



The How to of No-Change Icing

The Referee's Role

The referee has two responsibilities in the situation of an icing and should ensure that priority 1 comes before priority 2 in all situations.

Priority 1: The play on the ice. The referee needs to keep her focus on what is going on around her. The focus should not be primarily on the players changing.

Priority 2: Managing the line change. If the referee concludes that there are no incidents occurring after the whistle, then the referee can divert some attention to the line change. Once the referee has concluded her focus on the play occurring and that there are no incidents happening after the whistle then she turns her attention to conducting the line change.

Line change procedure: The line change procedure remains the same as when the play is not stopped by an icing; 5 seconds with hand down, 5 seconds with hand up, 5 seconds until puck drop. However, communication is absolutely necessary when one team cannot change. Effectively, when an icing occurs, the referee needs to pay close attention to the offending team and use her voice/body language to prevent them from changing while she also uses her raised hand as normal.

The "Back" Linesman's Role

The back linesman initiates icing and is in the best position to stop the offending team from changing by either verbally stopping them or taking numbers. This job is easier if the linesman is on the side of the ice that the offending team's bench is on. If the linesman is not on the same side of the ice as the offending team's bench, move out from the boards while you move up the ice in order to increase your presence and try to get the numbers of the players on the ice; just do the best you can.

Note: the back linesman also needs to be aware if the icing is completed or waved off by the front linesman, of the players behind the play, and scrums after the whistle. Remember; prioritize player safety over line change procedure.

The "Front" Linesman's Role

The front linesman's role does not greatly change compared to leagues where players may change on icings. The front linesman should focus on concluding the icing or waving the icing off, managing scrums, collecting the puck, and only then helping with the line change.

Tips for success

1. No-Change icing is challenging to get perfect. You will get it wrong as players will try to jump off the ice before you get their number. Just do your best.
2. Do it as fast as possible. Delay the face-off as little as possible while getting the correct players on the ice. If the players are identified, ensure they are on the ice. If you have not been able to identify the players, move on to the faceoff. The point of this rule is to punish the team who ices the puck by keeping their tired players on the ice. If an extended delay occurs in trying to identify one player, the purpose of the rule is defeated since the other players have had the opportunity to rest.
3. If a team repeatedly makes changes when icing the puck then assess a minor penalty for delay of game.
4. Review Hockey Winnipeg's SR-22. Ensure you understand how no-change icing changes for time penalties, timeouts and overtime.
5. In Hockey Winnipeg, AA and AAA are the only leagues applying no-change icing.
6. The determining factor for deciding which players of the offending team stay on the ice is when the puck is released from the offending team's side of the ice NOT when play is stopped.