

IISHF Rules Committee

Report and Rules of the Game
2026/2027



Members



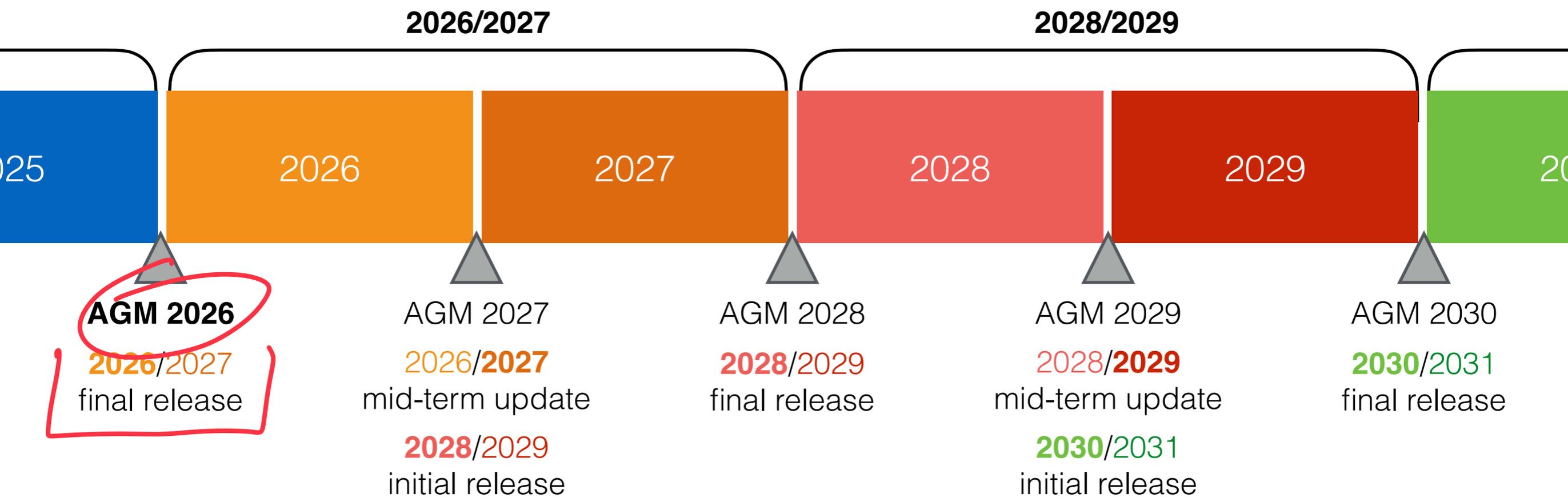
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- Marco Eicher (CH)
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- Thomas Loicht (AT)
- Vladyslav Melnychuk (UA)
- Majid Tahseen (PK)
- Will Osborne (GB)



Rules of the Game

release process





- rule changes only every **even** year
- **mid-term updates** every **odd** year - just clarifications and error corrections
- rule book releases one year in advance (**initial release**)
- „last minute“ clarifications and error corrections on rule book possible prior to release (**final release**)



Rules of the Game

2026 / 2027

final release for 2026



5.13.1 Neck and throat protector

- ▶ Helmet with full-face mask or a goalkeeper's full-face head protector.
- ▶ Neck and throat protector that provides effective protection against impacts or contact from the ball, sticks, or any other object that could endanger the goalkeeper in the neck or throat area. In addition, goalkeepers are permitted to use a plastic throat protector ("dangler") attached to their helmet or face mask.
- ▶ Full goalkeeper body armour incorporating these items
 - shoulder protectors
 - chest protector



8.20 Line Change Procedure (and related)

8.19.3 If a team has more than one change of players on the pitch during a stoppage of play it shall be assessed as:



8.20 Line Change Procedure (and related)

8.20 Line Change Procedure

8.20.1 When play has been stopped by the referees, both teams may initiate a line change unless a dispute is occurring on the pitch (see rule 8.15.1). During the stoppage, one referee shall oversee and control the line changes for both teams.

8.20.2 Each team is permitted one line change per stoppage of play. If a team makes more than one change of players during the same stoppage, the following sanction shall apply:

INFRINGEMENT: Bench penalty (2')

8.20.3 The line change procedure must not exceed ten (10) seconds. The supervising referee shall determine compliance with this time limit at their discretion and ensure that the procedure is carried out promptly and without unnecessary delay.

To indicate the upcoming end of the line change procedure, the supervising referee will raise one hand. When the referee lowers their hand, no further substitutions are permitted. Both teams must then proceed immediately to the face-off spot (see rule 8.19.2),

8.20 Line Change Procedure (and related)

INFRINGEMENT: In the first instance the referee shall issue a verbal warning to the captain/coach of the offending team.

On the second and subsequent occasions a bench penalty (2') shall be imposed on the offending team.



8.20 Line Change Procedure (and related)

8.21.2 If the game is stopped, incoming substitutes may be on the pitch before the players going off have reached the players bench or substitution area without penalty.
Substitutions must be initiated before the line change procedure ended (see rule 8.20)



8.20 Line Change Procedure (and related)

8.26 Time-Out

- 8.26.1 During the progress of each period of a game (including overtime but not in a penalty shootout) the captain of each team shall be permitted to ask the referee for a time-out of 30 seconds duration. The request can only be made **during a stoppage in play** **before the line change procedure ended (see rule 8.20).**

And that's it for 2026!



A word about rule
changes.



Who can propose changes?

- Every member of the Rules Committee
- Every NGB through the Chairman of the Rules Committee (or the IISHF office)
- The IISHF presidium



The rule change...

- Is relevant in the context of the Rules of the Game
- Is implementable in the proposed way
- Can be enforced by the referees and/or proper authorities
- Clarifies current rule and/or procedures
- Simplifies current rule and/or procedures
- Does not contradict any other rule not mentioned for change in the proposal
- Is consistent with the notion of the game
- Meets the current standards of the Rules of the Game
- Makes playing the game more secure for all participants



On behalf of the **IISHF Rules Committee**

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thank you for your attention and
your confidence in our work!



Questions?



Thank you again for
your support.

