

## Quick-Fact: Questions and Answers

### **Q: What are the definitions of instigator and aggressor *penalties*?**

A: INSTIGATOR: The instigator to a fight shall be defined as the player/goalkeeper who, by his/her own actions or demeanor, demonstrates at least one of the following criteria: distance traveled in order to begin fighting; gloves off first; first punch thrown; substitution directly from bench in order to begin fight; menacing attitude or posture; verbally inciting or instigating another player/goalkeeper; gestures or threats; conduct in retaliation to a prior game incident.

*Note: Not all fights will have a clear instigator. An instigator penalty should only be assessed when the referee is certain that at least one of the defined criteria has been committed by the offending player/goalkeeper.*

AGGRESSOR: Any player/goalkeeper who continues to fight after the Referees have attempted to separate fighters, attempts to restart a fight or refuses to stop fighting after being so instructed.

### **Q: What penalty(s) are assessed to two player/goalkeepers' involved in a fight.**

A: Both player/goalkeeper(s) will be assessed a 5 minute major for fighting and a game misconduct, plus any other penalties assessed.

### **Q: What penalty(s) will be assessed to Team A player/goalkeeper who is the clear instigator/aggressor in a fight with Team B player/goalkeeper?**

A: The "clear" instigator/aggressor player/goalkeeper will receive a 5 minute major & game misconduct for the instigator/aggressor (Rule 45 b), 5 minute major & game misconduct for fighting (Rule 45a), and a game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c).

The intent of this new rule is to ensure the Clear instigator/aggressor is penalized for starting the fight or continuing to fight after being clearly directed to stop by the officials.

### **Q: During a fight which Team A player/goalkeeper is the clear instigator/aggressor, Team B player/goalkeeper fights back to protect themselves. What penalties will be assessed?**

A: The clear instigator/aggressor will receive a 5 minute major & game misconduct for the instigator/aggressor (Rule 45b), 5 minute major & game misconduct for fighting (Rule 45a), and a game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c). Team B player/goalkeeper will receive a 5 minute major for fighting (Rule 45b).

The intent of this rule is to protect the player/goalkeeper who is just defending themselves and is not a willing combatant in the fight. Officials need to be diligent to ensure the willing combatants are assessed the Game Misconduct under Rule 45a for fighting.

**Q: Team A player/goalkeeper attacks a Team B player/goalkeeper and starts to throw punches and fights with the Team B player/goalkeeper who does not fight back. As the officials try to break up the one-sided fight, the Team A player/goalkeeper does not stop and keeps throwing punches and continues to fight. What penalties are assessed to the Team A player/goalkeeper?**

A: Team A player/goalkeeper will be assessed the penalties under Rule 45a and 45b for being the clear instigator. The Team A player/goalkeeper will be assessed the 5 minute major & game misconduct for the instigator (Rule 45b), 5 minute major & game misconduct for fighting (Rule 45a), and a game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c). The Team A player/goalkeeper will then be assessed the 5 minute major & game misconduct for the aggressor (Rule 45b).

In total the Team A player /goalkeeper will have three (3) majors and 4 game misconducts due to their actions.

The intent of this situation is to show that a player/goalkeeper can receive both an instigator and an aggressor penalty under Rule 45b. Officials need to be diligent to ensure the one-sided fights are broken up quickly, however also need to ensure the clear instigators and aggressors in fights are penalized.

**Q: A player/goalkeeper from Team A instigates an altercation with a player/goalkeeper from Team B. Initially, the player from Team B does not defend himself/herself but eventually begins to fight back. Once the officials intervene, the player/goalkeeper from Team B does not cease fighting and continues to land punches on the Team A player (who has ceased fighting). What penalties should be assessed?**

A: Team A Player/goalkeeper: 5 minute instigator & game misconduct (Rule 45b), 5 minute fighting & game misconduct (Rule 45a), plus additional game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c).

Team B Player: 5 minute fighting (no game misconduct as this player defended themselves) (Rule 45b), 5 minute aggressor & game misconduct (Rule 45b), additional game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c).

The intent of this rule situation is to show the penalty results for the player/goalkeeper who instigates a fight and what the player/goalkeeper would receive who becomes the aggressor in a fight and what penalties are assessed.