

Harassment of Officials

Rule 9.6 – “User Guide”

Application Check list:

1. Was there intentional physical contact or attempted contact, by a player or team official?
2. Are you 100% sure of the intent surrounding the circumstances?
3. Did your fear for your physical safety due to a verbal threat?

If the answer is “YES” to the above three questions, then assess a MATCH penalty under rule 9.6.

If you answer “NO” to the above then the application of Rule 9.2 may be more appropriate if a penalty is warranted.

Note: Take time to mentally compose yourself, and review the circumstances on the way to or at the penalty box before applying the rule. You’re on ice partner(s) must also be consulted as to their interpretation of the events.

Example 1

After a disputed call, the defenseman “fires” the puck in your direction. The shot came from at a shallow angle along the boards. The puck does not strike you. The player looks directly at you, without any expression of “guilt”.

You are sure he shot the puck at you, however, can you prove that he was not just clearing the puck and you were there? **No penalty in this case.**

Same scenario as the above except that the player is facing you, perpendicular to the boards, and “fires” the puck directly at you. In this case there is no question as to the intent and the risk to your physical safety. **Rule 9.6 would apply.**

Example 2

A fight has broken out in front of the net. A player of the red team is out matched, a team mate leaves the players bench to intervene. The linesman is in the direct path of the player and the fight. The linesman attempts to stop the player, but the player’s focus is on the fight action, and pushes the linesman to the side to gain access to the fight.

Other penalties apply but not Rule 9.6 in this case.

As above except the player stop when the linesman intervenes. He makes visual contact with the linesman, and the linesman attempts to “talk him down”. The player then grabs the lineman by the jersey, says “*%&^ you”, and throws him aside. The linesman falls backward onto his back striking his head on the ice. **Rule 9.6 would apply.**

Example 3

The referee verbally abuses a player, no one witnesses the conduct of the official. As the player is making a line change, he tell the referee that he will meet him outside after the game. The player comments are witnessed by the other official and the opposing team players.

In this case the actions of the player were instigated by the official. Therefore the official should take responsibility for his actions and **do not apply rule 9.6**. The official should also notify his RIC as to what happened. He then can to appropriate action. (Do not leave the rink alone!)

If rule 9.6 was applied in this case, intent, and motive will not withstand the test. Integrity, as an official is of utmost importance.

After assessing a MATCH penalty under Rule 9.6:

1. Ensure that it is recorded properly on the game sheet. Before signing and releasing it to the team officials.
2. Record the events on paper before leaving the dressing room. Get your partner(s) to do the same.
3. As soon as possible, notify your RIC.
4. As soon as possible file your on line "Game Incident Report". Ensure that your report creates a clear mental picture of the events. Ensure the facts honest and detailed. Print a copy of your report and forward a copy to your partner(s). Review your report with your RIC, face to face if possible, at the very least by phone.

Rule 9.2

Guidelines for dealing with poor behaviour from coaches.

First and foremost, if an official feels he/she is being shown disrespect by a team official, the appropriate action should be taken.

Example 1:

Any action (verbal or gesture) intended to intimidate an official shall be penalized under these guidelines. For example, a coach stands behind the players' bench and gestures with his arm as in "get away" or "get out of here" in protest of a call or non-call against his team. This would be interpreted as displaying disrespect towards the official.

1st offence - Warning

2nd offence - Minor Penalty

3rd offence - Game Misconduct

Example 2:

Any action (verbal or gesture) that challenges the authority or competence of an official. For example, the official calls a penalty against a team and the coach of the penalized team stares at the official and shakes his head from side to side (a negative gesture) indicating he does not agree with the official's call.

1st offence - Warning

2nd offence - Minor Penalty

3rd offence - Game Misconduct

Example 3:

Any action (verbal or gesture) by a team official that incites abuse or disrespect of any official. For example, a coach screams "brutal call" at the official and thus incites the entire bench to question the official's judgment.

1st offence - Minor Penalty

2nd offence - Game Misconduct

Example 4:

Any action (verbal or gesture) by a team official that is designed or intended to embarrass an official. For example, a coach makes a comment that is personal in nature and thereby embarrasses the official and ultimately diminishes his authority in the eyes of the players and/or spectators.

1st offence - Minor Penalty

2nd offence - Game Misconduct

Example 5:

Any action (verbal or gesture) by a team official that is personal in nature directed at an official. For example, a coach makes a comment about the official's physical appearance.

1st offence - Minor Penalty

2nd offence - Game Misconduct

Example 6:

A coach is standing at the gate of the players' bench and is signalling with his arm for the Referee to come over to the bench and speak with him. If the official feels that it is an appropriate time to speak with the coach then he/she should do so. Officials should NOT penalize the coach for this gesture UNLESS the official has indicated to the coach that he will not entertain a discussion at this time and the coach continues his actions in an attempt to get the official over to the bench.

Example 7:

There has been what could be considered questionable contact with the puck with a high stick. At the next stoppage of play, one of the coaches is gesturing to the official using the high stick signal with a questioning look on his face. He wants to know if the puck was actually contacted with a high stick. This gesture would NOT warrant a Minor penalty at this point. The official should simply indicate with a head shake that the puck was not contacted with a high stick. If the coach persists with his gestures and in essence challenges the official's decision, then a Minor penalty should be assessed to the offending team.