



January 7, 2014

**RE: Clarification on rule 7.8 c – actively checking**

There has been some confusion on what obligation the team without the ring has around actively checking.

Actively checking is not solely stick checking, it could also be legally using the body to maintain position on the ring carrier after an attempt to play the ring. The failure to actively check is a situation where the team without the ring is not making any attempt to gain control of the ring. If A1 has the ring and B1 takes a legal position (one that the official is not penalizing) and A1 continues to push forward, or through a small space between the boards and B1, to attempt to get past B1, and B1 holds their ground, and the ring becomes immovable, play should be stopped and given to Team B. Although B1 isn't actively **stick** checking, they are making an attempt to play the ring in a manner that is deemed legal by the official, and therefore the obligation to move the ring is on the ring carrier. Failure to keep the ring from being tied up will mean play is stopped and a free pass (or goalkeeper ring) is awarded to the team not initially in control.

Some situations that would constitute not actively checking would be a player falling and sliding into the ring carrier and pinning their stick in such a manner that it cannot be moved. If players B1, B2 & B3 create a triangle around the ring carrier, A1, not allowing A1 to move, however are making no actual attempt to play the ring.

If B1 has made no attempt to play the ring, but simply pinned A1, the ring carrier, against the boards, play should be stopped and a penalty for boarding or body contact should be assessed.

**“It is the responsibility of the player who is in control of the ring to avoid situations that would cause the ring to become immovable”.** The onus is on the ring carrier to keep the ring moving and not put it in a position to be tied up.

On behalf of the Officiating Development Committee;

Technical Director