Summary from IFF´s physical play workgroup concerning the contacts between field player and goalkeeper

From: IFF´s physical play workgroup
To: The National Associations of Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland

Preview
IFF´s physical play workgroup has processed the theme the contact between field player and goalkeeper.

Here are some video examples for your information about this issue. The views are based on the Rules of the Game version, link to the rules.

Example 1:
Video: https://youtu.be/fpWI1Cnf6k4
Video time: 0:05.

Situation:
White player 42 (W42) is running towards the opponents (red) goal. While trying to score he crashes into the goalkeeper.

Considerations:
- W42 has full control over the situation. The action of red player #23 has no impact on this control.
- The goalkeeper is in a rather steady state, his positioning does not change instantly and is therefore predictable for W42.
- Even though W42 might not have the intention to crash into the goalkeeper, but he disregards the consequences for the goalkeeper and hits his head and/or upper body with excessive force.
- The action of W42 is therefore considered reckless.

Penalty to be imposed: **Major bench penalty**

Rule to be applied: **607:4** - When a player is guilty of reckless physical play.

Example 2:
Video: https://youtu.be/I0LldTBBNSQ
Video time: 0:07.

Description of the situation:
Goalkeeper of the white team catches the ball. Orange is tackling the goalkeeper so that the goalkeeper is falling backwards. The goalkeeper does not fall into the goal cage.

→ the successive situation where the orange player is cross-checked by white player 67 is not part of this consideration (since no offence against the goalkeeper).

Considerations:
- White goalkeeper catches the ball in a height where no field player can reach it in a correct way.
- Orange player tackles the goalkeeper without any possibility of reaching the ball.
- The tackle is considered clearly intentional but not with excessive force.
- The goalkeeper is not tackled against the goal cage.
- The action of the orange player is therefore considered careless.

Penalty to be imposed: **Minor bench penalty**

Rule to be applied: **605:6** - When a player is guilty of careless physical play.

→ To be noticed further:
If the conducted offence leads the offended player (goalkeeper) to hit against the goal cage:
Major bench penalty, 607:4 (When a player is guilty of reckless physical play. *This includes when a player tackles, throws or trips an opponent against the board or the goal cage*).

Example 3:
Video: https://youtu.be/7GzBR8L_bvs
Video time: 0:05.

Description of the situation:
Red player 61 (R61) is following the ball which is in possession of the white team. He crosses through the goalkeeper's area and causes a collision with team white's goalkeeper #74 (W74). The contact incurs against the head of W74.

Considerations:

- The collision between R61 and W74 occurs when R61 passes through the goalkeeper's area to gain an advantage and consequently affects play (507:8).
- The focus of R61 is fully on attacking the ball possessing player of team white, but not on the goalkeeper.
- The motivation of crossing through the goalkeeper's area is to take the shortest way and not to make contact with the goalkeeper.
- The contact against the head incurs passively, i.e., with the body while wanting to pass by and is neither intended nor with excessive force.
- The action of R61 lacks of precaution and consideration of the goal keepers positioning and is therefore considered careless.

Penalty to be imposed: **Minor bench penalty**

Rule to be applied: **605:6** - When a player is guilty of careless physical play.

Example 4:
Video: https://youtu.be/QpbpZZEszrU
Video time: 0:05.

Description of the situation:
Black player #11 (B11) is in possession of the ball behind the goal cage of team white. Shortly after crossing the imaginary extended goal line a collision between B11's knee and the head of team white's goalkeeper incurs. The resulting penalty is delayed.

Considerations:
- B11 is basically playing sound floorball: His focus is the opportunity to create a scoring chance.
- B11 crosses the imaginary extended goal line within the goal crease but outside of the goalkeeper's area.
- The goalkeeper of team white is trying to get in possession of the ball and is therefore moving his head into the route B11.
- B11 had no opportunity to avoid the collision and cannot be hold responsible for the collision
- The collision therefore to be considered as a game accident and no penalties shall be imposed.

Penalty to be imposed: **None (no offence).**

Yours,

IFF Referee Committee