

## DELAY, INTERRUPTION OR ABANDONMENT OF GAMES (FUNDAMENTAL RULES – II. LEAGUE PLAY - § 5)



### **CURRENT WORDING (GAME BOOK 2023/2024)**

- (1) ICE Hockey League clubs must report cases in which the ice surface is unusable for play and any other obstructions to conducting games to the ICE Hockey League Office, to the referees assigned to the game, and to the opponent without delay.
- (2) In cases where the referees determine that a game cannot be carried out properly due to force majeure or technical problems (e.g., a defective ice surface or poor lighting), opening or continuing a championship game is not permitted.
- (3) In cases where the referees are forced to interrupt a previously commenced game for the reasons indicated in paragraph (2), the game cannot be abandoned fully until a 45-minute waiting period has elapsed.
- (4) In cases where a game cannot be started due to the delayed arrival of a team resulting from force majeure, the visiting club is required to report this by telephone. After a maximum waiting period of 90 minutes, the game is to be cancelled by the referee. Games which are not started due to technical problems must be made up in coordination with the ICE Hockey League.
- (5) In cases where a game is abandoned prior to the end of the second period (accepting abandonment of a game caused by team), a new game has to be played. An abandoned game equals a completed game in terms of penalties imposed.
- (6) In cases where two full periods have been played and the game is abandoned prior to the start of the third period, a continuation game must be ordered. In such a continuation game, the third period must be played, starting with the score at the time when the original game was abandoned.
- (7) In cases where a game is abandoned during the third period, a continuation game must be ordered as well. In such a continuation game, the remaining playing time must be played starting with the score at the time when the original game was abandoned.
- (8) In a continuation game, only those players who appeared on the official game sheet on the day of the incomplete game will be eligible to play.
- (9) When a game is replayed, see paragraph (5), all players who appeared on the official game sheet at the start of the incomplete game will be considered eligible for the replay game.

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- (10) In cases where a game is abandoned only a few minutes before the end of the third period and the team leading the game at that point can no longer lose its lead (based on human judgment), the game may be certified with the outcome as of the time of abandonment.
- (11) In cases where it is not possible to continue a game due to threatening conduct or attacks on the part of the players or spectators, the referees must interrupt the game. The game should only be abandoned if the required security (which may even require closing the game to the public) cannot be ensured if the game is continued.
- (12) In cases where a game is made up or continued, the home club will remain the organizer of the event. The visiting club is to be reimbursed for the additionally incurred usual travel costs for up to 28 persons.

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## **NEW WORDING (GAME BOOK 2024/2025)**

If an extraordinary issue arises during the ICE Hockey League (ICEHL) season, which is not regulated and/or not clearly defined by the ICE Hockey League Game Book – the case will be reviewed and a decision will be made by the ICE Hockey League Office and in extraordinary circumstance whereby a final decision must be made, the ICE Hockey League Justice Committee will make the final decision.

### Delay of face-off due to late arrival of away team:

- (1) The away team is responsible for timely arrival at the arena.
- (2) Game to start latest 45 minutes after away team has arrived at venue.
- (3) Should this result in a delay of more than 90 minutes or if the away team does not show up at all, the game will be under review to either reschedule or cancel.
- (4) The decision to delay or reschedule a game will be made by the the ICE Hockey League Office.
- (5) The decision to cancel the game will be made by the Justice Committee.

### Interruption of game:

- (1) If a game is interrupted by the game officials due to plausible reasons (including, but not limited to unplayable ice surface, technical and infrastructural issues, fan riot, etc.) then the interruption should last no longer than 45 minutes.
- (2) The decision to abandon a game will be made by the ICE Hockey League Office, in consultation with the Game Officials.
- (3) In cases where a game is abandoned prior to the end of the second period (accepting abandonment of a game caused by team), a new game must be played. An abandoned game equals a completed game in terms of penalties imposed.
- (4) In cases where two full periods have been played and the game is abandoned prior to the start of the third period or at a point within the third period of play, a continuation game must be ordered. In such a continuation game, the third period must be played, starting with the score at the time when the original game was abandoned.
- (5) When a game is replayed or a continuation game, all players who appeared on the official game sheet at the start of the incomplete game will be considered eligible for the replay game.
- (6) In cases where a game is abandoned only a few minutes before the end of the third period and the team leading the game at that point can no longer

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lose its lead (based on human judgment), the game may be certified with the outcome as of the time of abandonment.

- (7) In cases where it is not possible to continue a game due to threatening conduct or attacks on the part of the players or spectators, the referees must interrupt the game. The game should only be abandoned if the required security (which may even require closing the game to the public) cannot be ensured if the game is continued.
- (8) In cases where a game is made up or continued, the home club will remain the organizer of the event. The visiting club is to be reimbursed for the additionally incurred usual travel costs for up to 28 persons.

### Refusal to play:

- (1) Should a team refuse to play including, but not limited to intentional refusal to compete (ex. not travelling to an away game) and/or according to IIHF Rule 73 – Refusing to Start Play and the offending Team persists in its refusal to come into compliance, the ICE Hockey League Office (in consultation with the Game Officials if applicable) declares the game to abandoned/cancelled and forfeited 5-0 in favor of the team ready to play.
- (2) A financial sanction and fine will be imposed.

### Cancellation of game:

- (1) Should a game be cancelled already prior to face-off (including, but not limited to conditions that does not allow for away team to travel on short notice and absolutely no other options of travel can be taken, then the game may be rescheduled and shall be played within 24 hours, or on another date, if possible, and if agreed by all parties involved (teams and ICE Hockey League management).
  - If no rescheduling is agreed on, the game is cancelled and will be forfeited with 5-0 in favor of the team, who was ready to play on the original date.
- (2) Should a game be cancelled prior to face-off due to illness and one of the teams involved does not have enough players (at least 10 players and 1 goalkeeper), the game is cancelled and will be forfeited with 5-0 in favor of the team, who was ready to play on the original date.

In any case, clubs must inform the ICE Hockey League officials, the ICE Hockey League game supervisor as well as the ICE Hockey League Office immediately of any anticipated or occurred situation that potentially may lead to a delay, interruption, or cancellation of a game.

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### Justice Committee:

If/when a situation arises, whereby the ICE Hockey League By-Laws and/or Rules & Regulations do not clearly define or do not identify the on-going issue, the decision will be made by the ICE Hockey League Justice Committee. The Justice Committee will decide in the best interest of the ICE Hockey League to provide the greatest opportunity for the ICE Hockey League and its survival as a whole, regarding both sportive and economic impacts.

Request (case opened) can be made by any of the following:

- (1) At the discretion of the ICE Hockey League Presidency
- (2) At the discretion of the ICE Hockey League Sport Chairman
- (3) At the discretion of the ICE Hockey League Commissioner (GM)
- (4) At the discretion of the ICE Hockey League Justice Committee
- (5) Can be initiated by a club (ICE Hockey League Team)

All cases will be binding and considered a final decision by the Justice Committee.

The Justice Committee may be in consultation with the ICE Hockey League Presidency.

Due to the neglect of a team to fulfill the ICE Hockey League requirements, at the discretion of the Justice Committee, a decision can be made regarding (Examples of, but not limited to):

- ICE Hockey League team cannot fulfill game requirements in the timely manner for regular season games or Play-Offs, an outcome for a suitable change to the schedule, home right, game location, ...
- The declaration of a winner for a game or Play-Off series, in the event game(s) or series cannot be fulfilled in the timely manner, as per the schedule allotted time frame.
- If a game cannot be played, based on the neglect of a team, a 5-0 outcome.
- Special circumstance situation where the minimum players + goalkeeper cannot be fulfilled by the players on the respective team's ICE Hockey League Roster, a decision can be made to allow additional player(s) either through the 'free player movement' or use of domestic player(s) from other ICE Hockey League affiliated Leagues.
- ICE Hockey League team cannot fulfill game requirements in the timely manner for regular season games or Play-Offs, the elimination of a team for the remainder of the season.

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- Fine amount imposed for neglect of a team unable to play
- The value of compensation awarded to the opposing team (able and willing to play) for the costs incurred, revenue loss and/or a compensation amount considered fair replacement value of the lost home game.

### Parameters for Justice Committee to consider when making a decision:

The importance of staying on schedule will be considered the main priority. Meaning, it is considered of greater importance to move all teams along in a normal scheduled time frame manner, as opposed to 1 team stopping or delaying the other ICE Hockey League teams or series.

Notwithstanding any unforeseen circumstances, which may cause a delay, postponement or change in the game schedule, the ICE Hockey League will decide in the best interest of all teams. This will include all decisions within rescheduling game times, game dates and venue for which the game(s) are to be played.

In the event of a special circumstance, a game or playoff series that cannot be played in a timely manner, the decision will be made by the Justice Committee. However, if game(s) cannot all be played by a team or team's, the Justice Committee can make the decision to cancel a game or remaining games and in unforeseen circumstance where games cannot be played in a timely manner, cancel a series, and declare a winner. The decision will include teams that cannot provide a minimum of 10 players + 1 goalkeeper to play a game, otherwise a team shall be considered fit to play.

### ICE Hockey League Standings

The ICE Hockey League will use the standard standing system:

- 3 points – win in regulation
- 2 points – OT win
- 1 point – OT loss
- 0 point – loss in regulation

If an interruption creating an imbalance of games played/team at which time, points-per-game could be used as the ICE Hockey League standing system.

A points-per-game ranking can only be utilized at the appropriate time and does not affect the ICE Hockey League league's integrity.

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There are two key points - if a points-per-game standings is:

- (1) the point in time or terms when the ICE Hockey League could switch from standard rankings to points-per-game standings.
- (2) how teams qualify to be ranked in the final standings of the regular season

The following criteria will be in effect before making a switch from standard point system to points-per-game:

- (1) All teams must be affected by inability to play games - at least one (1) game of each of the 13 teams in the league, had to be cancelled.
- (2) Only teams which have played each team in the final rankings of the regular season at least three (3) times, qualify to be ranked in the regular season's final ranking – if a team(s) is restricted to playing an opponent(s) two (2) times or less, then the respective games between the 2 teams will not count in the standings.
- (3) The threshold of games that must be played by each team is 75% (3 games) with each opponent.
- (4) The importance of game rescheduling is based on making sure each team has played each opponent a minimum of 3 times.

### Result and Statistic of a Forfeit Game:

In the case of a forfeit game, the result shall be scored and listed in the overall standings (regular season) and added to the accumulated team record according to the following conditions:

- Three (3) points will be awarded to the non-offending team (in the regular season overall standings respectively in the team's accumulated record).
- Player statistics (goals, assists, shots on goal, +/-, time on ice, penalty minutes, saves) are not counted.
- The respective forfeit game will not count as a game played in each player's statistics.
- The result of the forfeit game (0-5) is considered in the team Statistics of goals for/goals against.
- Rule infringements resulting in fines and/or suspensions will be assessed in the normal manner with the concerned player(s) having to serve potential game suspensions in the following ICE Hockey League game(s).