

Ice Hockey in the 21st Century

Rule changes and their effect on the Game



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Darryl Easson

- 49 Years Old
- Born in Canada but lived in England for 24 years
- Married with 2 Daughters 19 & 10
- Sport Development Manager for the IIHF
- Canadian Advanced Level I Coach
- Played and Coached Professionally in GB
- ex- Technical and Coaching Director for ICE HOCKEY UK
- Coached GBR U18 Team for 7 Seasons – Gold medal winner 1997 Pool C Championship



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2009 – Right at this Moment

- Going through another Rule Review
- Changes to be made to 2010 IIHF Rule Book
- Decisions will be made next week
- Many proposals have been made - actually over 60 pages
- Most are insignificant
- BUT 3 or 4 could make big changes in the game



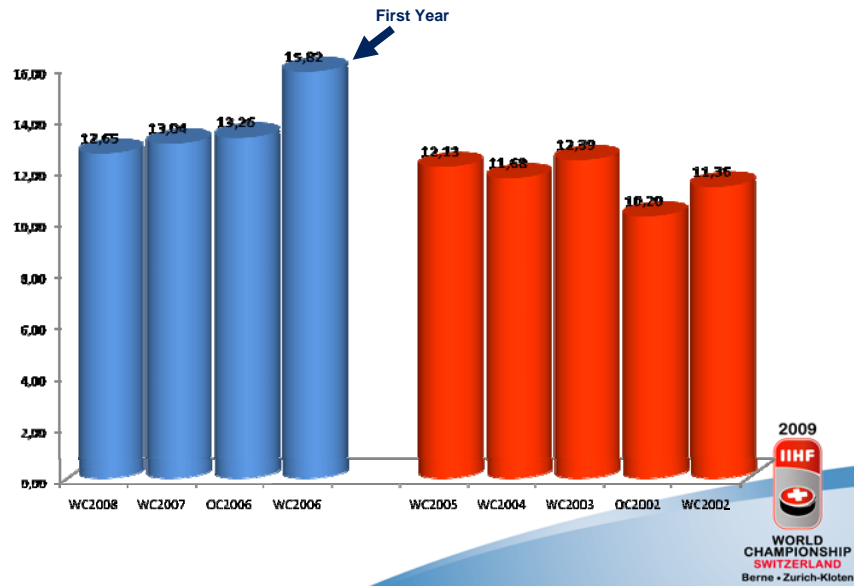
Major Changes over 15 Years

- Coincidental Penalties (1995)
- Elimination of the 2 line pass (1998)
- Reduction of Goalkeeper Equipment (2006)
- 4-man System (2007)
- Zero-Tolerance (2009)?

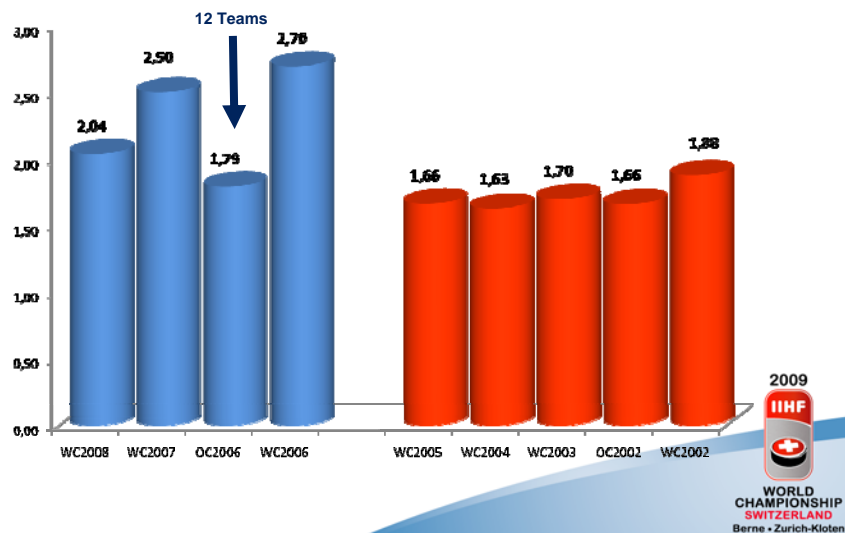
**...No it's
Rule Enforcement!!**



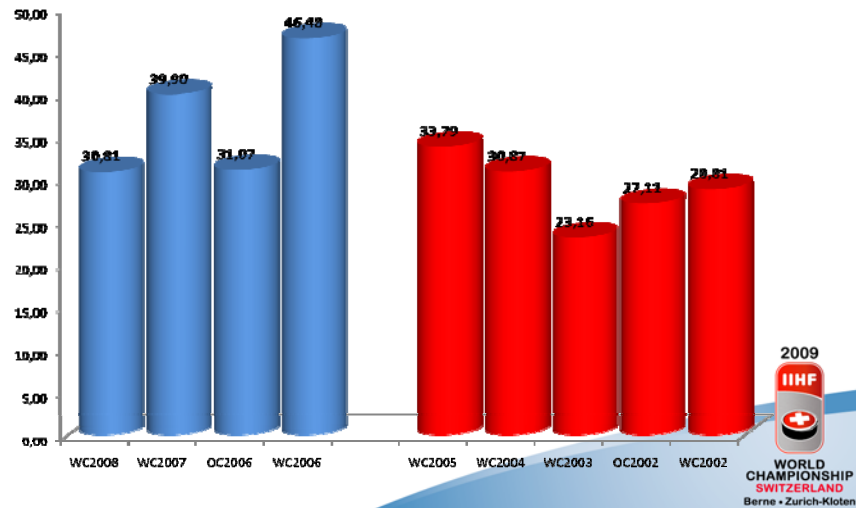
Number of Minor Penalties per Game



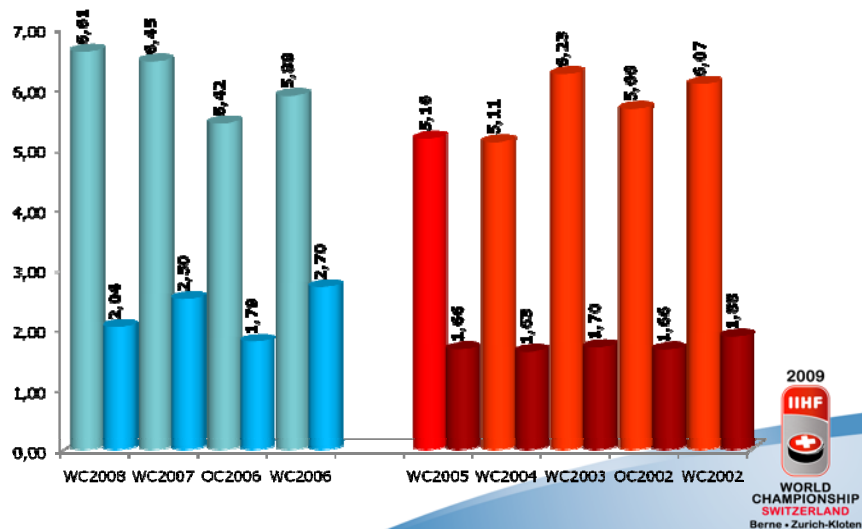
Number of Power Play Goals per Game



Percentage Power Play Goals of Total Goals per Game



Number of Goals per Game vs. Number of Power Play Goals per Game



Power Play

No Slugs!!

- Essential to provide close support to the puck when establishing control in the offensive zone
- The defensemen play wide, one forward in front of the net
- One-timers off the pass
- High-cycle provides a good opportunity to create space for the point-men

Penalty Kill

KISS – PIS.....

- When the puck crosses defensive blue line, all four players must be in the defensive zone
- Give immediate pressure to puck and close the middle
- If the opponent gets good control of the puck, play a tight box. Defensemen close to the net
- Forwards: Strong side blocks passing lanes to blue line and the weak side blocks the cross ice pass



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Another P.O.V. (Point of View)

- Find out what the penalties are
- Then - don't take them
- Rule Enforcement has been in affect for 3 seasons
- Who hasn't adapted to them?
- Yes – the game has changed
- And playing & coaching must change too



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Studies made by IIHCE

- The effect Rule Changes have had on the quality of the game
 - More scoring changes and more goals?
 - Quicker and more entertaining game?
- Look at rule changes from the game's point of view
- Research the possible changes in the 2010 rule book
- Can the change of the rink or surface markings have an effect on the qualities of the game



Game Analysis Results

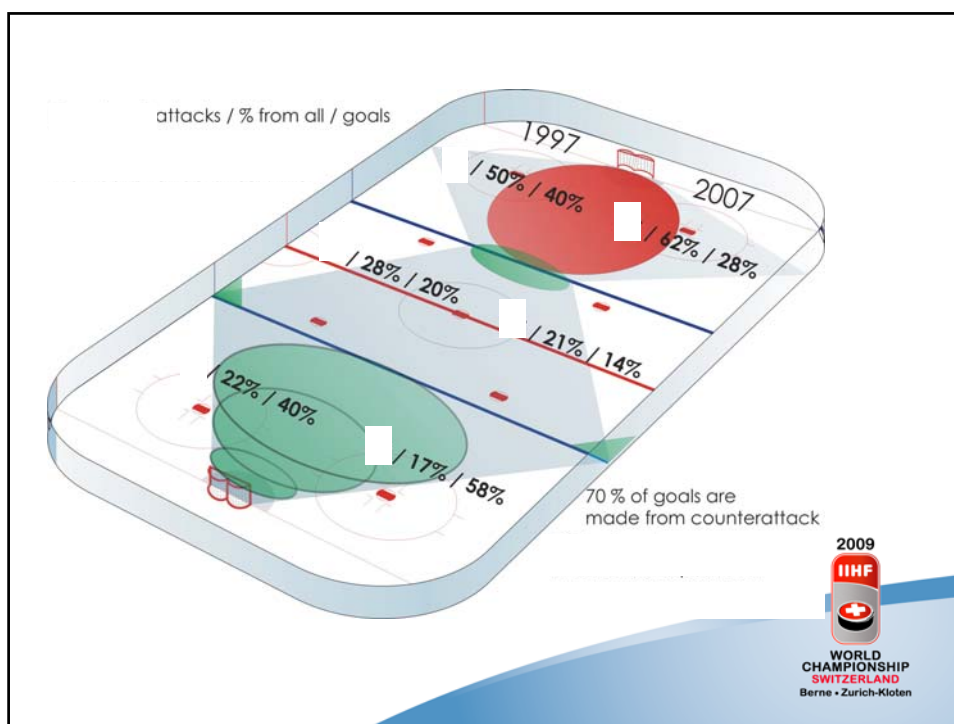
Comparison of attacks resulting in a goal (even strength)

- **In 1997** - 20% of the attacks were from Defensive zone
 - Offensive zone attacks 40%
 - Neutral zone attacks 20%
- **In 2007** -28% of the attacks were from Defensive zone
 - Offensive zone attacks 58%
 - Neutral zone attacks 14%

BUT

- Attacks from the Defensive zone has increased 12%
- Attacks from the Offensive zone has decreased 5%

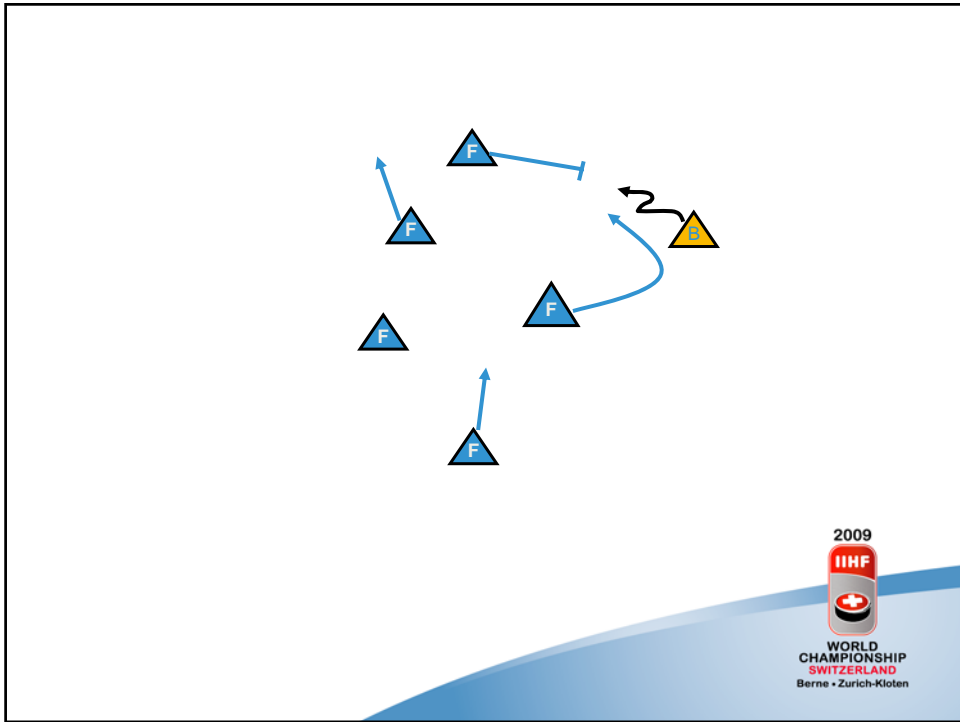
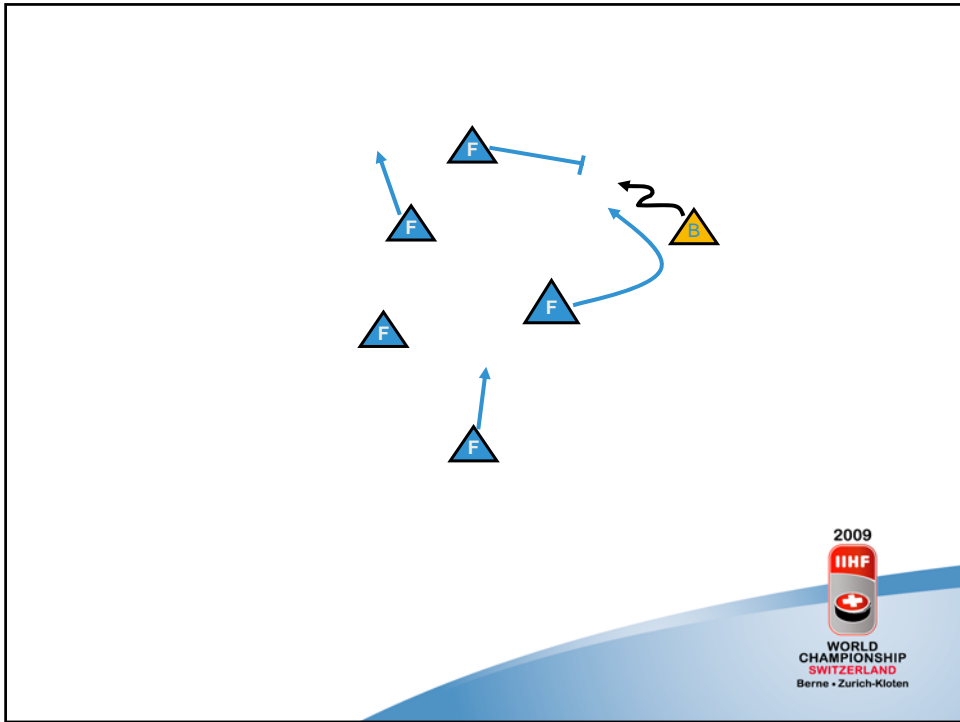
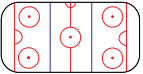




Game Analysis Results - 2

- The average number of good scoring opportunities per team, decreased from 20 to 15 per game
- Starting point for attacks leading to scoring chances has moved from offensive to defensive zone
- Active forechecking is difficult in the offensive zone
- The central point of forechecking shifted to the neutral zone (trap) and became passive

Passive defence does not increase the quality of the game



What do we want to achieve?

- Improve the Quality of the game
- More Excitement? More Goals?
- 63-1, 92-0, 82-0
- How about? 7-1, 6-1, 9-2, 9-2, 6-0, 5-0, 7-1, 8-2

Narrower Rink - Smaller Neutral → Bigger End Zones

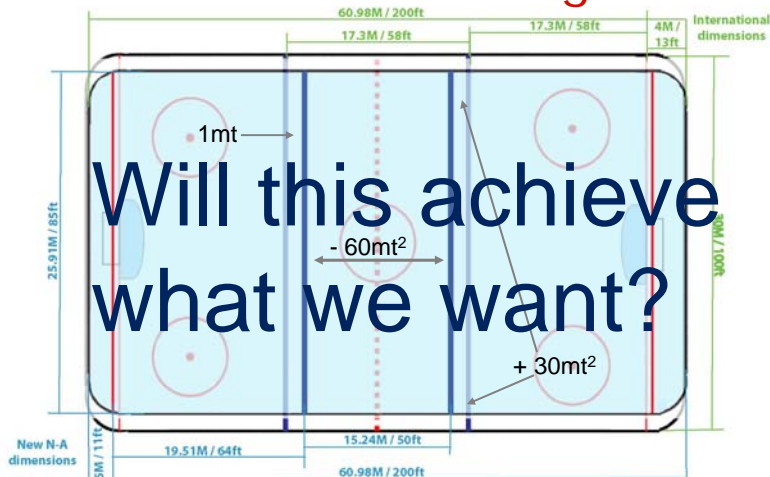
- Increases the importance of the Power Play and makes it easier to operate
 - In the NHL during the 08-09 season PP goal % of all goals is 28.17% (nhl.com)

Why?



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Rink Size and Markings



	Metric	Old N-A			New N-A			IIHF			Difference New vs IIHF	Difference Old vs IIHF
		Length	Width	Total	Length	Width	Total	Length	Width	Total		
Total Surface	Metric	60.96	25.91	1579	60.96	25.91	1579	60	30	1800	221	221
	Imperial	200	85	17000	200	85	17000	200	100	20000	3000	3000
Neutral Zone	Metric	16.46	25.91	426	15.24	25.91	395	17.3	30	519	124	93
	Imperial	54	85	4590	50	85	4250	58	100	5800	1550	1210
End Zones	Metric	18.25	25.91	474	19.51	25.91	506	17.3	30	519	13	26
	Imperial	60	85	5100	64	85	5440	58	100	5800	360	700



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A More Exciting Game

- The players need to be taught the skills to make it exciting
- They must practice these skills to develop them
- They need to be given the opportunity to use these skills in games
- That is the coaches role and their main challenge



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