

USA HOCKEY RULE 411 & 615



Step 1

Purpose of Rule 411

Rule 411 is designed to deter repeat offenders by imposing increasing penalties for players or team officials who repeatedly receive certain major penalties for infractions classified as dangerous or abusive.

Step 2

Applicable Penalties

Applies to major penalties assessed for **head contact, checking from behind, boarding, charging, cross-checking, roughing, slashing, and body checking (non-checking classifications).**

Also applies to **Game Misconducts for abuse of officials.**

Step 3

Suspension Guidelines

1st Offense: Normal suspension as outlined in the playing rules

2nd Offense: **1-game suspension** (in addition to any game misconduct penalty)

3rd Offense: **2-game suspension**

4th Offense: **3-game suspension** and subject to review by the governing body, possibly resulting in longer suspension or disciplinary action.

**All occurring in the same season*

Step 4

Season Defined

A "season" is from the beginning of USA Hockey sanctioned play through the conclusion of the National Championships for that classification.

Step 5

Tracking Infractions

The team's head coach or manager is responsible for monitoring their players' and teams officials' penalty history.

Step 6

Carry-Over Suspensions

If the suspension is not served during the season, it carries over to the next season.



USA HOCKEY RULE 411 & 615



Step 1

Purpose of Rule 615

Rule 615 is intended to **discourage fighting** in youth and amateur hockey by applying **severe and escalating penalties** for players or team officials involved in fights.

Step 2

What Qualifies as "Fighting"

Fighting is defined as **deliberate physical altercation involving punches or attempts to punch** an opponent, regardless of whether gloves are dropped.

Step 3

Suspension Guidelines

1st Fight: 1-game suspension

2nd Fight: 3-game suspension

3rd Fight: 5-game suspension

4th + Fight: **Indefinite suspension** and review by the league or governing body

- These suspensions are **in addition to** any automatic penalties assessed in-game (major plus game misconduct)
- **Each fight counts**, even if penalties were part of the same game.

**All occurring in the same season on the same team*

Step 4

First-Time Offense

- 5-minute major penalty
- Game misconduct
- Immediate 1-game suspension

Step 5

Note on Instigators/Aggressors

Players who are identified as **instigators or aggressors** in a fight may receive **additional game misconducts** or supplemental discipline, which could affect their Rule 411 progressive record as well.

Step 6

Carry-Over Penalties

If a suspension isn't fully served during the current season, it **carries over** to the next season.

