

Hockey Federation, is largely the same game as Canadian hockey; indeed, the IIHF rules were originally adopted, with a few exceptions, from the Canadian game. One of the more noticeable exceptions is the prohibition of the aggressive style of body contact allowed in the Canadian game.

There is also a difference between the size of the ice surface used in international competition and that used in Canadian hockey. Though rink surfaces are generally about the same length (60 metres), the Canadian surfaces are only about 26 metres wide, compared to 30 metres for international rinks. This wider ice-surface tends to "open up" the international game, placing more emphasis on speed and less on "body-checking" and individual puck control. Both the 1972 and 1974 Canada-U.S.S.R. series were played according to international rules.