



Hockey Manitoba changes adopted by Hockey Winnipeg

From Ross MacKeen, RIC for Hockey Winnipeg

2025-10-19

"This bit comes from Hockey Manitoba, and Hockey Winnipeg is on board with the rule change.

1. Mouthguards

- **Not required** if the player is wearing a **full cage**.
- **Mandatory** if the player is wearing a **visor**.
- Officials must consistently enforce this — if a player is wearing a visor and does not have a mouthguard, a penalty must be called.

2. Neck Guards

- **Mandatory at all age levels** — no exceptions.
- Neck guards **cannot be taped, rolled down, or hidden** in any way.
- If an official sees a neck guard that is taped, rolled, or not worn properly, they are expected to **call a penalty**, regardless of the team, player, or game situation.

Hockey Canada is increasing enforcement of neck guard regulations, and we are expected to follow through accordingly. Officials must be proactive in identifying and calling these violations.

Thank you for your attention and support in keeping our game safe and consistent.

To Clarify - A visor in this context is referring to a half shield. Participants who wear full face protection "bubble" or "cage" would both be considered full face protection.

As all Hockey WPG assigned games are required to wear full face protection, no mouth guards are needed."

Hockey Winnipeg Special Rule (SR) Changes, Additions or Amendments for 2025-2026

2025-2026 is not a rule change year for Hockey Canada, therefore there are no changes to the Hockey Canada rules. However, Hockey Winnipeg has made changes to their 2025-2026 SRs. This document will summarize those changes that apply to game play.

The following table has two columns. The first column outlines the current wording with changes in **yellow**. The second column notes why the change was made or what the change means for your job as an official. As always, please consult your Hockey Winnipeg rule book for full details.

Hockey Winnipeg Special Rule Changes

The rule change for 2025-2026	Note regarding the change
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SR2-2: For Girls U15 AAA and for all AA divisions, the 1st and 2nd periods shall be 15 minutes “stop time.” The 3rd period shall be 20 minutes “stop time.” Games will be played within a 1.5 hour time slot.	This is clarification regarding the length of period for the new FU15 AAA league.
SR2-4: For U15 A, Girls U15 A, U13A, Girls U13 A, U11 A and Girls U11 A, the 1st and 2nd periods shall be 12 minutes “stop time”. The 3rd period shall be 15 minutes “stop time”. U9 A and Girls U9 A shall be 2 periods of 24 minutes duration each, with the buzzer sounding every 2 minutes to signal a line change. The clock will be “run time” except for the 16 and 8 minute marks where the clock will stop to allow for a change of players in the Development zone.	Previously, U9A was listed as 12-12-15 minute periods. This SR change identifies U9A’s game time as being divided into two halves of 24 minutes run-time except for during the development zone changeover that occurs every 8 minutes.
SR5-3: In AA Hockey, overtime for the regular season shall be 5 minutes, three (3) on three (3).	This was added to clarify that AA overtime in the regular season is different from overtime in the playoffs.
SR14-2: [The mercy] rule shall not apply to the AAA Division, except for Girls U15 AAA.	“...except for Girls U15 AAA” was added to clarify that the mercy rule is in effect for FU15 AAA.
SR-18: If a delayed penalty is washed out because of a goal, the penalty is still recorded on the official game sheet and will count against a player’s total. The penalty will be annotated with “W.O.” to signify that it was not served.	This is entirely new for 2025-2026. In previous seasons, a washed out penalty did not count towards a player’s total number of penalties for a game ejection. As of 2025-2026, washed-out penalties can lead to a game ejection.
SR19-2: In the event there is insufficient time remaining in the game and SR-7 clause 3 is put into effect, there will be no timeouts allowed.	This was added to ensure that games running late finished as quickly as possible using the 4-3-2 clock cutting procedure (SR7-3).
SR19-3: In AA and AAA, when “No-Change Icing” occurs, if a team calls their timeout, both teams shall be allowed to make a full substitution of their on-ice players in the normal course and a full change procedure shall occur.	This was added to address confusion caused during timeouts used following a no-change icing.

Please consult your Hockey Winnipeg rule book for full details.