

HOCKEY CANADA

Officiating Procedures for Referee and Linespersons



Lead, develop and promote positive hockey experiences

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1. PENALTY PROCEDURES

1.1 Referee

Proper procedure in the way a referee handles a penalty situation can enhance the respect gained from all other game participants. Hockey is an emotionally charged game and good officiating hinges on the referee's ability to remain calm and in control at all times, especially during penalty situations.

When an infraction of the rules calling for a penalty occurs during the play, the referee must follow the following procedures:

- ❑ Mentally record the number of the offender
- ❑ Blow the whistle immediately if the offending team has possession and control of the puck. If the non-offending team has possession and control, raise the non-whistle arm straight up, extending the arm fully above the head to signal a delayed penalty. When the offending team gains possession and control of the puck, stop play by blowing the whistle.
- ❑ As the whistle is blown, the referee shall come to a full stop with the signaling arm still fully extended above the head. The referee shall pause to allow players, coaches and fans to focus on the referee. The referee will then point out the offending player by lowering the fully extended arm and hand straight out towards the offending player.

Note 1: In an officiating system where two referees are indicating a delayed penalty, the referee that stopped play shall initiate communication with their partner to determine whether they have the same or different penalties. This referee will then take the lead in regards to signaling and reporting the infraction(s).

Note 2: If the offending player is within a three-metre radius of the referee, a fully extended arm pointing at the player could be intimidating. In these situations, it is recommended that the player not be pointed out verbal communication is sufficient.

Note 3: When pointing out an offending player, the full hand shall be extended, do not point with a single finger.

- ❑ The referee shall then verbally call out the offending player's number, team color and the penalty being assessed (e.g. "14 blue, tripping") and give the correct signal to indicate the infraction.

Note 1: The referee must be careful not to stare down any player who has been penalized as the signal is made, as this could be perceived as an aggressive action. However, the referee must keep all the players in view.

Note 2: The referee should not indicate the duration of the penalty (minor, major or match) by calling out the number of minutes being assessed until reporting the infraction at the penalty bench.

- ❑ The referee shall then proceed to the penalty bench by turning to skate backwards towards the penalty bench, keeping all players in view, for the purpose of reporting the infraction. The route taken by the referee will depend on the location of the penalized player and the tone of the game at the time. Referees shall attempt to avoid confrontation by:

- (1) Trying to leave the area immediately thus avoiding the penalized player;
 - (2) Stopping and letting the penalized player proceed to the penalty bench first; or
 - (3) Using a combination of these two techniques.
 - (4) Avoiding excessive direct eye contact with the penalized player.
- ❑ At the penalty bench the referee shall report the penalized player's number, team color, the penalty being assessed and the duration of the penalty. The referee should complete this process by giving the appropriate signal for the infraction. The referee must ensure that the off-ice official has the information regarding the penalized player before departing the penalty box area. Referees are encouraged to stop and report the penalty. However, there should not be any undue delay which could lead to confrontation between the penalized player and the referee. There may be times when the referee will want to keep moving and make the stop very short.
 - ❑ When leaving the penalty bench area, the referee shall avoid penalized players and other players by arcing away, keeping all players in view.
 - ❑ When assessing penalties to both teams on the same stoppage of play, the referee shall blow the whistle to stop play immediately and point out each player and give the appropriate signals.

Additional Considerations

The considerations below are meant to assist the referee(s) in completing the penalty procedure, while not escalating a potentially volatile situation.

- ❑ Avoid direct confrontation with penalized players at all times.
- ❑ Resist using signals, hand motions, or verbal communications which display belligerence or which could be considered aggressive or intimidating.
- ❑ When reporting penalties, do not permit players into the referee's crease.
- ❑ Signals and verbal communication are the two means which officials have to communicate with players, coaches, fans and off-ice officials. Therefore, it is important that they be used frequently and executed correctly at all times. Signals or verbal communication used in an intimidating manner will cause problems and will not be tolerated.
- ❑ The referee should avoid explaining minor penalties unless absolutely necessary

1.2 Linespersons

Linespersons can contribute significantly to the ease in which the penalty procedure is conducted. The linespersons can be of assistance both before and after the stoppage of play. It is important for linespersons to be engaged in the game from a full officiating perspective.

- ❑ When the referee signals a delayed penalty, the back linesperson should monitor (observe) the goaltender and player substituting for the goaltender to ensure that the goaltender is within the

three metres (ten feet) of the bench before the substitution can be made. If there is premature substitution, the linesperson shall stop play and inform the referee [Rule 2.5 (f) Note 3].

- ❑ When the referee blows the whistle to assess a penalty or penalties, it is important that the linespersons are ready to react. The linespersons should immediately skate directly to the location of the penalized player or players to be in position to respond.
- ❑ Penalized players shall be escorted to the penalty bench or exit, depending on the penalties assessed. If only one player is being penalized, one linesperson shall escort the penalized player to the penalty bench.
- ❑ The back linesperson is responsible for escorting the penalized player when one penalty is assessed, unless it is a situation (i.e. Checking from Behind, Roughing, etc.) where the closest official should separate and escort the player involved. If players from both teams are being penalized, then both linespersons shall escort the penalized players to the penalty bench. It is very important that linespersons remain between the penalized players until they have left the ice.
- ❑ When a player from the ice needs to serve a penalty for their teammate, the linespersons must get the numbers of the offending team's players on the ice at the time of the infraction. The linesperson must then ensure one of the players on the ice at the time of the infraction serves the penalty. If necessary, they must go to the coach of the offending team and provide them with the numbers of the players who are eligible to serve the penalty. The other linesperson is to take the original penalized player off the ice.
- ❑ Once penalized players have been escorted directly to the penalty bench or exit, the linespersons shall return to their respective position to resume play.
- ❑ While escorting players to the penalty box, position yourself between the penalized player and other players or the referee. Don't hold on to the player unless it is absolutely necessary. Never get too far away from the player that you can't grab them if they try to take off. If necessary, remain at the box until the gate has been closed.
- ❑ When players are being ejected from the game, escort the player all the way to the gate, and if necessary when both teams go the same way to their dressing rooms, hold back the second player until the first player is in the room or is with a team official. Never release a player to anyone unless it is a team official or someone appointed by the Team.

Note 1: Whenever the whistle blows to stop play, both linespersons shall immediately skate to the location of the incident that caused the stoppage of play. Linespersons should not overreact, but should be alert for possible altercations prior to retrieving the puck or getting in position for the ensuing face-off. This is known as having good on-ice awareness.

Note 2: It is very important that both linespersons have good on-ice awareness and be alert for potential problems during the play and at every stoppage of play. Linesperson who demonstrate good on-ice awareness and respond quickly on every stoppage of play will make a positive contribution to the overall control of the game and will prevent problems from occurring.

2. LINE CHANGE PROCEDURE

2.1 Referee

The referee is responsible to ensure that player changes are completed within the confines of the rules to prevent unnecessary delays in the game [Rule 2.5]. This may mean taking a moment to ensure that possibly volatile situations are diffused before proceeding with the Line Change Procedure. For player changes taking place during a stoppage of play, the referee shall begin the line change procedure as soon as it is safe to do so, even if they are still moving into position.

- ❑ As soon as it is safe to do so, the referee will look at the Visiting Team players' bench making eye contact with the coach and allow a maximum of five seconds during which the Visiting Team and Home Team may make a change. A player change may involve between one and five players.
- ❑ The referee shall then raise either arm to indicate that the Visiting Team may no longer change. The arm should be raised toward the Visiting Team's bench, not towards the stands. The arm that the referee will raise to signal the line change will be the arm that will afford the referee the best view of the players on the ice.
- ❑ With the arm still raised, the referee shall then look to the Home Team players' bench, making eye contact with the coach. The referee shall again allow a maximum of five seconds during which the Home Team may make a player(s) change.
- ❑ The referee will drop their arm indicating that the home team may no longer change. It is then acceptable but not necessary for the referee to then point to the official conducting the face-off to indicate the start of the face-off procedure.

Positioning

- ❑ For line changes when the referee is located in the end zone, the referee should ensure that they are visible to both benches (e.g. stand near the top of the end zone circle).
- ❑ For line changes in the neutral zone, the referee should ensure that they are visible and facing the appropriate benches. They should be standing in the position that they will commence play from.

Additional Considerations

When a team attempts to make a player change after their allotted time during a stoppage of play and the referee sends the player back to their bench, the following shall occur:

- ❑ The referee shall issue a warning to the offending team and any subsequent violation may result in a Bench Minor penalty [Rule 2.5 (g)].
- ❑ This warning applies only to the team committing the infraction. Each team is entitled to one warning during the course of the game, before being assessed a Bench Minor penalty.

- ❑ The referee must use this procedure on every stoppage of play. This will ensure that both teams use the line change procedure correctly and prevent unnecessary delays.
- ❑ When the two-official system is used, the official who is not conducting the face-off shall conduct the line change procedure.
- ❑ When the four-official system is used, the referee in the neutral zone will conduct the line change procedure.
- ❑ After the scoring of a goal in the four-official system, the referee not reporting the goal shall conduct the line change procedure.

Note: The referee must be careful not to be overbearing with this signal. Your mannerisms and eye contact in this procedure should encourage teamwork with the coaches. The line change procedure provides a good opportunity to promote good communication and establish rapport with the teams.

2.2 Linespersons

The linespersons play a significant role in the efficiency of the line change procedure. Linespersons should be ready and do everything they can to make the face-off fast and fair.

- ❑ Linespersons are to prepare to drop the puck as soon as possible after the referee lowers their arm to complete the line change procedure.
- ❑ For a complete explanation of the face-off procedure please refer to the face-off procedure in section 5 of this document.

3. ALTERCATION / FIGHT

3.1 Altercations – Two Official System

- ❑ The official who whistles the play down will take charge of the fight scene and will take up a position near the fight, which permits a good view of the fighters, the players on the ice and both benches.
- ❑ The other official will direct all other players to their respective benches by using both verbal and physical gestures. This official must also observe and verbally direct the goalkeepers to stay in their respective creases or go to a designated neutral area. Once this has been done, the second official will then proceed to the altercation.
- ❑ Prior to entering the fight, the officials shall decide which player each will take and they should remove any equipment in the area to prevent them from tripping and falling.
- ❑ The officials must enter the fight together.
- ❑ Once the players have been separated, it is important that the officials let them go.
- ❑ The officials should remain aware and ready to restrain the players if they try to get away. The body position of the officials in relation to the two combatants is extremely important.
- ❑ The officials shall remain between the players, keeping them apart and escort them to the penalty bench or an exit that provides access to the dressing areas. Should the players exit the arena towards the dressing rooms by way of the same exit, do not allow them to leave the ice at the same time.
- ❑ The officials will then confer at the official's crease, while continuing to observe the benches and the players on the ice.
- ❑ Once they have decided on what penalties are to be assessed, one official will report the penalties, while the other official shall take up an appropriate position near the vicinity of the original altercation that allows the official to observe the benches and the players on the ice.
- ❑ At this time, the official in the vicinity of the altercation will direct one player from the ice from each team to collect any equipment left on the ice.
- ❑ Once the penalties are assessed, the official observing the benches and the players on the ice will collect the puck and proceed to the appropriate face-off spot.
- ❑ The other official will take a position as the back official and continue to observe the players and the benches

Note: It is critical that the two-officials work as a team, as this is a critical time in the game.

3.2 Altercations – Three Official System

When altercations take place, players focus on one another and often emotions run high. A referee who knows where to be and what to say or do can often subdue a very volatile situation quickly. Physical presence is very important.

Referee

- ❑ Get in close enough to the gathering of players so that they are aware of their presence, but not too close to restrict their view of all the players on the ice and the players' benches.
- ❑ Blowing the whistle hard and raising both arms in the air is often an effective way to stop the play following an intense scramble around the net.
- ❑ Must first ensure that all other players on the ice are directed to their respective players' benches or neutral area by using both a verbal and physical gesture.
- ❑ Must observe and verbally direct goalkeepers to stay in their respective creases or, in the event of an altercation at the crease, go to a designated neutral area.
- ❑ Shall penalize any player who does not go to the appropriate bench or neutral area when directed by the referee. In most cases, penalizing the most flagrant violators will make the point of the rule.
- ❑ Would notify the players of their Misconduct penalties only after the altercation is over and the referee is at the penalty bench.
- ❑ Should then take up a position which permits a good view of the players on the ice and both benches. It is important that the referee keep all players in view at all times and not get caught in the middle of an altercation.
- ❑ Should direct the linespersons to escort the players to the penalty bench or exit.
- ❑ Should remain in the area of the altercation keeping all players in view.
- ❑ Should direct one player from the ice from each team to collect any equipment left on the ice.
- ❑ Will proceed to the penalty bench to report the penalties.
- ❑ Should not discuss the infractions with the players until they have reported the penalties to the time keeper.
- ❑ When necessary, the referee shall communicate the penalties assessed to a captain or alternate captain from each team. This discussion shall be clear, short and to the point.
- ❑ The referee may communicate to the benches the man power on the ensuing play by indicating the number of eligible players for each team using their fingers (e.g. five-on-four) should get the game restarted as quickly as possible.

Linespersons

The following procedures outline the responsibilities of the linespersons during altercations. Please note that in the modified 3-official system the back referee will conduct the duties of the back/second linesperson outlined in this section.

- ❑ Fighting in hockey is not condoned and player safety is of the utmost importance. Linespersons are required to prevent fighting whenever reasonably possible.

- ❑ Linespersons have the responsibility for breaking up fights and separating players involved in fights. It is important that one player not get an advantage to continue to hit another player who is being held or restrained by an official.
- ❑ Prior to entering the fight, the linespersons should remove any equipment from the area to prevent them from tripping or falling.
- ❑ Both linespersons must enter the fight together.
- ❑ Prior to entering the fight, the linespersons shall decide which player each will take.
- ❑ Linespersons should attempt to get between the players only when the players have stopped throwing punches or one player has gained a significant advantage. Then, the linespersons should get between them by tying up their arms and forcing them apart.
- ❑ To get between players the linespersons should come in from the side, each taking a different player.
- ❑ Do not come in from behind and pull backwards. Come in over top of the players' arms forcing them down so that they are not able to throw punches. Force players apart with gentle sustained pressure, using the strength in your legs to force them apart. There is no hurry if they have stopped throwing punches.
- ❑ If players are wrestling on the ice, one official should get hold of a free arm of the player on top. The linesperson taking the player on the bottom must protect this player from punches. The linesperson taking the player on the bottom must come in from the side, covering the player's head and face, protecting the player in doing so.
- ❑ An official should never enter a fight over a player's skates.
- ❑ If players are using sticks in the fight or swinging sticks at each other, linespersons shall stay out until they stop swinging the sticks.
- ❑ Once players have been separated, it is important that the linespersons let them go. However, the linespersons should be very alert and ready to restrain the players if they try to get away. The body position of the linespersons in relation to the two combatants is extremely important. The linespersons shall remain between the players, keeping them apart, and escort them to the penalty bench or exit as directed by the referee.
- ❑ When a fight occurs, it is the linesperson's responsibility to report to the referee any infractions that may occur during the fight, such as head-butting or hair pulling. Be aware of this and report to the referee if necessary.

Helpful hints

- ❑ Continually talk to players involved.
- ❑ You must remain calm yourself and talk calmly with the players involved in the fight to defuse their anger and emotion.
- ❑ Do not hold players once they have been separated.
- ❑ Skate between players involved until they cool down.

- ❑ When escorting a player to the penalty bench or exit, position yourself between the player and potential hazards (e.g. the opposing team bench, other players on the ice, the referee, etc.).
- ❑ Make sure players are separated on the penalty bench unless there are separate benches.
- ❑ Both linespersons shall mentally record the number of the players involved.
- ❑ Do not grab a player's stick and pull it away from the player; instead, push the stick away with an open hand.
- ❑ Protect players. It is your duty to see that no player gets the advantage over another player due to the way you are breaking up the fight.
- ❑ In multiple fight situations, linespersons should be methodical in escorting players either to the penalty bench or off the ice. Linespersons should make sure that they have removed the original combatants from the ice before they attempt to break up a second fight. Always work with your partner. Never go in alone.
- ❑ Protect yourself. Do not be overeager. It is a time to exercise extreme caution and good judgment.

4. GOAL PROCEDURES

4.1 Referee – Disputed Goals

Whenever there is a dispute following the scoring of a goal, or a goal which has been disallowed, emotions run high. The referee must remain calm and take control of the situation, keeping in mind that the final decision in all disputes remains with the referee.

- ❑ In every situation where the referee is in position to see and make the call, the referee's decision shall be final without any further consultation or discussion with the linesperson or goal judge.
- ❑ If the play is very close and the goal is allowed, the referee shall follow the normal procedure for the scoring of a goal.
- ❑ If the play resulted in a disallowed goal, the referee shall immediately give the wash-out signal and, once play is stopped, indicate the face-off spot.
- ❑ It is important that the referee remains calm and in control of the situation and not permit any players to consult with or abuse the other on-ice officials or goal judges.
- ❑ The referee shall explain the decision to the captain or alternate captain once and this decision shall be final.
- ❑ The referee shall also have the scorekeeper announce over the public address system the reason why the goal was disallowed.
- ❑ If the referee was not in position to see and make the call, then further consultation may be required before a final decision can be made. The referee shall first consult with the linespersons to determine if they were in position to see and make the call.
- ❑ If the linespersons were in position and can make the call, then the referee's decision shall be based on the linesperson's report. The referee should always consult the other officials.
- ❑ If the linespersons were not in position to see and make the call, the referee shall consult with the goal judge and the discussion shall be either "Goal" or "No goal".
- ❑ There will be situations where the goal judge disagrees with the decision of the referee. It is important that the referee not permit the goal judge to argue or show disrespect for the decision of the referee. It may become necessary to have the goal judge removed or replaced if the goal judge is showing partisanship or making unjust decisions.

4.2 Linespersons – Following a Goal

- ❑ When a goal has been scored, it is very important that both linespersons work together. After a scoring of a goal, the front linesperson shall immediately skate into the end zone, and position themselves between the players gathered celebrating the goal and the defending players or goaltender. The back linesperson should move towards the players gathered celebrating the goal, and position themselves between those players and the opposition's bench. Both linespersons must be alert for potential problems and be ready to respond as required.

- ❑ Once it is evident that players are under control, the front linesperson shall retrieve the puck and proceed to centre ice to await the referee.
- ❑ The back linesperson shall move with the players to prevent possible confrontations with the players from the team that scored and the opposition players.
- ❑ Linespersons need to be especially alert in cases where the players' benches are on the same side of the ice. In this case, if the team that scored is closest to their own bench, the back linesperson would move ahead of the celebrating players and position themselves about at centre ice along the boards just past the bench of the team that scored. By positioning themselves here, the scoring team that typically celebrates by skating past the bench and slapping hands with their teammates is forced to skate off the boards and should not end up skating right in front of the oppositions' bench. This reduces the opportunity for verbal exchanges or physical contact.

If the bench of the team that scored is not the near bench, the back linesperson would move with the celebrating players, keeping themselves between the celebrating players and the opposition's bench, and then stop at centre ice, along the boards, just past the opposition bench. By positioning themselves here, the linesperson is a buffer between the celebrating players and the oppositions' bench, reducing the opportunity for verbal exchanges or physical contact. In this way, the back linesperson directs player traffic, but does so in a way that does not draw attention to the role they are playing. Body positioning is key, and verbal instructions or directing traffic with arms should not normally be required.

- ❑ The back linesperson shall also report any assists to the referee if asked, and then get into position for the ensuing face-off. There should never be a time when all three officials are standing at centre ice.
- ❑ The linesperson shall take up a position for the ensuing centre ice face-off in front of the "happy" bench to prevent unnecessary complaining from the team upon which the goal was scored. The "happy" bench is the bench of the team that scored the goal. In the modified three-official system, this positioning will apply to the referees.

5. FACE-OFF PROCEDURES

Face-off procedure is one of the many important duties that a linesperson has to complete during a game. Upon a stoppage of play the linespersons must not concern themselves with retrieving the puck until the risk of a gathering or altercation subsides.

- ❑ After play has been stopped, the linespersons shall first ensure that no altercations are taking place. Good awareness is an important quality of a good linesperson.
- ❑ Once it is identified that no altercations are taking place the front linesperson may point to the face-off location.
 - (1) If play is stopped by the referee: The linesperson responsible for the end of the rink in which the puck is located when play is stopped will normally retrieve the puck.
 - (2) If play is stopped by a linesperson: The linesperson that blows the whistle to stop play will normally retrieve the puck.
- ❑ The other linesperson shall assist with any altercations, attend to broken sticks or lost equipment and monitor players during the line change procedure.

5.1 Face-off Conduct

A face-off shall take place when an official drops the puck on the ice between the sticks of the two players facing-off. It is the responsibility of the official conducting the face-off to ensure that each player receives a fair opportunity to play the puck. All face-offs will be preceded by the Line Change Procedure, with the exclusion of the opening face-off of a game or period.

- ❑ The official conducting the face-off shall ensure that the other officials are in position before dropping the puck.
- ❑ Officials must ensure that all players on the ice move quickly into position for the ensuing face-off. Use your voice to facilitate this.
- ❑ All other players on the ice must position themselves and their sticks on their own side of the restraining lines (hash marks) marked on the outer edges of the circles one metre (three feet) apart.
- ❑ The official conducting the face-off should check behind themselves and communicate appropriate alignment to the players prior to blowing their whistle.
- ❑ As soon as the referee lowers their arm to indicate that all line changes are complete, the official conducting the face-off shall blow the whistle. This may be followed with a point to the official dropping the puck to indicate it is now good to start the face-off procedure.
 - (1) Once the official conducting the face-off blows the whistle, it becomes the other linesperson's or back official's responsibility to check for encroachment behind the back side of the face-off circle.

- (2) The whistle is to signal to both teams that they will have no more than five seconds to line up for the faceoff. At the end of this five seconds (or sooner if the centres are ready), the linesperson shall be ready to drop the puck.
 - (3) The puck should not be dropped by the official conducting the face-off until all players leaving are off the ice, even if the five seconds are up.
 - (4) Reducing the time of the stoppage in play is the objective but NOT at the expense of the quality or fairness of the face-off.
- ❑ The puck dropping motion is out and down, releasing the puck so that it drops flat on the face-off spot. Do not throw it down too hard or drop it too slowly. Proper face-off technique must be practiced often to perfect the procedure.
 - ❑ The official conducting the face-off shall exit the face-off area by backing away towards the boards and avoiding players. When the face-off is in the end zone, the official should exit to the blue line facing the play. When clear of all players, the official shall move quickly to establish correct positioning.
 - ❑ The back official shall remain in position until the official conducting the face-off has resumed normal positioning and has released the back official (with head nod) from the line. The only exception to this procedure is that if the play moves out quickly, the back official must move quickly to be in position to make a call at the other blue line.
 - ❑ In general, when players are skating around and getting ready for the face-off, officials should encourage and remind all players about the face-off procedures and standard. Officials are encouraged to communicate with players to ensure they understand the basic parameters within which face-offs will be conducted. Your communication should always be through the centre wherever possible as you explain and remind the centre of the procedure and standard, they will now take on the responsibility of communicating this to the team.
 - ❑ The success of the face-off procedure hinges on the understanding between the official and the players that any contravention of the face-off procedure will consistently result in the immediate removal of the offending team's centre from the face-off. It is imperative that all officials are consistent in the application of this procedure and standard. Remember, you are a team and as such you both must be consistent to be effective.
 - ❑ Fast, fair and quality face-offs are the standard to be set. Proper communication and consistent firm standards will help achieve this goal. No coaching or warnings are to be given except in the advance preparation for the face-off.

5.2 Official's Stance

- ❑ Proper stance by the official during the face-off is important.
- ❑ When conducting a face-off, the official should stand squarely to the two players involved, about 30 centimetres (one foot) from the face-off spot.
- ❑ The Official's skates should be shoulder width apart with the knees slightly bent. The Official should have their head up and upper body vertical. This is the safest position to avoid being hit with a fast-rising stick or puck.

- ❑ The puck should be held at the official's belt level and dropped using an outward and down motion.
- ❑ The official should have the free hand at the side, ready to be used for self-protection. Officials should not put the free hand behind their back, as this position will tend to hinder mobility and balance and increase the chance of turning sideways.

5.3 Face-off Alignment and Encroachment

"Encroachment" occurs when a player other than the centre stands with a skate either inside the face-off circle, on the face-off circle or in the area between the hash marks prior to the dropping of the puck. It is acceptable for the player's stick to be inside the face-off circle but not in the area between the hash marks.

- ❑ The official conducting the face-off should be set and ready at the face-off spot before the arrival of the players.
- ❑ Players not taking the face-off must have their skates completely outside the end zone circle and on their own side of the hash marks. Their sticks are permitted inside the circle but are not to be in the area separated by the hash marks. This area extends right through the circle and extends the full width of the ice surface.
- ❑ For Neutral zone face-offs, the players taking the face-off shall stand squarely facing their opponents' end of the rink.
- ❑ For end zone face-offs, the centres must stand squarely facing their opponent's end of the rink and their skates must be positioned clear of the face-off restraining lines.
- ❑ The players of the visiting team shall place the stick within the designated white area first [Rule 10.2 (a)].
- ❑ To ensure a fair face-off, both sticks must be on the ice, within the designated white area, and not in motion prior to the puck being dropped
- ❑ Linespersons are not to "time" the drop with the movements of the home team player. The home team player must be stationary before the puck is dropped.
- ❑ For neutral zone and end zone face-offs at the spots, the sticks of both players facing- off shall have the toe of the blade touching the ice within the designated white area and be flat on the ice [Rule 10.2 (a)].
- ❑ If a player taking the face-off leaves the face-off position to direct teammates (quarterbacking), that centre shall be removed from the face-off by the linesperson.
- ❑ All other players on both teams must be on-side. If a player, other than the player taking the face-off, lines up off-side, or moves into the face-off circle prior to the dropping of the puck, then the offending team's player taking the face-off shall be ejected from the faceoff. Linespersons must also ensure that the first player to enter the face-off circle is the team whose centre must be ejected from the face-off. Many times, when one winger moves into the face-off circle, the opposing player will follow. Too often linespersons will eject both centres in this situation. It is imperative that if the encroachment rule is to work, that the player "most guilty" be the one in which their centre is removed from the face-off circle.

- The responsibility of the linespersons with respect to encroachment is simple. The official conducting the face-off is responsible for the players directly in front of them, including the centres. The back official is responsible for the players behind their partner and any players around the face-off circle that their partner cannot see.
 - (1) Should a player behind the official dropping the puck encroach on the face-off, the back official may blow their whistle and eject the violating team's player taking the face-off.
 - (2) Should players from both teams behind the official dropping the puck encroach on the face-off simultaneously the back official should blow the whistle and eject both centres for a violation.

When a violation of the encroachment guidelines above occurs, the official should:

- (3) Communicate this vocally by saying something like, "white centre out, your winger encroached."
 - (4) Indicate the removal of the player by employing a 'face-off violation' signal by extending their arm straight at a ninety-degree angle from their shoulder in the direction of the offending teams' end.
 - (5) Be aware to follow Rule 10.2 (a) Situation 20, which indicates that the player taking the face-off may be replaced by any teammate on the ice other than the goaltender or the player that committed the encroachment violation.
- We must have zero tolerance for all encroachment violations. To be effective, the offending team's centre must be removed. Linespersons must ensure that they set their standard early and stick to it throughout the game. It is also important that linespersons work together to ensure the standard is consistent on all face-offs during the game.
 - Officials are not to coach the players by taking time to direct them to an onside position. However, linespersons should use some common sense and prior to the face-off as players are preparing, remind them to keep both their skates and sticks in on-side positions. If they do not comply or line-up incorrectly, the official is to eject the centre of the offending side out of the face-off circle and that player is to be replaced immediately by a teammate on the ice that is not guilty of the violation.
 - By ensuring that face-offs are conducted properly, they will always be fair for both teams.

6. OFF-SIDE PROCEDURE

6.1 Offside

An offside occurs when an attacking player either carries the puck or shoots the puck directly to a teammate who has both skates inside the blue line. Should this happen, the linesperson will follow this procedure [Rule 10.8]:

- ❑ Blow whistle to stop play.
- ❑ Point to the spot where the face-off will take place.
- ❑ Survey players for any potential altercations (hot-spots). If they exist take appropriate action, otherwise proceed to the face-off location.

6.2 Delayed Offside

If an attacking player precedes the puck that is shot, passed, or deflected into the attacking zone by a teammate, or deflected into the attacking zone off a defending player, but a defending player is able to play the puck, the linesperson shall signal a delayed offside. The linesperson shall raise the non-whistle arm above their head immediately and keep the arm raised to indicate to all players, coaches, fans and other officials that the potential offside has been observed by the linesperson. The linesperson shall verbally yell "offside" to let attacking players know that the delayed offside is on with the non-whistle arm raised [Rule 10.8 (e)]

The linesperson shall lower the arm sharply to nullify the delayed offside, verbally yell "good or clear" and allow play to continue if:

- ❑ The defending team passes or carries the puck into the neutral zone.
- ❑ All attacking players in the attacking zone clear the attacking zone by making skate contact with the blue line. The attacking zone must be completely clear of all attacking players before the offside can be nullified.
- ❑ The linesperson shall blow the whistle to indicate offside when an attacking player touches the puck or attempts to gain possession of a loose puck or before an attacking player finishes a check on the puck carrier, while the puck is in the attacking zone.
- ❑ The delayed offside signal in the modified three-official system, when it is employed by the referee, will be shown as an arm extended in front of the body at a ninety-degree angle from the shoulder.

Interpretation of delayed offside

- ❑ The defending team in the process of clearing the zone may carry the puck behind the goal line providing they are making no attempt to delay the game.

- ❑ If an attacking player, prior to clearing the zone, deliberately plays the puck or checks a defending player who is attempting to advance the puck, an intentional offside shall be called. The official making the intentional offside call shall stop play by blowing the whistle and pointing to the offending team's end zone. This official will then retrieve the puck and proceed to the face-off spot in the offending team's end zone to conduct the face-off. Meanwhile, the other official will monitor the players and any potential line changes.
- ❑ If the puck is shot from behind the centre red line and crosses the goal line, icing shall be called even though the delayed offside is in effect.

6.3 Working the Line

- ❑ It is essential that linespersons be at the blue line prior to the play crossing the line so that they are in proper position to make the correct call.
- ❑ Linespersons should work the line, meaning that they shall be positioned so that they get the best possible angle to view the play as it crosses the blue line. The circumstances of the play and the position of the players will determine the distance inside the line that will be required to make the correct call.
- ❑ In some instances, working the line will not be necessary, especially when it is only one attacking player crossing the blue line with the puck with no other players in close proximity.
- ❑ Linespersons must remember to return to their position just outside the blue line immediately after making their call in order not to get in the way of the players or the play. It is also important to work the line when the play is near the linesperson so that they do not interfere with the play entering the zone.

7. ICING PROCEDURE

It is the responsibility of the Linespersons to work together to set a standard in regards to icing calls. Communication is an important component of icing decisions. In the two-official system, both officials will conduct the duties of the back and front linesperson in regards to icings in accordance with their position on the ice. In the modified three-official system, the referee in the end zone of the team committing an icing violation shall initiate the icing call and assume the duties of the back linesperson.

- ❑ “Icing the puck” is completed the instant the puck crosses the goal line.
- ❑ The back linesperson/official will initiate the signal for icing and verbally yell “ice”.
- ❑ To initiate the signal for icing the back linesperson/official will raise their “back” arm straight above the shoulder. The back linesperson/official shall move up and be at the other linespersons/officials blue line to cover, should the play not be called icing.
- ❑ The back linesperson/official should also be watching players behind the play. If the back linesperson/official for some reason fails to initiate an obvious potential icing, the front linesperson/official should continue with the icing procedure as normal.
- ❑ Either linesperson/official may wash out the icing using the wash-out signal and verbally yell “no”.
- ❑ The front linesperson shall follow the puck into the end-zone to make sure that it completely crosses the goal line. The front linesperson should remain aware:
 - (1) The front linesperson shall always check back when the puck is in the end zone to confirm that the potential icing is still in effect.
 - (2) If the back linesperson’s arm is still up, the icing is still in effect.
 - (3) If the back linesperson gives the wash-out signal, the icing is no longer still in effect.
 - (4) Verbal communication between the two linespersons should be used.
 - (5) It can be useful for the front linesperson to communicate with the defending player that the icing is still on so they can make a decision to play the puck or not, or for the purpose of encouraging the player to pursue the puck until the conclusion of the play.
- ❑ If the play results in icing, the front linesperson shall blow the whistle immediately when the puck crosses the goal line.
- ❑ The front linesperson shall retrieve the puck and conduct the ensuing face-off. The front linesperson shall ensure that all players are kept in view while retrieving the puck and while returning to the other end.
- ❑ The back linesperson/official moves back towards the end zone to mark where the face-off will take place by pointing to the appropriate face-off location.
- ❑ The back linesperson/official will also monitor the players of both teams as they prepare of the face-off. As the linesperson/official who retrieved the puck approaches the circle where the face-off is to take place, the other linesperson/official can move back to the blue line on the opposite side of the ice.

8. TIME-OUT PROCEDURE

- ❑ Each team is permitted one thirty-second time-out per game in accordance with the rules (in Minor and Female hockey, where permitted by the Member) [Rule 10.17 Situation 1]. When a time-out is requested, the referee shall proceed to the penalty bench to report the time-out. The time-out does not start until the referee reports it to the timekeeper. The referee may employ a 'time-out signal'.
- ❑ When the players' benches are on the same side of the ice, the back linesperson shall be positioned between the benches during the time-out. The front linesperson shall place the puck on the face-off location and may remain there or retire to the official's crease with the referee for the duration of the time-out. Officials must keep all players in view during a time-out.
- ❑ If the players' benches are on opposite sides of the ice, the front linesperson shall place the puck on the face-off location and may remain there or retire to the official's crease with the referee and other linesperson. Officials must keep all players in view during a time-out.
- ❑ In the four-official system, both linespersons should position themselves between the benches and both referees may retire to the official's crease. In the modified three-official system, the linesperson will be positioned in front of the benches.
- ❑ Once the timekeeper has signaled to the referee that the thirty-second timeout has expired, the referee shall blow the whistle to resume play. After the signal announcing the end of the time-out, if the teams are slow to resume play, the referee should intervene with the visitors' bench first. It is important that the referee and linesperson keep players and both benches in view at all times during the time-out.
- ❑ Just prior to the conclusion of the time-out, the back linesperson shall be positioned in a manner to keep all players in view while moving to the face-off location and may be required to skate with the players towards to face-off.
- ❑ The line change procedure will be conducted in the normal manner following the conclusion a time-out.

9. PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE

9.1 Three-Official System

When a Penalty Shot has been awarded during the game, the referee shall ensure that it is recorded on the official game report, along with the time it was awarded, the player designated to take the Penalty Shot and whether or not a goal was scored on the play. The referee shall follow the procedures listed below when a Penalty Shot has been awarded in the three-official system.

- ❑ When an infraction requiring the awarding of a Penalty Shot occurs, the referee shall stop play as outlined within the rules and point to centre ice to indicate that a penalty shot has been awarded.
- ❑ Have the name of the player designated to take the Penalty Shot announced.
- ❑ Place the puck on the centre ice spot.
- ❑ Instruct the player taking the Penalty Shot on the correct proceedings to follow [Rule 4.9]
- ❑ The player is allowed one shot at the goal and once the puck is shot, the play is considered completed. Similarly, the player is allowed one play on the goaltender and cannot score on a rebound.
- ❑ Instruct the player to wait until you are positioned on the goal line and until you blow the whistle, thus signaling the player to execute the Penalty Shot.
- ❑ Instruct the goaltender on the correct procedures to follow [Rule 4.9]:
- ❑ Direct all other players to withdraw to the sides of the rink and beyond the centre red line.
- ❑ When the benches are on the same side of the ice, the back linesperson should be positioned between the benches and not across from them. The back linesperson must also ensure that all players are on their respective benches or behind the centre red line, but not directly in front of their opponent's bench, prior to the commencement of the penalty shot.
- ❑ When the benches are on opposite sides of the ice, the back linesperson should be positioned at the centre red line on the side of the ice away from the bench of the team against which the Penalty Shot is being taken. This official is responsible for keeping all players, except the player taking the shot, beyond the centre red line or in their bench, and to ensure that there is no interference or distraction from the teams during the course of the Penalty Shot.
- ❑ The referee shall then take up a position on the goal line about three metres (ten feet) from the goal. The referee's position shall be on the side of the goal nearest the player's stick (forehand) to give a clear view of the shot.
- ❑ The other linesperson shall take up a position on the goal line on the side opposite the referee and slightly farther from the goal than the referee. This official is responsible for watching the play in a manner similar to that of the referee. However, the linesperson will only give a report or interpretation when requested by the referee. This linesperson does not give a signal.

9.2 Two-Official System

The two-official system follows the same procedures as in the three-official system with the following adjustments:

- ❑ The official that did not award the penalty shot will be located in the neutral zone to keep both benches in view prior to the penalty shot.
- ❑ The official that awarded the penalty shot shall take up the position of the referee in the three-official system procedure.

9.3 Four-Official System

The four-official system follows the same procedures as in the three-official system with the following adjustments:

- ❑ The back linesperson shall be positioned between the benches.
- ❑ The front linesperson shall be positioned near the centre red line on the side of the ice opposite their partner and may trail behind the shooter to provide the referees with an added sightline. This linesperson will only give a report or interpretation when requested by the referee(s) and does not give a signal.
- ❑ The referee that awarded the penalty shot will take up the position of the referee on the shooter's forehand and will be responsible for making the goal or no goal signal.
- ❑ The second referee shall take up a position on the goal line on the side opposite of the other referee. This referee will give a report or interpretation to their partner when requested. This referee shall give no signal.

9.4 Following the Completion of the Penalty Shot

- ❑ Should the player fail to score on the Penalty Shot, the referee shall give the wash-out signal and the face-off shall take place at the end zone face-off spot.
- ❑ Should the player score on the Penalty Shot, the referee shall signal a goal and point to the net.
- ❑ During a Penalty Shot, the clock does not start.

10. DISLODGED GOAL NET PROCEDURE

- ❑ The referee(s) is responsible for stopping play whenever the goal net has been displaced from its normal position.
- ❑ Should the referee not observe this situation the linespersons should stop play.
- ❑ Officials shall follow these guidelines in dealing with this situation:
 - (1) If the puck is in the same end zone as the displaced goal, play must be stopped immediately.
 - (2) If the goal is displaced by a player whose team is in control of the puck, play must be stopped immediately.
 - (3) If a team has control of the puck in the neutral zone and is moving up the ice and a player on the opposing team in the opposing team's attacking zone displaced the goal, play shall be allowed to continue until the scoring opportunity by the non-offending team has been completed.

NOTE: It is possible for a goal to be scored at one end of the ice even though the goal at the opposite end has been displaced.

- ❑ However, if the team in control of the puck moves the puck back into their own end zone, with their goal displaced, play shall be stopped immediately.
- ❑ When the net comes off and the linespersons arrive at the scene, they should communicate between themselves which linesperson will retrieve the puck and which linesperson will replace the net.

11. REPAIRING THE ICE OR GOAL NET PROCEDURE

- ❑ Whenever repairs are required to the ice or goal nets, it is important that at least one of the officials takes up a position to keep all players on the ice within view. It is important that the repairs be completed without delay and only when necessary.
- ❑ In the three and four-official system, the linesman will be responsible for these duties.
- ❑ It is wise for the linespersons to keep lengths of twine or laces in their pocket in order to repair the goal nets if required.

12. COVERING FOR THE REFEREE

12.1 Linespersons in a Three-Official System

- ❑ Occasionally, the referee will get trapped behind the play requiring the linesperson to leave the blue line to cover for the referee. This normally happens on quick break-outs or when the referee gets caught up in the play and is unable to catch up.
- ❑ The linesperson should not leave the blue line until the play has crossed the line. This will permit the linesperson to make the correct call with respect to the play being on-side.
- ❑ The back linesperson must move up and cover the blue line until the linesperson who has covered for the referee is able to return to the line, and release it.
- ❑ The linesperson covering is to utilize the normal end zone positioning and should follow the play right into the net, just as the referee would. This linesperson must stay in the end zone until the referee is in position to make the necessary calls.
- ❑ If the play results in the scoring of a goal, the linesperson covering for the referee shall give the correct signal by pointing to the net. The linesperson does not blow the whistle to stop play, but rather the referee shall blow the whistle. The linesperson never washes out a goal either. Only the referee. The linesperson shall not signal a goal if:
 - (1) the puck has been directed into the net as a result of a distinct kicking motion of an attacking player, or after being kicked, the puck deflects off any player or stick into the net;
 - (2) the puck is deliberately directed into the net by any part of the body of an attacking player other than their stick;
 - (3) the puck is hit with a high stick into the net;
 - (4) The goal net is displaced prior to puck crossing the line;
 - (5) Any other occasion when the puck crosses the line but is not a legitimate goal.
- ❑ If no goal is scored on the play, it is then the responsibility of the linesperson to avoid the referee when returning to the blue line position.
- ❑ It is very important that linespersons use good on-ice awareness and be prepared to cover for the referee and their partner when required.
- ❑ Be aware and ready to intervene if the referee has a problem with a player or coach while explaining a call. Never get involved unless necessary.

12.2 Referee in a Four-Official System & Modified Three-Official System

- ❑ Occasionally, the front referee may have to switch sides of the ice (behind the goal line) in the end zone. Should this occur, the back referee shall maintain a diagonal position in relation to their partner be also switching sides in the neutral zone. Both referees should not be on the same side of the ice.

13. COVERING FOR LINESPERSONS

Linespersons should consider teamwork and communication as essential to their duties. Linespersons should be in the habit of communicating to each other when situations during the game present themselves that require linespersons to cover for each other. There are common situations that consistently arise that warrant one linesman covering for the other linesperson, such as:

13.1 End Zone

- ❑ As the linesperson dropping the puck in the end zone, you should back out of the end zone to the blue line.
- ❑ Once you have returned to the blue line, you should indicate to your partner (who should be covering the blue line) that you are prepared to renew your duties at the blue line.
- ❑ Linespersons must give a release signal by way of eye contact, a head nod or a discreet hand signal. Verbal communication is also encouraged and will assist in acknowledging receipt of the release signal. Until such time as the returning linesperson indicates release of the line, all line calls at the blue line are the responsibility of the covering linesperson.
- ❑ The front linesperson should do their best to maintain good position to make calls at their line. However, should pressure arise that requires the front linesperson to abort their duties at the line to avoid getting physically involved in the play, the back linesperson should be prepared to move up and take over blue line responsibilities. Eye contact and verbal communication are crucial to facilitate this coverage.

13.2 Neutral Zone

- ❑ At face-offs taking place at the face-off spot just outside the blue line, it is the responsibility of the linesperson not dropping the puck to make any calls at that line.
- ❑ Once the linesperson dropping the puck has returned to the boards and is prepared to renew their duties at the line, they should indicate to their partner using the release signal.
- ❑ Communication and teamwork are necessary for face-offs taking place in the neutral zone. The linesperson not dropping the puck should be prepared to travel in the direction of play that evolves from the face-off. This may result in this linesman having to cover their partner's blue line in order to make a call.

13.3 General

- ❑ Linespersons should communicate during the game when a team becomes shorthanded and also when the team returns to full strength.
- ❑ Communication and teamwork between the linespersons will ensure limited disruptions to the flow of the game by the officials. Dedicated linespersons should endeavor at all times to make the

job of the referee as easy as possible by attempting to limit the “controllable” distractions. A positive focus will always result in good preparation and game management.

- If your partner is taking heat for a call, try to switch to keep the players or benches away from your partner. Likewise, if the referee has any problems, try to position the face-off so that the referee is away from the benches. Some referees may not care, but most will appreciate it.

14. DEALING WITH CONFLICT

Communication between players, coaches and officials is extremely important. As an official, your responsibility is to enforce the rulebook to ensure the game is played safely. At times while you are carrying out your responsibility, you will have to communicate with coaches and players. Productive communication with the participants is encouraged as long as it is purposeful and does not slow the game down.

Unfortunately, players and coaches will not always participate in productive communication. As an official, you are going to have to deal with conflict. You will have to deal with people who treat you with disrespect. Treat them with respect and remember, the rule book has penalties, which may be assessed to coaches and players who choose to be abusive to you. You can penalize a player or coach, so make sure it is their behavior that is in question, not yours.

Learning how to effectively communicate will help you when dealing with conflict. You have no control over what is said to you, but you have full control in how you react to this conflict. Conflict is natural, how you handle it is the important thing. The more intense the game becomes, the more important it is to stay calm and in control of one's emotions.

Remember your communication skills are important when dealing with disrespectful people or people who treat you in a disrespectful manner. Communication can be both verbal and nonverbal.

Verbal Communication

- Words you chose
- The tone you use
- The volume you use
- The use of your whistle, including the additional use of your whistle on a stoppage of play

Non-Verbal Communication

- Facial expressions
- Gestures and signals
- Eye contact
- Posture and body language

Remember, you are encouraged to assess penalties to abusive players and team officials [Rule 11.1 & 11.2]. As an official, you never want to be put in a situation where your behavior is being questioned.

15. EQUIPMENT MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

The Hockey Canada Rulebook contains specific equipment dimensions and directions to which the referee must adhere with respect to equipment measurement [Section 3]

- ❑ All measurements are to be conducted at the referee's crease.
- ❑ The measurement of any equipment (players' and goaltenders' sticks, goaltenders' pads and gloves) shall be carried out immediately when requested by a team through a Captain or Alternate Captain. No measurements of any kind will be carried out by the referee unless a formal request has been made by a team, using the proper procedure.
- ❑ If the complaint for any measurement of sticks or equipment is not sustained, the complaining team will be assessed a Bench Minor penalty.
- ❑ Only one measurement of any kind will be allowed per stoppage of play.
- ❑ Any illegal equipment shall be removed, corrected, or adjusted without any unnecessary delay.
- ❑ Where a measurement of a stick is requested by a Captain or Alternate Captain, they must designate to the Referee which specific part of the stick is to be measured.
- ❑ No goal will be disallowed as a result of any measurement following the scoring of a goal.