

RIGA HOCKEY CUP 2026
GAME RULES OVERVIEW TABLE

Rule title	IIHF Rule No.	Age categories								
		U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-18
Governing Rule Book IIHF 2025										
Goalkeepers restricted area behind goal line (trapezoidal)	Rule 1.8	Not applied. Goalkeeper play behind goal line is not limited.						Is applied. Goalkeeper play behind goal line is limited.		
Players benches	Rule 3.1	The team which is first listed in game sheet is the home-team, and accordingly, the second-listed team is the guest-team.								
Coaches and Team personel	Rule 5.4	At least one (1) and not more than three (3) persons. Exceptions are allowed only by agreement with the organizers of the tournament.								
Team uniform	Rule 9.1	The home-team plays in dark-colored forms.								
Calling penalty	Rule 15.1	Minor penalty (2'), Minor and automatic Misconduct penalty (2'+10'), Major and automatic Game Misconduct penalty (5'+20') and Match Penalty (25') can be applied. If a player is assessed a second Misconduct any time during a game, it will become an automatic Game Misconduct penalty (20') instead.								
Minor penalty	Rule 16.1	A Minor and automatic Misconduct penalty (2'+10') can be imposed on any Player who commits a physical foul and at the discretion of the Referee, such Player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by imposing a Minor penalty (2') for following infractions: i. boarding; ii. charging; iii. checking from behind; iv. clipping; v. elbowing; vi. checking to the head; vii. kneeing; viii. roughing.								
Major penalty	Rule 20.1	A Major Penalty and automatic Game misconduct penalty (5'+20') shall be imposed on any Player who commits a physical foul and who recklessly endangers the fouled Player in a way that at the discretion of the Referee such Player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by imposing a Minor (2'). A Match Penalty (25') shall be imposed on any Player who commits a physical foul and who recklessly endangers the fouled Player in a way that at the discretion of the official such Player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by assessing a Major Penalty and automatic Game misconduct penalty (5'+20').								
Other infractions	Rule 23.8	Following list of infractions will result in a Match Penalty (25') being assessed: i. A player or team official interfering with or striking a spectator. ii. A player or team official makes racial taunts or slurs or sexual remarks. iii. A player or team official spitting, smearing blood on or at an opponent or spectator. iv. A player or team official biting an opponent or spectator. v. A player or team official who uses his head, with or without his helmet on and strikes (head-butts) an opponent; vi. A player who generates a swinging motion with his skate directed at any part of an opponent's body and kicks or attempts to kick an opponent. vii. A goaltender who uses his blocker glove to punch an opponent in the head, neck, or face during game action, after a whistle, or any time during the regular course of a game during a prolonged player confrontation. viii. A team official who is involved in a fight, on ice or off.								
Start and end of game and periods	Rule 31.10	The team must be ready to come on ice five (5) minutes before the game starts. Otherwise, the organizers can decide on giving the team a technical loss of 0:5.								
Abuse of officials	Rule 39	A Match Penalty (25 min.) for "Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Abuse of Officials" shall be assessed under this rule for the following infractions: i. A player or team official who intentionally and recklessly applies force in any manner or who causes injury to an on-ice official; ii. A player who throws or swings his stick at an on-ice official (striking him or not) or shoots the puck at an on-ice official; iii. A player or team official who threatens, makes racial or ethnic slurs, spits, smears blood, or makes sexual remarks to an on-ice official; iv. A player or team official who makes any obscene gesture or actions to an on-ice official on the ice or anywhere in the rink immediately before, during, or immediately after the game.								
Game Misconduct	Rule 40.1	Any Player who deliberately applies physical force in any manner against an official shall receive a Match Penalty (25').								
No line change	Rule 63.8	Not applied.				Is applied.				

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Game timing	Rule 77.1	1 x 35 minutes (running time) and the last two minutes of the game – stop time. The maximum duration of a single game is 45 minutes (including warm-up).		3 x 15 minutes (running time). The last two minutes of the third period – stop time. The maximum duration of a single game is 60 minutes (including warm-up).						
Icing	Rule 81.1	Not applied. Icing is not called.		Is applied. Icing is called.						
Line change on icing	Rule 81.4	Not applicable.		Not applied. Players change is allowed.			Is applied. Players change is not allowed.			
Off-side	Rule 83	Not applied.		Is applied.						
Overtime operations - first or preliminary round	Rule 84.1	No overtime or penalty shots.								
Penalty shot shootout procedure	Rule 84.4	Begin with three (3) different shooters from each Team taking alternate shots. The home team taking the first shot.								
Overtime operations - playoff	Rule 84.5	If the result in the play-offs is a draw, a Penalty Shot Shootout.								
Overtime operations - final game	Rule 84.6	In case if in the final game for 1st and 2nd place the two (2) playing Teams are tied, the Teams will then play a “sudden death” Overtime period of not more than five (5) minutes with the Team scoring first declared the winner. The Overtime period shall be played with each Team at a numerical strength of three (3) Skaters and one (1) Goalkeeper. If no goal is scored in the Overtime period, then the Penalty Shot Shootout Procedure will apply according to Rule 84.4.								
Choice of ends	Rule 86.3	The home-team takes the seats and defend goal on the right side looking from the benches side to the ice.								
Choice of ends	Rule 86.3	Teams do not change sides after the break.		Teams change sides after the break.						
Pre-game warm-up	Rule 86.6	Two (2) minutes warmup is allowed prior scheduled commencement time of the game.								
Start of the game	Rule 86.7	The team must be ready to come on ice five (5) minutes before the game starts. Otherwise, the organizers can decide on giving the team a technical loss of 0:5.								
Start of periods	Rule 86.8	At the beginning of the second and third periods, and Overtime periods in playoffs (0:00 on the clock), Teams must be on the ice. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game”. Skating, warm-ups, or on-ice activities by non-starters will result in a Bench Minor Penalty for “Delay of Game” to the offending Team.								
Definition men’s junior hockey age categories	Rule 200.1	≥2017	≥2016	≥2015	≥2014	≥2013	≥2012	≥2011	≥2010	≥2008
Definition men’s junior hockey age categories - Exceptions	Rule 200.1	Overaged players will be allowed only based on rules of local leagues of the team’ country. No exceptions made in other countries for the team will be accepted. Requests for any overage players should be forwarded to the Organisers not later than 14 days before the commencement of the Tournament. Overage players added to the line up without a request made in advance as mentioned above will not be accepted anymore in the tournament under any circumstances. Club teams (“No-select teams”) are entitled to have a maximum of three (3) overage players in their team under the following conditions: i. The player concerned has obtained official permission from the National (or regional) Federation to participate in a lower age group during the regular season. ii. The player concerned has not played in his own age group during the regular season. iii. Permission shall be requested at least two (2) weeks before the tournament commences and the player is only entitled to participate as soon as the organizing committee grants approval. Official documentation should be sent to the organizers.								
Definition men’s junior hockey age categories - Girls	Rule 200.1	Girls are allowed to play in one (1) age group below their designated category, which is determined by a two-year range of birth years (cohort). Team officials can be in different teams of the same club in the same age group.								
Assesment of penalties	Rule 201.1	i. Any player or team official who receives a Major penalty and a Game misconduct (5'+20') or a Match penalty (25') is ejected from the remainder of that game. ii. Any player or team official who within the tournament receives a second major penalty and game misconduct (5'+20'), a first match penalty (25'), or accumulates more than 40 penalty minutes in total, is suspended for at least one subsequent game, and their actions are reviewed by the disciplinary committee. iii. Any player or team official who within the tournament receives a third major penalty and game misconduct (5'+20') or a second match penalty (25') is disqualified from the tournament.								

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Illegal hit	Rule 202.8 Rule 202.9 Rule 202.10	Bodychecking is not allowed.				Bodychecking is allowed when there is a clear intention of playing the puck or attempting to gain possession, according to IIHF Womens hockey specific playing rules. No bodycheck is allowed at open ice from frontal direction.				Body checking according to IIHF Rules.