

Requests for exceptions to Rules on the Game

Finnish Floorball Federation requests for exceptions to Rules of the Game in the season 2021-22.

1. Rules of the Game 203/1 - Extra time

Request covers all single serie matches played 3 x 20 minutes in the season 2021-22:

- 1) In playoffs and relegation games extra time is 20 minutes.

With our experince and statistics of longer extra time over 95 % games were decided during the extra time. We see that this is better way to decide the winner than to have penalty shots.

In playoffs and relegation games, there will be penalty shots after the extra time if game is still tie. Penalty shots is taken with five players.

2. Rules of the Game 204/1 - Penalty shots

We would like to continue to test during the season 2021-22 a different way to handle the penalty shots after extra time with five players. We would like to test that:

- 1) Home team is always to take the first penalty shot
- 2) Teams don't have to inform the referees and the secreteriat the players and the order in which they will take the penalty shots.
It is possible for any field player in the team roster to take a penalty shot, but only a maximum of five can be used. It is the responsibility of the referees and the match secretariat to ensure that only 5 players are used and that no one takes a second penalty shot before all players have taken their first penalty shot.

With this exception we see that the penalty shots are more flowing and especially good for spectators and TV.

3. Rules of the Game 201/1 – team bench

We would like to keep playing ends and substitution zones of the teams constant throughout the whole game.

As an exception to previous, if the referees consider one end of the rink to be better, the teams shall change ends at intermissions and after half the third period, but this has to be decided before the start of the game. If such a changing of ends takes place, play shall be resumed with a face-off at the center spot.

4. Rules of the Game 612, 614, 616 – Handling the Match penalties

We'd like to continue to test during the season 2021-22 different way to handle the match penalties in the main series (F-liiga men and women and men's first division).

How do we like to continue to handle the match penalties?

- 1) the referees follow the Rules of the Game to give the match penalties and following 5 min. bench penalties without marking it match penalty 1, 2 or 3
- 2) the referees announce only that it will be a match penalty (M0, in Finnish PRO) and all the match penalties will be handled by discipline delegation after referees report
- 3) the referees have to make a written report immediately after the game and send it to the federation
- 4) discipline delegation makes decisions quickly after the report, usually latest day after game have been played, but always before the player and/or team official have their next game
- 5) teams will be informed immediately after decision if a player and/or team official is not able to take part to their next game because of match penalty

This has worked very well in the past season and especially teams have been very satisfied with this protocol.

Also the referees are pleased to have this protocol. There haven't been any confused cases with the Finnish international referees. They can follow the rule book in international games.

The only change is that we have discipline delegation with three persons (on former int. referee, on former national team player and one former league player) instead there was only one person to handle all the cases.

5. Testing the rules

We'd like to continue to test following rules like we did in the season 2020-21. Outcome for these tests were very positive in the past season.

1) Free hit as beginning of power play after delayed penalty (503.9/507.23)

Explanation: The objective of this change is to award a free hit to non-offending team in situations, when the face off is taken according to actual rules. The aim is to support offensive play.

2) Allow a player to intentionally kick the ball more than once (507.8)

Explanation: The rule is difficult to understand for spectators and the flow of the game should improve. A natural next step after allowing players to pass with the foot, a change that improved game flow significantly.

3) Install the possibilities for 2+2 minutes bench penalty

Explanation: The referee has more variable and more game-friendly possibilities to make decisions about the situations when players stick hits an opponent's faces in a game situation unintentionally

Looking forward to your positive response.

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