



Erste Liga Disciplinary Committee

no.2023-24/036 decree

The Disciplinary Committee investigated the Erste Liga game EL 146 (Sport Club Csíkszereda - DEAC) where in the 52th minutes István Sofron (Sport Club Csíkszereda) penalized 5+20 minutes game misconduct penalty for illegal check to the head or neck.

IIHF RULE 48 ILLEGAL CHECK TO THE HEAD OR NECK

There is no clean check to the head or neck. The Player delivering the hit must avoid hitting the opponent's head or neck. A hit resulting in contact with an opponent's head where the head was the main point of contact and such contact to the head was avoidable is not permitted. This rule supersedes all similar actions regarding hits to the head and neck.

In determining whether contact with an opponent's head was avoidable, the circumstances of the hit including the following shall be considered:

- Whether the Player attempted to hit squarely through the opponent's body and the head was not "picked" as a result of poor timing, poor angle of approach, or unnecessary extension of the body upward or outward. If the primary force of a blow is initially to the body area and then contact slides up to the head or neck.
- Whether the opponent put themselves in a vulnerable position by assuming a posture that made head contact on an otherwise full body check unavoidable.
- Whether the opponent materially changed the position of their body or head immediately prior to or simultaneously with the hit in a way that significantly contributed to the head contact.

The Committee made the following conclusions:

In the 52th minutes of the game, the Sport Club Csíkszereda player turned his body and collided with his opponent, who was no longer in possession the puck. István Sofron's apparent intention was a legal collision. During the collision, the DEAC player fell backwards and hit his head on the ice. The Commission did not believe that the move was capable of causing intentional injury.

The Disciplinary Committee, considering the circumstances of the collision, confirm the penalty imposed by the referees on the game, and not consider it necessary to impose additional sanctions against the player.

14. January 2024, Budapest