior to the start of the game and a one-minute rest period between periods. Teams will exchange ends at the beginning of every period and any overtime period that may be played.

There is no overtime play during regular season games; games end in a tie. There is overtime in tournament games only. In regular season play each team plays opposing teams twice with a double elimination tournament.

Article 2: Time-Outs

Each team is entitled to two (2), one-minute time-outs per game during regulation play. One time-out will be allowed during any overtime during tournament play. **(Amended March 2011)** A time-out may be called by a team at any time during a whistle, or stoppage of play. Play will resume, after one minute, at the face-off spot where the ball was going to be dropped due to the stoppage of play. During play any player on the ice with complete control of the ball, may call a time-out for her team. She is responsible to make the official(s) aware of the time-out desired by crossing her hands to make a "T", directed at the official. The official shall instruct the clock keeper to stop the clock for one minute. Play will resume, after one minute, at the face-off spot in the player's zone who called the time-out, closest to where the ball was when the time-out was called.

Article 3: Forfeits

A team may forfeit a game **ONLY** if they have five (5) or fewer players. A team may add up to two (2) players, either from the League Sub List or from players at the rink who are on a Team Roster and willing to play, for a maximum of eight (8) players for the game. **(Amended March 2011)** If a team forfeits the game, the game will not be made up and the opposing team will receive credit for one (1) goal and two (2) points for the win in the stats. The team captain must phone the League President or other designated officer, as soon as she knows her team needs to forfeit. No team who must forfeit will receive any refund on any league fees paid. Team captains are requested to call the opposing team as soon as possible if they are going to forfeit the game. **(Amended March 2011)**

If the League or Arena must cancel a game, for any reason, they may reschedule the game at the next available ice time and notify the teams affected as soon as possible. If the game cannot be made up, each team will receive credit for one (1) goal and one (1) point for a tie in the stats. Cancellation or postponement of games due to ice conditions or inclement weather is up to the discretion of the Civic Center Arena. It is the responsibility of the President or designee to contact all team representatives involved with the cancelled or postponed games. Team reps are responsible for providing alternative contacts if unavailable.

Article 4: Tie Breaking System for League Stats

If a tie still exists in the standings after having two points for a win and one point for a tie, the following procedures shall be taken to break the tie:

Tie Breaker 1: The team with the best record based on 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie considering games between the teams involved in the tie breaking, only.

Tie Breaker 2: The team with the greater goal differential (plus/minus) considering the teams involved in the tie breaking, only.

Tie Breaker 3: The team with the most goals scored considering the teams involved in the tie breaker, only.

Tie Breaker 4: The teams with the most goals scored considering all the teams in the division.

Tie Breaker 5: The team with the fewest goals allowed considering the teams involved in the tie breaker, only.

Tie Breaker 6: The team with the fewest goals allowed considering all the team in the division.

Article 5: Settling Tied Games – Tournament Games Only

In a tournament game in the event of a tie score at the end of regulation time that must determine a winner, the following is the procedure to end the game in sudden death. There shall be a two-minute rest period prior to the start of the first overtime period and the teams shall change ends.

3 v. 3 with a goalkeeper for 5 minutes of running time

Should the score still be tied at the end of the first overtime period, teams will change ends after a one-minute rest period and resume play with:

3 v. 3 without a goalkeeper for 5 minutes of running time

Play will continue in this manner until the game is decided.

Paragraph 1

Overtime Crease Rule:

In a tournament overtime with no goalie, no player can stand in the crease and act as a goalie. Players may run through the crease in order to stop a ball from entering the goal, but they must continue through the crease and continue play. The ball must enter the crease before the player who is running through the crease. If a player is pushed into the crease, that is not considered a violation of this rule. **(Amended March 2011)**

Paragraph 2

Penalties in Tournament Overtime: Any penalty incurred during regulation play is carried over into the first five-minute overtime play during playoffs. **(Amended March 2011)** No team shall be reduced by time penalties to less than one-half full strength at any one time. There can be no fewer than two players from one team on the ice at any time. **(Clarified March 2011)** When a player is guilty of a time penalty and her team strength is reduced to less than one-half, her penalty shall be deferred until such time as serving the assessed penalty will not diminish her team strength to less than one-half. If a penalty reduces a team to fewer than two players, the penalized player must go to the penalty box, but a substitute can play in her place. Her penalty time does not start until the previous penalty time has expired. **(Clarified March 2011)**

No member of the attacking team may precede the ball across the opponent's red line (into the offensive zone) lest she be guilty of offsides, and play be stopped, resulting in a face-off spot in the neutral zone. The ball does not have to be carried over the red line for the goal to count.

Article 6: **Offsides**

A player is offsides when **both** shoes are completely over the inner (attacking zone) edge of the red line at the time the ball completely crosses the same inner edge of the line. In order to be onside one shoe must be on the red line.

Paragraph 1

Should a player or players enter the offensive zone ahead of the ball, they may "put themselves onside" by completely vacating the offensive zone (without the ball having to leave the zone as well) and reentering to play the ball.

Paragraph 2

As long as the ball remains in any zone and does not completely cross the red center line, any player may play it.

Article 7: **Intentional Offsides**

If, in the official's opinion, a player of the offside team committed the offside intentionally, either by shooting the ball into the offensive zone while a teammate is in said zone or by not attempting to clear the offensive zone, the face-off shall occur in the offending team's defensive zone (At face-off spot closest to offending team's goal).

Article 8: **Icing**

Paragraph 1

It shall be deemed "icing" when a player shoots the ball from her defensive zone through the attacking zone and beyond the goal line (4 lines). Play shall be stopped and restarted with a face-off at the face-off spot in the defensive zone (by goal) nearest where the ball was shot from. Icing will be called as in hockey: Once the ball crosses the goal line, the whistle will be blown, without the defensive player having to touch the ball. The defensive player does need to make an effort to get to and be closest to the ball when it crosses the goal line. **(Previous Amendment)**

Paragraph 2

“Icing” shall be nullified and play continued when:

- a. The team icing the ball is shorthanded due to a penalty;
- b. The ball touched another player (or her equipment) before crossing the goal line;
- c. A player from the non-defending team did not make a reasonable effort, in the opinion of the referee, to reach the ball before it crossed the goal line or if a player from either team could have reached the ball before it crossed the goal line;
- d. The ball enters the goal cage, in which case a goal is scored; or
- e. The ball passes through the goal crease;
- f. Icing results directly from a face-off;
- g. The ball touches the goalkeeper or equipment.

SECTION 7: SUBSTITUTIONS

Article 1: Frequency

Player substitutions may be made at any time, except in the case of the goalie during a penalty shot. The player who was in the goal when the penalty was committed will remain in the goal for the penalty shot. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 2: Substitution Procedures

The player being substituted must be at the players’ bench and out of play, before her substitute enters the game. Only one line change is allowed per stoppage of play (at a whistle).

If the substitute player enters the ice prior to her teammate’s reaching the team bench, a minor penalty will be assessed for “too many players on the ice”.

Article 3: Penalties Procedures

All penalized players who are to be changed after a penalty has been served must return to the players’ bench via the ice and touch the boards before a substitute player enters the ice. Time for the penalty starts when the ball has been dropped by the referee at the faceoff. **(Clarified March 2011)**

Should an official’s whistle be blown for a stoppage of play coincidental with the expiration of penalty time, the penalized player may not return to the ice or the players’ bench until the ensuing face-off.

Article 4: Substitution Due to Injury

Paragraph 1

When, in the opinion of the referee, a player has been seriously injured, play shall stop immediately and the clock shall be stopped until the injured player has been removed from the ice and replaced by a substitute. Play shall be resumed with a face-off at the location of the ball when the game was stopped.

Paragraph 2

An injured goalkeeper, or one who becomes ill, shall be allowed two (2) minutes to recover. Should the injury or illness be so severe that she is unable to continue play, a substitute shall be provided immediately. The referee shall allow a reasonable amount of time for the substitute to change into goalkeeper’s equipment.

If, in the opinion of the official, an injury is not serious, she/he may elect to allow the game to continue so as not to remove any advantage from either team.

SECTION 8: SCORING GOALS

Article 1: Legal Goals

Paragraph 1

A goal is made when the ball, entering from the front, passes between the cage posts, (below the top cage post) and completely across the goal line. If the ball is last touched by a defensive player before it crosses the goal line, the goal shall be allowed regardless of the manner in which the ball was propelled across the goal line, except when an attacking player has propelled the ball in an illegal manner, and in that case, the goal shall be disallowed. All attacking players must be onside. No goal can be scored by a team in the wrong during an offside, regardless of whether the ball is touched by a defensive player on the defending team.

Paragraph 2

A goal shall be credited to the player who has propelled the ball into the opponent's goal cage. If the goal is scored by a defensive player, the credit shall go to the last offensive player to have touched the ball.

Paragraph 3

Should the ball be deflected into the goal from the shot of an attacking player by striking any part of the person of the same team, the goal shall be allowed and credited to the player who deflected the ball.

Paragraph 4

A goal shall count as one point for the team not defending the goal cage into which the ball is propelled.

Article 2: Goalie Scoring

The goalie is allowed to leave the net and travel down the ice to score. Once the goalie leaves the defensive zone, then she is considered a player like any other on the team. No other player on her team is allowed in the crease if there is a shot on their goal. If this happens, and the player goes in the crease, a penalty shot will be awarded to the team which took the shot on their net. If the goalie remains within the defensive zone (behind the blue line), she is still a goalie and defensive players may be in the crease. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 3: Illegal Goals

A goal shall not be credited when:

- a. the ball is directed into the crease by an attacking player having been propelled by an object other than an approved broom when used in a legal manner;
- b. when the attacking team has committed a foul which is assisted in scoring the goal (having a surplus number of players on the ice is a foul);
- c. the ball strikes an official and then goes directly into the net;
- d. any member of the attacking team other than the player in possession of the ball was in or running through the goal crease at the time of the goal, unless the ball was in the crease first or the goalkeeper was outside the crease in which case the goal is allowed;
- e. an attacking player carries the ball into the cage while it is resting on any part of her body;
- f. when the goal is made after an official has signaled play shall stop;
- g. the ball is lodged on any part of the goalkeeper's body and the goalkeeper is propelled by an opponent into the cage; however, this shall not apply if the goalkeeper is self propelled over the goal line or is propelled by a teammate.

Article 4: Assists

An assist shall be credited to the player(s) taking part in the play preceding the goal, wherever the play may have originated, but no more than two assists may be given on any one goal.

SECTION 9: USE OF BROOM & BODY

Article 1: Use of Broom

- a. If a portion of the ball is above the waist level, it may not be played with any part of the broom, lest it result in a stoppage of play and a face-off in the offending team's zone closest to where the infraction occurred; the shaft of the broom can go above the waist as long as the head of the stick is not being swung. If the ball comes at a player's body, she may raise the shaft vertically to "protect" herself. **(Previous Amendment)**
- b. The broom may be carried above the shoulders in a windmill like action, but the ball must be contacted by the broom while it is below the waist level. Windmill swings will be allowed if there are no other players within six feet of the swinging player. **(Previous Amendment)**
- c. The broom may only be raised above the shoulders if there are no other players within the immediate vicinity.
- d. Carrying of the broom above shoulder height with another player nearby will result in a whistle and stoppage of play.
- e. Carrying of broom above the shoulder height with striking of another player unintentionally, will result in a minor penalty.
- f. It is permissible for a player lacking a broom to participate in play.
- g. A broken broom is to be dropped to the ice immediately or a minor penalty shall be assessed.
- h. Any player **(Amended March 2011)** may receive a broom from a teammate without proceeding to the team bench.
- i. Throwing a broom is forbidden and shall be subject to a misconduct penalty. Should a throwing of a broom interfere with an opposing player's scoring attempt, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- j. Kicking, throwing or knocking down an opponent's broom for the purpose of keeping it from his possession calls for a minor penalty;
- k. Playing with a broken broom is forbidden and should a player suffer injury due to the use of a broken broom, the offending player shall be subject to a major penalty;
- l. Holding or pushing down on an opponent or an opponent's broom with the arm, leg, broom, or otherwise is illegal, except that is legal for a player to lift an opponent's broom with her own broom when the opponent is playing or attempting to play the ball. This legal lifting shall be momentary and only for the purpose of taking possession of the ball or to prevent the opponent from playing the ball. Lifting of an opponent's stick such that it goes above the shoulders shall be considered excessive and will result in a face-off. No lifting the stick at the height of a player's backswing. **(Previous Amendment)**
- m. A player may not at any time participate in play while in possession of more than one broom. This includes brooms held in a hand, kicked with a foot, or other similar description. A minor penalty for delay of game shall be imposed.

Article 2: Use of Body

- a. The ball may be stopped or controlled with the feet, or any other part of the body but must not be carried or held. It may be propelled by hand or foot (except into the crease) along the ice but not passed by hand or kicked to a teammate. If caught and held, carried, or passed to a teammate by hand or kicked intentionally there shall be a face-off in the offending team's zone closest face-off spot to where the infraction occurred; It is permissible to kick the ball to a team member if in the defensive zone (behind the blue line). **(Previous Amendment)**

- b. The ball may be batted by an open hand, but the player who so batted the ball must be the first to recover it for her team. If the ball, after being batted in the air or propelled along the ice by hand, is first touched by an opponent, all players are eligible and play is not stopped.
- c. The ball may not be dribbled in the air or on the ice with any part of the body.
- d. Other than the goalkeeper no player shall pick up, cover or trap the ball with her hands or body when the ball is on the ice. Should a defending player do so within her own crease area a penalty shot shall be awarded to the attacking team.
- e. Sliding, diving, rolling types of body blocks are illegal and will result in a minor penalty.
- f. There is to be no hitting, sliding or checking from behind while the opponent is unaware of the assailant's position and there is to be no excessive force. This will result in a major penalty. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 3: **Goalkeeper's Privileges**

- a. She may play the ball in any manner or direction; however, broom throwing is illegal.
- b. Within the crease the goalkeeper may stop the ball by catching, batting, or kicking it with her hands, feet, body or broom.
- c. The goalkeeper shall have three (3) seconds after catching, trapping or covering the ball to dispose of it or play shall be restarted with a face-off at the nearest face-off spot by her team's goal. Should there be no opposing players within 15 feet, the goalkeeper may not deliberately delay the game by not disposing of the ball lest she be assessed a minor penalty for delay of game.
- d. The goalkeeper shall throw the ball to a teammate, **(Amended March 2011)** and the ball must touch another player or the sideboards before crossing the nearest blue line or play shall be stopped and restarted with a face-off at the face-off spot nearest to where the goalkeeper released the ball.
- e. The goalkeeper shall not **(Amended March 2011)** deliberately throw or bat the ball out of the playing area. She may not interfere with an opponent who is not playing the ball, and she may not intentionally displace the goal cage to disrupt or delay play or prevent a goal, subject to a penalty or penalty shot, whichever is appropriate.
- f. While the goalkeeper is permitted to raise her broom above her shoulders she must exercise great care to avoid injury, and should injury occur the goalkeeper shall be subject to a major penalty.
- g. If the ball gets caught in the back of the net, the referee shall stop play and there will be a faceoff at the circle nearest the goal. **(Amended March 2011)**

Article 4: **Prohibited Body Action**

Paragraph 1: **Offensive Interference**

Interference with an opponent not playing the ball by personal contact in order to protect a teammate is illegal. Arm waving in front of the goalkeeper is considered interference and is subject to a minor penalty.

Paragraph 2: **Defensive Interference**

- a. No player, while covering or being covered, may push, shove, hold, hook, cross-check or charge an opponent. It is legal to guard, cover or maintain her position against an opponent not playing the ball by standing alongside, behind or in front of her, even touching the opponent with part of her body.
- b. It shall be illegal and afford a penalty shot to the opponent should the goal cage be deliberately displaced to prevent a goal.
- c. Both attacking and defending players may be guilty of personal fouls.
- d. Subject to a minor penalty, no attacking player may stand in the goal crease while the ball is outside the crease, nor may she stand in the crease when a goal is scored by a teammate who is outside of the crease. An attacker may stand in the crease and remain there when the ball is in the crease or when she is actually in possession of the ball. Should the goalkeeper be outside the crease, attacking player(s) may stand within the crease prior to the ball entering it.

SECTION 10: PENALTIES

With regard to rules concerning penalties, the terms player, team member and team personnel shall be defined to include players, coaches and all other persons occupying the team box.

Article 1: Penalties

Paragraph 1: Minor Penalties

The guilty player shall be ruled off the ice for three (3) minutes during which time no substitution is permitted. A minor penalty shall be assessed for:

- a. Personal fouls.
- b. Too many players on the ice during running time. Any change of players on the ice that does not respect the correct procedures. The player leaving the ice must be close enough to have one hand on the boards before the replacement player can release.
- c. Making more than one line change during a stoppage of play.
- d. Use of illegal equipment, also a misconduct.
- e. Playing with a broken broom.
- f. Intentionally causing the ball to leave the rink.
- g. A goalkeeper covering or holding onto the ball outside her crease area.
- h. Intentionally displacing the goal cage.
- i. Waving arms in front of the goalkeeper for the purpose of distracting her (interference).
- j. Stalling or purposeful delay of the game.
- k. Player leaving the penalty box, prior to end of her penalty, without authorization to leave.
- l. Refusal to play the ball: A player who leaves the ball in front of them for more than 3 seconds without playing it (Delay of game minor penalty).
- m. Refusal to progress with the ball: The player who is in possession of the ball towards the opponent's end except if prevented from doing so by an opponent. Voluntarily bringing the ball back into the defensive zone with the intent of killing time and barricading (the formation of a barricade in front of the goal by the defensive team) are also forbidden (Delay of game minor penalty).

Paragraph 2: Major Penalties

The guilty player shall be ruled off the ice for six (6) minutes during which no substitutions are permitted. A major penalty shall be assessed for:

- a. Flagrant and/or repeated personal fouls. If a player commits two minor penalties during one game, the third penalty called on that player will be considered a major penalty, and she will be ruled off the ice for six (6) minutes with no substitutions in her place. **(Amended March 2011)**
- b. Any foul which caused injury, or which is intended to do so.
- c. Body checking or otherwise interfering with the goalkeeper within her crease area.
- d. Any game/tournament misconduct.
- e. Roughing: Any player who, in making contact with an opponent, uses brutality, excessive force, pushes that player away violently, or uses excessive physical aggressiveness on that opponent.
- f. Hitting, sliding or checking from behind while the opponent is unaware of the assailant's position. **(Amended March 2011)**

Paragraph 3: Concurrent Penalties

Should a player receive both a major and a minor penalty concurrently, the major penalty shall be served prior to the minor penalty.

Article 2: Penalties Applicable to the Goalkeeper Only

Paragraph 1: Minor and Major Penalties

The time shall be served by an alternate designated by the team captain from the players who were on the ice at the time of the infraction and the goalkeeper shall remain in position on the ice.

Paragraph 2: Misconduct Penalty

The goalkeeper must serve the time; however, a substitute shall be allowed to assume the function and position of goalkeeper on the ice. The penalized goalkeeper shall not return to the ice until the substitute who took her place has left the ice.

Article 3: Misconduct Penalties

A misconduct penalty is ruling the player off the ice for ten (10) minutes during which time a substitute may enter the game. A misconduct penalty shall be assessed for:

- a. Wearing/use of illegal equipment;
- b. Throwing a broom or other piece of equipment. If it interferes with an attempt to score, a penalty shot shall be awarded;
- c. Dissent with judgment calls of the officials(s);
- d. Showing of disrespect toward an official;
- e. Use of foul or abusive language or gestures;
- f. Attempting to intimidate another player;
- g. Interference with a penalty shot;
- h. An extra player trying to prevent a breakaway attempt. A penalty shot shall be awarded.

Paragraph 1

If a major or minor penalty is also assessed to the player receiving the misconduct penalty, an additional player shall accompany the penalized player to the penalty box; the substitute may enter the game when the major or minor penalty has expired.

Article 4: Miscellaneous Penalty Regulations

Paragraph 1

Coincidental penalties to both teams shall be served as earned. There shall be no offsetting of penalties.

Paragraph 2

No player is allowed to leave the penalty bench voluntarily or by error before the end of the penalty, whether during play or not (Minor Penalty). NOTE: Any goal scored by the guilty player's team shall be disallowed while any goal scored by the non-guilty team shall count. Any penalty issued during that time shall be valid.

Paragraph 3: Game/Tournament Misconduct

A game/tournament misconduct penalty suspends the player from the balance of the game or tournament. In addition, major penalty (six minutes) must be served by a teammate – designated by the captain. The disqualified player shall be removed from the area of play or the arena at the discretion of the official in charge. A second offense by the same individual within the same game or tournament will result in suspension of playing privileges for the remainder of the season.

A game/tournament misconduct shall be assessed when:

- a. A player commits a second breach of the rules (misconduct penalty) for which she has already received, within the same game;
- b. A team member intentionally touches, trips, holds, pushes or threatens a game official;
- c. A player deliberately injures or attempts to injure an opponent;

- d. A player initiates or retaliates, or attempts to initiate or retaliate, with a blow (fighting) against an opponent;
- e. A player leaves the bench to participate in an on-ice altercation.

Paragraph 4: Postponed Time Penalties

- a. No team shall be reduced by time penalties to less than one-half full strength at any one time. When a player is guilty of a time penalty and her team strength is reduced to less than one-half, her penalty shall be deferred until such time as serving the assessed penalty will not diminish her team strength to less than one-half.
- b. Penalties will carry over from period to period.

Paragraph 5: Delayed Whistle

In the event the ball is in the possession of any team in any zone and the opponents commit a foul, the official shall delay stoppage of play until the offending team gains possession and control of the ball. The official shall call the foul by pointing to the offending player and upon completion of the play, immediately sound the whistle and impose the appropriate penalty.

- a. If a rules violation (i.e. hand pass, kick pass, etc.) is committed by the offending team in their defensive zone while they are being called for a delayed penalty, it should be ignored until they have gained possession and control of the ball.
- b. During a delayed whistle play should only be stopped when:
 - 1. A serious injury occurs.
 - 2. The ball leaves the playing area.
 - 3. The goal cage is displaced.
 - 4. An official's whistle stops play.
 - 5. A goal is scored by the attacking team.
 - 6. A second penalty is called which puts both teams in a penalty situation.

Paragraph 6: Nullified Penalties

Scoring a goal against the offending team nullifies a minor penalty.

Article 5: Penalty Shots

A penalty shot shall be awarded during regulation or overtime play when:

- a. An extra attempts to stop a breakaway or a goal.
- b. A broom or other piece of equipment is thrown to interfere with an attempt on goal.
- c. A defensive player other than the goalkeeper traps or covers the ball in the crease area.
- d. A player deliberately displaces the goal cage to prevent a goal.
- e. A player fouls from behind an opponent who is in possession of the ball when that opponent was within the offending player's defensive zone and when there were no defending players other than the goalkeeper between the attacking player and the defending team's goal.

Paragraph 1

The penalty shot shall be taken by the player fouled unless she has been injured, in which case it may be taken by a teammate who is not serving a penalty, chosen by the team captain. If no particular player was fouled, the penalty shot may be taken by any member of the team who is not serving a penalty, chosen by the team captain.

Paragraph 2

All players shall move behind the red line and remain quiet until the shot has been completed. If a player, other than the defending goalkeeper, attempts to cause the penalty shot to fail a second attempt shall be awarded and a misconduct penalty assessed to the player who interfered with or distracted the shooter.

Paragraph 3

The ball shall be placed on the attacking player's blue line in the center of the rink. At the referee's whistle, the shooter shall begin toward the goal, keeping in motion toward the goal until the ball is shot. Only one (1) shot is permitted and the penalty shot ends when:

- a. A goal is scored.
- b. The ball crosses the goal line outside of the goal cage.
- c. The goalkeeper gains control of the ball.
- d. Ten (10) seconds elapse.

Paragraph 4

The goalkeeper shall remain completely inside the crease during the penalty shot and attempt to block the ball in any legal manner, except by throwing her broom or leaving the crease area. If a foul is committed by the goalkeeper during the penalty shot and the attempt is unsuccessful, another penalty shot shall be awarded. Only the goalkeeper of record at the time of the infraction will be allowed to face the penalty shot. **(Amended March 2011)**

Paragraph 5

During the penalty shot one official shall watch the goal and goalkeeper and the other shall watch the shooter.

SECTION 11: FOULS

Article 1: Personal and Physical Fouls

Paragraph 1

Body checking, charging, elbowing, kneeing, illegal use of hands, pushing, cross checking, tripping or slashing with the broom, tripping with the leg or foot or a sliding body block is illegal and subject to a minor penalty.

Paragraph 2

Holding onto a player or her broom so as to prevent her from moving or playing the ball, or deliberately interfering with an opponent while making no attempt to play the ball, are considered holding and interference respectively and are subject to minor penalties.

Paragraph 3

At the opinion of the referee, use of undue or unnecessary force or bodily contact shall be considered roughing and subject to a major penalty. In addition, body checking of an opponent into the side or end boards or goal cage shall be considered roughing.

Paragraph 4

Any personal foul committed against the goalkeeper within her crease area shall be considered a major penalty.

Paragraph 5

A player may only broom-check the ball. Should the broom interface with or make contact with an opponent, it becomes tripping or slashing. Swinging the broom with unnecessary force while playing the ball may be considered slashing and subject to the referee's judgment and will be assessed a minor penalty.

Paragraph 6

Any player returning to the ice from the penalty box must receive permission to do so from the timekeeper/scorer or referee. The player must return to the ice and touch her bench before returning to play or return to her bench and allow a substitution to enter the ice and take her place.

If a penalized player leaves the penalty bench voluntarily or by error before the end of the penalty, whether during play or not, a minor penalty shall be assessed. NOTE: Any goal scored by the guilty player's team shall be disallowed while any goal scored by the non-guilty team shall be allowed. All penalties issued during that time shall be valid.

Article 2: Conduct

Paragraph 1

No player shall use foul or abusive language, gestures to officials, coaches, players or others, show disrespect for an official, fail to go directly and immediately to the penalty box when penalized or she shall be subject to a misconduct penalty (10 minutes). For continued disrespect during or after the game, a game/tournament misconduct may be assessed.

Paragraph 2

No coach, manager or other team personnel shall use foul or abusive language and gestures, show disrespect to an official before, during or after a game. A misconduct penalty (10 minutes) may be assessed for this conduct. For continued disrespect a game/tournament penalty shall be assessed upon a player on the ice at the time of the incident. The player to serve the penalty shall be chosen by the team captain.

Paragraph 3

Refusal to obey the decision of the officials by players, coaches or other team personnel shall result in game forfeiture. The team causing the forfeiture will be credited with a score of zero (0) and the opposing team shall be credited with one (1) goal or the number of goals they had scored in the game at the time it was stopped, whichever is greater.

Article 3: Participating While Under the Influence

No alcohol is allowed in the arena. Any player, coach, or team representative judged by the officials to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be sent off the ice or bench to the dressing room or lobby area and will be asked to leave the rink. **(Previous Amendment)**

**SEE APPENDIX FOR ICE SURFACE DIMENSIONS, GOAL MEASUREMENTS,
AND OFFICIALS' SIGNALS**