

HOCKEY CANADA

OFFICIATING PROGRAM



Manual

Hockey Canada Officiating Program Manual

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Amateur hockey in Canada is played by men, women, boys and girls from coast to coast. Within this publication the alternating application of gender in grammar is utilized. Any masculine reference shall also apply to female hockey and any feminine reference shall apply to male hockey. This is to encourage the widest possible involvement in our great game!

Hockey Canada Officiating Program Manual

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Hockey Canada and its members, I'm pleased to welcome everyone to yet another productive and enjoyable hockey season. The Hockey Canada's Officiating Program is an excellent and very important development program. Regardless of where you are in the program, just starting out as a Level I official or an experienced Level V or VI official, your role is essential to the success of the game of hockey in Canada.

You will face many challenges and there may be some 'highs and lows', so we cannot emphasize enough the value of a positive attitude toward the training and supervision available to you. We encourage you to take advantage of Hockey Canada's Officiating Programs in your area. The development and printing of materials such as the Rule Book, Referee's Case Book/Rule Combination and the Officiating Manual are an important focus here at Hockey Canada and they have been produced to assist you in your development. I encourage you to review them often.

Our game needs caring people like you, people who are willing to get involved and to help make the game an enjoyable experience for young people in this country. There are many ways for you to contribute to the game and to assist others, not only as an on-ice official, but also as a mentor to a younger official or as a speaker at a team or parent meeting to explain the rules and the role of an official. Don't hesitate to get involved in your Branch officiating program to help contribute to its success.

Good luck during this season and all seasons to come.

Bob Nicholson
President
Hockey Canada

Hockey Canada Officiating Program Manual

REFEREE-IN-CHIEF MESSAGE

As the Hockey Canada Referee-in-Chief for another season, I am looking forward to working with all Branches to ensure that the Officiating Program continues to advance, and the Hockey Canada Officiating Program Officiating Manual is a key tool in ensuring the officiating program develops a consistent standard and look.

The procedures and information found in this Manual have been developed for your benefit by various experts and officials with many years of experience. They are designed to make the officiating in this country as uniform and consistent as possible.

By following the information outlined in this Manual, it should not matter if you are officiating in Newfoundland or British Columbia, or any other place in between, you should be able to officiate any Hockey Canada sanctioned game with officials you have never worked with before, and not have to concern yourself with procedural issues.

If you are fortunate enough to be selected to officiate at Branch, National or International events, following the procedures in this Manual will ensure you are on side with the Hockey Canada Officiating Program, and can work consistently and easily with other officials. Hockey Canada expects all officials to use Hockey Canada procedures only.

I especially want to encourage senior officials to follow Hockey Canada procedures. You are role models to many young officials and it is vital to the development of our young officials that they see the correct procedures encouraged and practiced. You are our messenger and we rely on your abilities to deliver the message. I also encourage you to continue to improve your procedural skills. By doing so you will help Canada remain a world leader in the development of hockey officials.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Branch Referee's-in-Chief for their continued commitment to the Hockey Canada Officiating Program, and for their efforts toward an even greater degree of consistency in program delivery, procedures, rule interpretation, rule enforcement, and standard of play.

Have a great year, everyone and good luck achieving your goals this season.
Sincerely,

James Mays
Referee-in-Chief
Hockey Canada

THE ART OF OFFICIATING

To become a competent, respected hockey official at any level requires patience, discipline, dedication, courage and hard work. It's not usually something that comes naturally, nor can the skills be taught or mastered overnight; yet the demands for perfection are instant. Hockey is a fast paced, emotionally charged, exciting sport and officials are an integral part along with players, coaches and spectators. Hockey officiating is an apprenticeship process and one of the main tools is learning through actual game experience.

To assist individuals in development of the "Art of Officiating", Hockey Canada presents the Hockey Canada Officiating Program Manual. It is hoped that this publication will be an excellent resource for all developing hockey officials.

MISSION STATEMENT

We dedicate ourselves to the advancement of amateur hockey for all individuals, through progressive leadership, by ensuring meaningful opportunities and enjoyable experiences in a safe sportsmanlike environment.

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SECTION 1

An Understanding of Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Officiating Program.

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

explain the structure of Hockey Canada and the decision making process within its structure;

describe the four different streams of hockey in Canada by explaining the specifics and objectives of each stream; and

explain the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and the objectives of each of its levels.

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Section 1 Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Structure of Hockey Canada

Hockey Canada is the National Organization responsible for governing amateur hockey in Canada.

Two major objectives of Hockey Canada are to:

- Foster and encourage the sport of amateur hockey throughout Canada.
- Foster and encourage leadership programs in all areas related to the development of hockey in Canada.

Hockey Canada consists of 13 Branches. Nunavut and the Northwest Territories combine to form a single Branch. The Yukon Territory and British Columbia also combine to form a single Branch. The Province of Ontario is divided into three Branches. All other provinces form a separate branch of Hockey Canada.



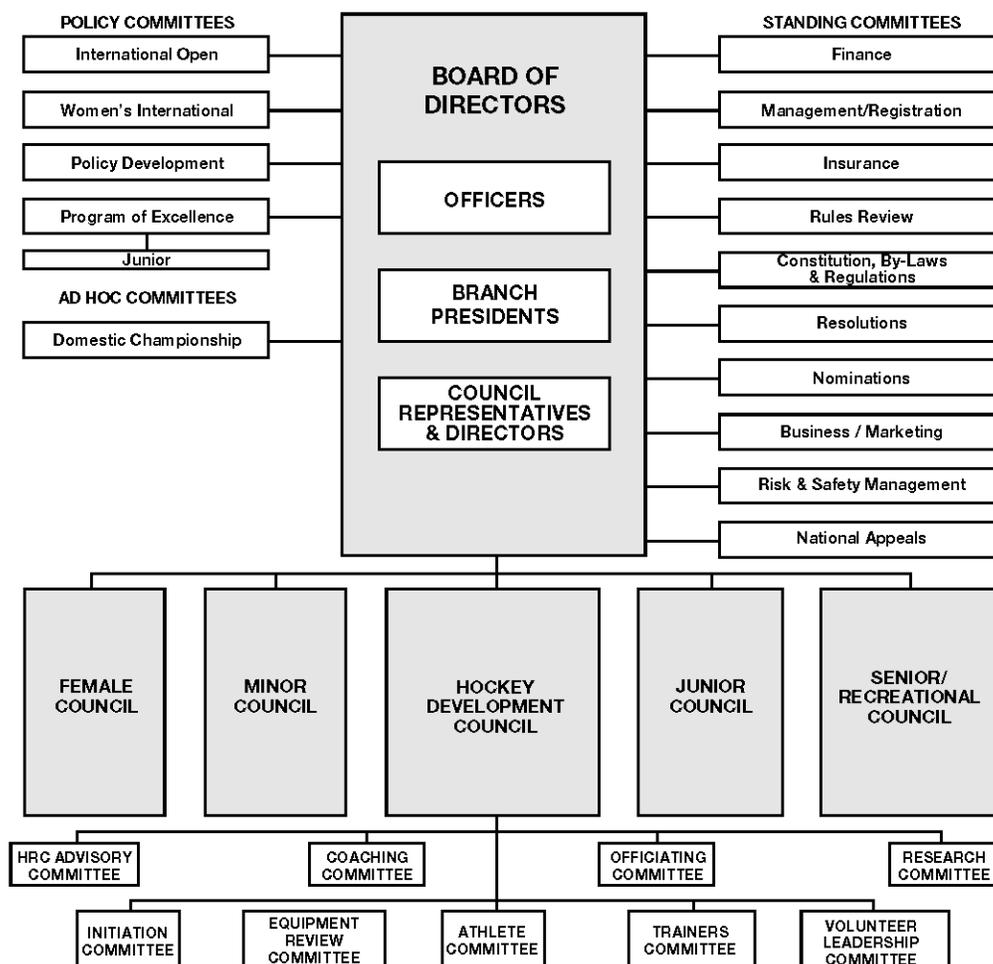
Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

At the national level, Hockey Canada is comprised of five Councils, which respond to each of the following areas of hockey: **Senior/Adult Recreational, Junior, Minor, Female** and **Hockey Development Council**. Each of these councils is headed by a chairperson and membership of the councils consists of one representative from each of the Branches. It is the responsibility of the councils to develop and recommend the policy applicable to their area of hockey. From there, recommendations go to the Board of Directors for final approval.

The Board of Directors consists of seven Officers, the Branch Presidents and the Council *Representatives*.

The **Hockey Development Council** is responsible for research and design of the various Hockey Canada development programs including the Hockey Canada Officiating Program, Hockey Canada Coaching Program, Hockey Canada Initiation Program and Hockey Canada Trainers Program. The Branches are responsible for implementation and delivery of the various development programs.

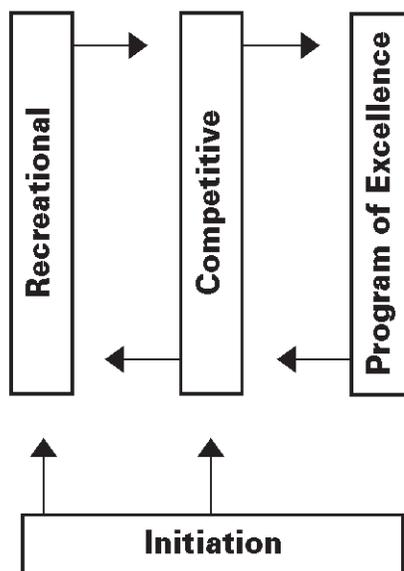
In figure below a flow chart has been provided for your better understanding of the Hockey



Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Hockey Canada Programs

The specific needs of the referee are based primarily on the stream of hockey in which the official is participating. Hockey Canada has categorized the hockey played in Canada into four basic streams, each with different priorities. These four streams are illustrated in the figure below.



In order to understand the relationship between the Programs and the Levels of Hockey Canada Officiating Program, it is important to understand what each Program addresses.

Following are brief outlines of the Programs and what they have to offer their participants.

The Initiation Program

Every player starts out as a beginner and must be initiated to hockey. Thus, beginners and the INITIATION PROGRAM are the foundation of the entire hockey structure. The objectives of the INITIATION PROGRAM are to:

- Have FUN;
- Stimulate interest in hockey and a desire to continue participation;
Develop basic hockey skills;
- Obtain a sense of achievement; Promote physical fitness;
- Introduce players to the concepts of COOPERATION, SPORTSMANSHIP, and
- LEADERSHIP; Encourage initiative;
- Prepare players for further participation.

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Beginners come in all ages, but they usually range from four to ten years of age. They progress at different rates; therefore, the emphasis is on ENJOYMENT and SKILL ACQUISITION. When players acquire enough skills and on-ice experience that they can no longer be termed beginners, they need a different type of hockey program. Most will go on to a RECREATIONAL PROGRAM, although some of the more skilled players could go directly to a COMPETITIVE PROGRAM.

The Recreational Program

Recreational hockey is the type of hockey played by the majority of amateur players. It is FUN HOCKEY for fitness, relaxation and fellowship. Since this is where the masses of Hockey Canada participate, the RECREATIONAL PROGRAM is of prime importance. The expansion of recreational hockey is seen as an important means of prolonging the average playing career. The objectives of the RECREATIONAL PROGRAM are to:

- Provide a game to fit the needs of the participants;
- Be open to all ages;
- Allow players equal ice time;
- De-emphasize the importance of winning;
- Allow enjoyable participation for the fun aspect;
- Assist in an individual's physical development;
- Create a sociable environment;
- Allow an individual to participate freely in other sports and activities.

RECREATIONAL hockey is central to the entire amateur hockey structure. Many of the players coming out of the INITIATION PROGRAM will go into the RECREATIONAL PROGRAM. Furthermore, most COMPETITIVE players spend time as RECREATIONAL players, both before and after their competitive days.

The Competitive Program

This program is designed for players who have the desire and ability to play at a high level of competition and who are willing to invest a reasonable amount of time to on-ice and off-ice training. It includes categories ranging from Peewee to Senior.

The objectives of the COMPETITIVE PROGRAM are to:

- Achieve a degree of excellence, according to the player's interest and potential;
- Provide an opportunity for achievement in an enjoyable and self-fulfilling environment;
- Provide an opportunity to progress to a higher level of competition (Program of Excellence);
- Stimulate development both from an individual and overall sport point of view.

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

- The emphasis is on improvement of all basic skills, plus tactical and psychological preparations.

The Program of Excellence

Within the overall Hockey Canada structure, it is essential that opportunities exist for those who have special talents. These advanced players must be given the chance to develop to their fullest potential because these players will form the teams that represent Canada in international competition. The objective of THE PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE is to:

Produce the best players possible in order to compete successfully in International Hockey.

The program is based on the concept of the “designated player”. In other words, players identified on their respective club teams receive special training and compete in specifically arranged competitions, with care being taken to schedule these events so that there is minimal conflict with club obligations. It will be an honour, in the sense of receiving recognition, to be selected as a “designated player” and invited to participate in THE PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE.

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

HOCKEY CANADA OFFICIATING PROGRAM

History

In the early '60s, at the start of the hockey season, two people from each province would meet to discuss rule changes and interpretations. Often the people would disagree and leave these yearly meetings with different versions and opinions on rules and procedures. This brought about inconsistencies and confusion among officials. It was time for a national program. In 1972, the first National Referee Planning Seminar was held. The participants were tasked to return in a year with guidelines for a national program. And so, in the fall of 1973, the National Referees' Certification Program began. In 1994, two organizations, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and Hockey Canada merged to become the Canadian Hockey Association. The referee program was given a new name: The Hockey Canada Officiating Program. The Level system, Level I - VI, is still the foundation for the training and development of amateur hockey officials across Canada.

The objectives of Hockey Canada Officiating Program are:

- to standardize the methods and techniques of officiating in both the two and three official systems;
- to acquire uniformity throughout the country with respect to rule interpretation;
- to offer participants national recognition for their achievements.

It is expected that all Branches and hockey officials in the country will participate and follow the guidelines in the Hockey Canada Officiating Program. The program is available in both English and French.

WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM DO FOR YOU?

Whether you are new to the world of officiating, trying to improve your officiating skills, or looking for more information on Hockey Canada Rules, browse our site and hopefully you will find what you are looking for! Hockey Canada Officiating Program is recognized as one of the best in the world, and certification at various levels is available.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Please contact your local Minor Hockey Association, [Branch Office](#) or your Branch Referee-in-Chief, Development Coordinators for Female Hockey Officials or Branch Clinic Co-ordinator to find dates and locations of officiating clinics, and registration information.

You can learn more about the officiating program or the Hockey Canada rules, by obtaining a Rulebook, Casebook, and other related materials by attending a HCOP

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

clinic, or through our Breakaway store. For a free resource catalogue, call 1-800-667-2242.

You can also use these contacts to find out how you can help develop and improve the Officiating program in your area of the country.

Contact your [Hockey Canada Branch Office](#)

WHO IS THE PROGRAM FOR?

The Hockey Canada Officiating Program is for anyone interested in officiating the great game of hockey, from beginners to seasoned veterans. There are six levels in the Officiating program, from those looking to get started to the top tier of officials.

The lower levels are designed to get you started in officiating, while the higher levels are open to officials who have advanced through the lower levels and show potential to work the top levels of hockey in Canada, and Internationally.

[The Level System](#) - The how to's of getting started and getting better. [The Role of an Official](#) - Code of Ethics [Shared Respect Initiative](#) - The how to's of getting started and getting better. [Female Hockey Officials](#) - This growing area of Hockey Canada needs officials

JOIN THE HOCKEY CANADA OFFICIALS EMAIL LIST

[Send us your email address](#) and we will add you to our group email list for officials. You will receive information on the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and other officiating issues that are going on Nationally and Internationally.

I'VE STARTED, WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

When you obtain a level within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program you must attend a Re-Certification clinic within your Branch. By attending the clinic, learning the rule book, gaining experience by actually officiating games, and by learning more about the procedures involved in officiating, along with being supervised by senior officials, you should be able to earn a higher level, and also work a higher calibre of hockey. A Practical on Ice Assessment (Supervision) is a key step in allowing you to learn about the strengths you have as an official, and to know the areas of your game you need to develop before you can advance to the next level.

Experienced officials are also encouraged to assist the development of younger officials by attending games, and providing written Supervisions to officials that outline their strengths and encourage them to develop areas that need improvement before the official can work at a higher level.

[Certification and Re-Certification](#)

[Equipment and Merchandise](#)

[Examination Procedures](#)

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

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The following are the Hockey Canada Officiating Program level definitions along with the necessary requirements:

Level 1	
Purpose	To prepare a young or new official to officiate Minor Hockey
Certification	An individual is certified at Level I with attendance and completion of a Level I clinic. Some Branches require completion of a national examination, to be marked and returned prior to the completion of the clinic.
Delivery	Minimum of eight (8) hours of instruction May be presented over two evenings, or on a Saturday and/or Sunday.
Note	Upon completion of the Level I requirements, the official should receive a certificate and card. There are over 13,000 Level I officials registered annually. Minimum age guidelines may be set by individual branches.

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Level II	
Purpose	To further enhance the training and skills of Minor Hockey officials
Certification	A person must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age to obtain Level II status. Must attend and participate in all sessions of the Level II clinic. Must obtain a minimum of 70% on a written national examination, to be marked and returned prior to the completion of the clinic. Must pass a practical, on-ice evaluation, performed by a qualified Branch Hockey Canada Officiating Program supervisor.
Delivery	Minimum of eight (8) hours of instruction May be presented over two evenings, or all day on a Saturday or Sunday.
Note	A novice official, seventeen (17) years of age or older, may obtain Level I and II certification in one year based on ability. This is the only opportunity within the Hockey Canada Officiating Program to accomplish two levels in one year. This is designed to encourage persons with playing or coaching experience to consider officiating. Upon successful completion of the clinic, examination and on-ice supervision, the official should receive a Level II sticker (to be affixed to the certificate received with Level I) and certification card. There are over 10,000 Level II officials registered annually.

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Level III	
Purpose	To prepare officials capable of refereeing Minor Hockey Playoffs, Minor Hockey Regional Playoffs and Female National Championships, or being linesmen in Junior B, C, D, Senior and Bantam or Midget Regional Championships
Certification	<p>Must be fully certified at Level II and referee at least one year at that level</p> <p>Must attend and participate in all sessions at a Level III clinic</p> <p>Must obtain a minimum of 80% on a written national examination, to be marked and returned prior to the completion of the clinic</p> <p>Must be judged capable of refereeing in Minor Hockey Playoffs</p> <p>Must pass a practical, on-ice evaluation, performed by a qualified Branch Hockey Canada Officiating Program supervisor</p>
Delivery	<p>Minimum of eight (8) hours of instruction</p> <p>An official at Level III will have a thorough knowledge of the playing rules and the role of an official</p> <p>Similar delivery options as in Level II although the Level III is usually presented in one day</p>
Note	<p>Upon successful completion of Level III (clinic, examination and on-ice evaluation), the official should receive a Level III sticker and certification card.</p> <p>There are over 5,000 Level III officials registered annually</p>

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Level IV	
Purpose	To prepare hockey officials capable of refereeing Senior, Junior A, B, C, D, Minor Hockey Regional and National Championships, Female Hockey National Championships and designated Minor Hockey IIHF competition, or being a linesman in Major Junior, Junior A, Senior, CIS, CCAA, Inter-Branch and IIHF competition
Certification	<p>Must be fully certified at Level III and referee at least one year at that level</p> <p>Attendance at Level IV will be by Branch invitation only</p> <p>Certification at Level III does not automatically make one eligible for Level IV</p> <p>Must attend and participate in all sessions of a Level IV clinic</p> <p>Must obtain a minimum of 80% on a written national examination</p> <p>Must pass a practical, on-ice evaluation, performed by a qualified Branch Hockey Canada Officiating Program supervisor</p> <p>Must be capable of officiating in any one of the categories as listed under purpose</p> <p>When an official fails the practical on-ice evaluation, certification will not be validated; however, the official may request a second evaluation. The second evaluation will be done at Branch convenience but at no extra cost to the Branch</p>
Delivery	Minimum of fourteen (14) hours of instruction. Usually is presented over an entire weekend. The topic areas for a Level IV clinic are outlined by the Hockey Canada National Office. Branches are encouraged to contact the Hockey Canada Manager, Officiating for assistance in staging a Level IV clinic
Note	<p>Upon successful completion of Level IV (clinic, examination, on-ice evaluation), the official should receive a Level IV sticker and certification card.</p> <p>There are over 1,000 Level IV officials registered annually</p>

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Level V	
Purpose	To prepare competent officials to referee Major Junior, Junior A, Senior, CIS, and related Inter-Branch Playoffs
Certification	<p>Must be fully certified at Level IV and referee at least one year at that level.</p> <p>Attendance at Level V will be by Branch invitation only</p> <p>Must attend and participate in all sessions of the Level V clinic</p> <p>Must obtain a minimum of 90% on a written national examination</p> <p>Must pass a practical on-ice evaluation, performed by a qualified Branch Hockey Canada Officiating Program supervisor</p> <p>Must undergo fitness and skating tests</p> <p>Must be capable of officiating in one of the categories as listed under “purpose”</p>
Delivery	Minimum of fourteen (14) hours of instruction. Usually is presented over an entire weekend. The topic areas for a Level V clinic are outlined by the Hockey Canada National Office. Branches are encouraged to contact the Hockey Canada Association Manager, Officiating for assistance in staging a Level V clinic
Note	<p>All officials reaching Level V are required to pass an annual written national examination and fitness test to qualify for Inter-Branch assignments.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of Level V (clinic, examination, on-ice evaluation), the official should receive a Level V sticker and certification card.</p> <p>There are over 200 Level V officials registered annually.</p>

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Level VI	
Purpose	To prepare competent officials capable of refereeing at National Championship finals and designated IIHF competition (i.e. Memorial Cup, Royal Bank Cup, Allan Cup, Hardy Cup, University Cup, CCAA finals, World Championships, Olympics, FISU Games)
Certification	<p>Branch nominations are submitted to the Hockey Canada National Office and are reviewed by an established selection committee</p> <p>Must be fully certified at Level V (including fitness tests) and referee one year at that level</p> <p>Must attend and participate in all sessions of a Level VI clinic</p> <p>Must obtain a minimum of 90% on a written national examination</p> <p>Must pass a practical on-ice evaluation, performed by a national supervisor</p> <p>Must complete a written assignment assigned by the Hockey Canada Referee-in-Chief</p>
Delivery	<p>Level VI clinics are held based on national need for Level VIs. The Hockey Canada Manager, Officiating is responsible for the organization of the site and program, establishing criteria and review of the candidates qualifications</p> <p>Minimum of four (4) days of instruction</p> <p>Attempts are made to stage the clinic in conjunction with a major training program or early in the season, requesting cooperation from local leagues so officials are able to work scrimmages or games</p>
Note	<p>All officials reaching Level VI are required to pass an annual written national examination and fitness test to qualify for Inter-Branch, National and International assignments</p> <p>There are over 70 Level VI officials registered annually.</p>

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Level VI Re-Write and Re-Evaluation Guidelines

When an official fails the exam administered at the Level VI Seminar, the official must request a supplemental examination within the current season (limit being April 30) in writing and accompanied by a \$50.00 fee.

When a Level VI candidate fails the Level VI examination or the practical evaluation, the official shall still be recognized as a Level V.

Failing the supplemental exam, the official is disqualified from obtaining Level VI status. However, at the discretion of the Referees' Committee, an official who fails the original supplemental exam, may have a second supplemental examination administered at a fee to the official of \$325 (or 50% of the seminar registration fee, whichever is higher). This could only be done with Branch President and Branch Referee-in-Chief written approval.

When an official fails the Level VI supplementary examination, the candidate shall not be eligible to referee any Inter-Branch Playoff games until successfully writing the Level V exam during the same hockey season.

If a Level VI candidate fails his on-ice evaluation, the branch Referee-in-Chief is to be notified that a second on-ice evaluation may be done if requested and supported by the branch and at the convenience and availability of a national supervisor. A \$100 fee is charged for this second on-ice evaluation to cover the expenses of the National Supervisor (ie. additional night of accommodation, additional meals, etc.). This fee is to be paid by the official or the branch.

When an official fails the second practical evaluation, the official shall be advised by the National Office of the failure to meet the Level VI requirements. If the official feels that special circumstances warrant, the official may appeal, through the Branch Referee-in-Chief, to the Hockey Canada Referee-in-Chief for a review of the situation.

In any case, when the candidate is formally advised of the Level VI status (completion or failure), copies of the documentation shall be sent to the Branch Referee-in-Chief and Branch Centres of Excellence Research and Development Council representative concerned.

Introduction to Hockey Canada Officiating Program

Re-Assessment of Level VI Officials

Purpose	to monitor and maintain the calibre of our top national level of officiating as stated on the preceding pages.
Procedure	<p>in order to be eligible for re-assessment, a certified Level VI official must be registered with the Branch and regularly work one or more of the following categories of hockey: Major Junior, Junior A, Senior, University, College or International events.</p> <p>each Branch to submit at least one supervision report for all Inter-Branch Playoff officials and all Level VI's, in addition to fitness results and examination mark.</p> <p>the re-assessment will consist of a rules examination on which a passing mark of 90% has been set, as well as a practical on-ice evaluation performed by a National supervisor.</p> <p>the game evaluations may only be conducted in the categories mentioned above.</p>
Policy	<p>when an official successfully completes all the requirements of the Level VI re-assessment, a letter will be sent by the National Office, stating that Level VI certification has been validated and dated.</p> <p>when a Level VI official is practically evaluated in a game that is felt to be a significant test and the official fulfills that requirement in a manner satisfactory to a National supervisor, the practical re-assessment shall be considered completed.</p> <p>when a Level VI official fails the re-assessment examination, the official shall not lose the Level VI achievement, however, certification shall not be validated. However, the official would be eligible to request a supplementary re- assessment examination.</p> <p>a \$50.00 fee will be charged to an official for writing a supplementary re-assessment examination, in addition to the costs encountered by Hockey Canada to administer the said exam. This second re-assessment examination shall be administered at Hockey Canada's convenience.</p> <p>when a Level VI official fails the re-assessment supplementary examination, re-certification shall be denied. Such official may apply to re-obtain the Level VI certification through the procedure established in the last paragraph of this "Policy" section.</p> <p>when an official fails the practical evaluation, certification will not be validated, however, the official would be eligible to request a second practical evaluation. This second practical evaluation would be given at Hockey Canada's convenience but at no extra cost to Hockey Canada.</p>

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when a Level VI official fails the second practical evaluation, re-certification is denied. Such official may apply to re-obtain the Level VI certification through the procedure established in the last paragraph of this “Policy” section.

an official who has failed the Level VI re-assessment may still retain Level VI standing within the Branch and be used only during Branch competition at the Branch’s discretion. Hockey Canada will not recognize such an official as a valid Level VI official.

in any case when the Level VI official is formally advised of status (validation or denial of Level VI), copies of the documentation shall be sent to the Branch Referee-in-Chief and the Branch Centres of Excellence Research and Development Council representative concerned.

at a future date, an official whose Level VI certification has been denied may apply to the Hockey Canada Referee-in-Chief through the Branch for an additional re-assessment (exam and practical). The cost of such re-assessment shall be borne in its entirety by the Branch and/or official. This procedure is the only method a Level VI official whose level has not been validated is able to re-qualify to officiate Inter-Branch games, National Championships and International competition.

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EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

Written examinations have been prepared for each level in the program. These examinations are revised annually and prepared for the fall of the year. Beginning at Level II, a passing mark on the exam is established and a candidate cannot be certified at this or higher levels until this passing grade are met. Following is a breakdown for each level:

Level I	Complete Questions 1-45	Level II	70%
Level III	80%	Level IV	80%
Level V	90%	Level VI	90%

As noted above, the exam for each Level is revised annually. A bank of questions has been developed for each level and new questions are inserted in order to change the exam.

There are certain other policies that have been adopted as far as the exams are concerned. They are listed below:

- All exams will be administered at the conclusion of the clinic, take home exams are not acceptable.
- Participants will hand in an answer sheet and the exam.
- If possible, exams will be marked and recorded immediately at the conclusion of the clinic.
- When an individual fails to achieve the minimum at Levels IV-V-VI, the individual may request one supplementary re-write exam. Passing marks for the supplementary exam remain the same as noted above.

If the official still fails:

- The individual must attend another clinic of the same level one year after failing the exam.
- Though uncertified, the individual may still officiate at higher levels of hockey, but certification will not be complete until the official passes the exam.
- The Branch must encourage officials to complete certification requirements the following year.

Practical Assessment

The practical assessment phase of certification is equally important. An individual may do extremely well at the clinic and on the exam, but may prove to have problems once the puck is dropped to start the game. Toward this end, a Branch must invest considerable time and effort in the development of individuals qualified to complete

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this task. In order to assist these individuals, the Supervision section of this manual has been produced by the Officiating Manual Working Group. This section has been designed to provide the tools for more effective evaluation and supervision. It is strongly recommended that individuals involved with supervision and assessment be provided a copy of this manual to ensure some consistency in this procedure. The following is a list of policies that have been agreed upon with respect to practical assessment:

An official must have been assessed/supervised before certification is complete.

An official can complete the practical assessment phase of certification before or after the Hockey Canada Officiating Program clinic (i.e. An individual may have been officiating at Major Junior for a year or two before attending a Level V clinic). However, Level V certification would not be granted until the official passed the exam.

When certified at a level, it does not mean that an individual is qualified to officiate all levels of hockey identified by that level, as, hand-in-hand, an individual does not have to be able to officiate all levels of hockey identified with a level before being certified (i.e. At Level III, an individual may work Peewee, Bantam Playoffs, yet may not be able to do the lines in Senior hockey).

It is recommended that a four-part assessment form be used and that copies of the report go to:

- The official being evaluated
- Supervisor should keep one copy
- Region/zone coordinator
- Branch Referee-in-Chief

Supervisors must discuss their report with the official before it is submitted. The process is designed to help the official improve and not just to criticize mistakes.

The practical assessment process can take many forms:

- Minimum 1 or 2 full-length game supervision.
- Provincial Championship tournaments.
- Game sessions at clinics.

Each Branch or even regions within a Branch will have different resources available for assessment, thus the method they follow may differ.

Certification Procedures

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Certification at all levels, except Levels I and II, is a two-part process involving clinical and practical assessment. From the point of view of the clinic, the official must attend all sessions and must obtain the minimum mark on the examination.

The practical assessment portion is equally important and, also, the most difficult to apply consistently across the entire program. It is strongly recommended that all Supervisors be provided with a copy of this manual to ensure a consistent approach to this task.

Officials must feel a certain pride and responsibility once they obtain their certificate at any one level. They must act accordingly and not jeopardize the quality and importance of the program for personal desires. If an official is unwilling to abide by the guidelines of the Hockey Canada Officiating Program or fails to properly follow the playing rules of Hockey Canada, then certification must be suspended until such time as the official demonstrates behaviour in favour of the program and the playing rules.

General Certification Rules

Certification at any level with the Hockey Canada Officiating Program does not make an individual automatically eligible for entry to the next higher level (except Level I). Demonstration of ability or potential ability is necessary to move to the next level.

Being certified at any one level does not necessarily mean that an individual will be able to officiate all categories of hockey defined at that level.

Conversely, an individual does not have to all categories of hockey labelled at a certain level in order to gain certification at that level.

Certification is not complete until both phases - Clinical and Practical - have been completed.

An individual must be at least sixteen (16) years of age to be certified at Level II or higher.

Officials, where it has been determined (through supervision) that they are no longer able to officiate at a certain level, will be certified at a new, lower level in line with their present ability.

Re-Certification Procedures

Once certified, it is essential that an official continue to update and be completely familiar with new rule interpretations and officiating techniques. Toward this end, the following policies are in effect:

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To maintain one's present level of certification, an individual must attend a full Hockey Canada Officiating Program clinic and write a national examination every year with appropriate passing mark. An open book exam is not acceptable for re-certification purposes.

Should an official fail the Level IV, V or VI examination, the Branch shall be authorized to allow the candidate to write a supplementary examination during the current season. This second exam shall be different from the first one and shall originate from the Hockey Canada National Office. Only those officials whose supplementary examinations are successful and sent to the Hockey Canada National Office shall be eligible to referee Inter-Branch Playoffs.

An individual will not be eligible to advance more than one level of the Hockey Canada Officiating Program per season, except for Levels I and II. Certification at the higher level cannot be granted until one year has passed.

When an official has not officiated for a season or more, the individual must attend a full Hockey Canada Officiating Program clinic at the appropriate level and successfully complete a practical assessment.

When a Level VI official has not officiated for a season or more or has not registered as a Level VI in the previous year and wants to regain Level VI status, the individual must first obtain Level V status within the Branch. The candidate may then apply to the Hockey Canada Manager, Officiating for Level VI certification, which requires the successful completion of the Level VI examination and an on-ice evaluation by a national supervisor. The cost of such re-assessment shall be borne by the Branch and/or official.

Inter-Branch Transfer of Officials

The Hockey Canada Officiating Program has been designed to permit movement of officials from one Branch to another through very simple procedures:

- The official must obtain an Inter-Branch Transfer Form from the current Branch Referee-in-Chief. Three copies of this should be signed with one copy for the Official, one to be sent to the Referee-in-Chief in the new Branch and one for the records of the current Branch. This form will serve as an introduction of the official with some background information.
- Once this form is received, the official will then be certified according to the Hockey Canada Officiating Program. The official should not expect to immediately officiate at the same level of hockey until the new Branch has had an opportunity to assess the official's ability.

Note: A transferring official is attempting to move up a level (i.e. Level II to III, Level III to IV, Level IV to V or Level V to VI), the official has attended an appropriate

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complete Hockey Canada Officiating Program clinic and has passed the appropriate national examination, but has not been supervised by the current Branch. The Branch Referee-in-Chief would then indicate the lower level of certification on the Inter-Branch Transfer Form and explain the above details under the Remarks section. The Branch Referee-in-Chief must also indicate that supervision is necessary for the official to be certified at the higher level.

Summary

Hockey Canada is an association dedicated to developing by amateur hockey in Canada while providing an enjoyable environment in which to participate.

The Hockey Canada Officiating Program is designed for you, the official. Your successful development as an official will directly enhance not only your enjoyment of the game, but that of the players, coaches and spectators.

Hockey Canada and the Hockey Development Council have established this comprehensive program to assist you in meeting the needs of your very responsible role.

SECTION 2

Understanding the qualities of Hockey Official

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

identify and understand the positive qualities of an official;

discuss how one official's strength could be another's weakness;

accept the challenges of officiating.

Being an Official

Section 2 Being an Hockey Official

Qualities of an Official

In order to provide help for new officials and/or officials trying to better themselves, it was felt that it would be valuable to examine the qualities of successful officials. By examining the qualities of officials who had already achieved success, it was hoped that it might be possible to provide a formula for success. Unfortunately, this was not the case. It seemed that although it was possible to identify the qualities and strengths of these officials, and even though it was obvious the qualities identified were significant in the success of that official, it was also very obvious that there was no common pattern. In short, it appeared that there were many different prowl for success. A major strength for one official could very easily be the major weakness of another, yet both could be extremely successful.

However, it was possible to identify areas or qualities that were important and deserved consideration by any officials who wished to progress to their highest potential. The key to success was indentured as the ability of officials to maximize individual strengths, while at the same time minimizing any individual weaknesses. A list of qualities for consideration was compiled and included the following:

Knowledge of the Rules	Fitness
Appearance and Presence	Skating Ability
Positioning	Signals
Procedures	Attitude - Off Ice
Reaction to Pressure	Rapport and Communication
Feel for the Game - Penalty Selection	Judgement/Consistency/Standard

The next step involved the examination of the qualities listed to determine if all qualities should receive the same priority and/or emphasis. It was quickly apparent that not all were of equal importance. At this point officials, coaches, players and referee supervisors were asked to provide a weighting of the qualities listed. The final result yielded a few surprises. From this input received, an Official's Report Card was developed. The weight values are indicated above in parentheses.

Common Misconception

Far too often when officials evaluate themselves, they tend to focus on just one or two areas. As a result, their base for judgement is too small to be effective or accurate. For example, older or experienced officials who thought that they were overweight and not as at as they should have been to be most effective, thought they were not capable of being truly successful. What these officials failed to remember was that tens and appearance are only two of the criteria on the list. They are important, and the officials in our example should make every effort to minimize their negative effect, but they must not overlook the many other qualities on the list. It could be that their positive **attitude** or that their previous playing experience provides them with a real **feel for the game**,

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which enables them to score unusually high in these two areas, and that they, therefore, compensate for their low scores in tens and/or appearance. It is important, then, not to lose sight of all of the significant criteria for assessment.

As a second example, a younger official who had exceptional skating ability failed to understand that it was only one of the many criteria for success. Certainly skating is the basic skill for officiating, but there have been many extremely successful officials who were weak skaters. All officials should make every effort to improve their skating, however, officials who see skating as the key to success, overlooking the importance of **attitude** or perhaps the ability to develop **rapport and communication** with players and coaches, will never reach their ultimate potential.

A Perfect Score

The total of all categories comes to 100. If an official self-evaluated in each of the categories and then added the scores together, the total would be a score out of 100. What does it mean to have a score of 100? Can anyone ever reach a perfect score of 100? Can anyone ever reach a perfect score in any one category? Is the score an official gets relative to the level that official is working? Certainly if the qualities of an official are approached in this manner, there are some interesting questions to answer. First, it does seem reasonable that an official could get a perfect score in a category and that the score in any one category should be linked to the level of the game that the official is doing. To achieve a perfect score in a category, the official in question should demonstrate the highest level of skill in that category of any official working at that level. That becomes a perfect score for that quality. As an example, **skating**; the official who scores 10 is the official who is the best skater that works a particular league or a particular level. All others would now be measured against this bench mark. There may be better skaters officiating higher leagues, however, they should not be taken into account for the purposes of this exercise. Since it is unlikely that any one person would receive a perfect score in all categories, a rating of 100 is therefore unlikely at any level.

The key in this exercise is not the score, but rather the understanding of all the key components in the make-up of a successful official. It is important for all officials to identify their areas of strength and their areas that need development.

It is best to have a third party, ideally a supervisor, to help with this exercise. A supervisor, having a wide base of experience, will find it quite easy to give you a score in each of the various categories and this value should have a high level of credibility. However, that is not the only option. A fellow official can make a great supervisor and can help you with this exercise. Some officials even have family and/or friend's video tape them, so that they can evaluate themselves. The important thing to remember is that all officials need this information to enhance their development.

The key to success is to build on your strengths. Identify the areas where you have exceptional abilities and maximize their impact. At the same time, identify any areas of weakness and work on them. You may never be the greatest skater, but you are capable of improvement. Do everything you can to minimize your weaknesses.

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Knowledge of the Rules

Every official is capable of good working knowledge of the rules. It is not magical; it is just hard work. An official who has difficulty with rules may take more time to develop, but everyone can gain an adequate knowledge of the rules. The Case Book/ Rule Combination is an ideal aid here and all senior officials should have a good working knowledge of that document. There would be nothing more embarrassing for an official than to have a game replayed because that official did not know the rules. Do not let it happen to you. This is the only quality that is either a perfect score of 5 or a 0. If a rule interpretation error is made during a supervision the official would receive 0 in this category.

Fitness

Fitness does not refer to the appearance of tens, but rather to the physical conditioning of the official. Certainly, this is level dependant. A good guide is that the official's tens should be directly related to the players' tens. The official should be spending as much time and effort into getting at, as the players at the same level. This does not mean the official will necessarily be at the same level of tens as the players, but rather will have spent approximately the same amount of time working at it. The official must be prepared to skate for sixty minutes. Players and coaches will respect an official who has made the effort to ensure physical tens.

When self-evaluating, officials must ask themselves if they are capable of skating hard enough to keep up with the play, even in long stretches without a stoppage of play. Are they able to skate as fast in the third period as in the first? If they can honestly answer "yes", then they are certainly on the right track.

An often overlooked aspect of physical tens is that when an individual begins to get physically tired, this fatigue will have a direct negative effect on the official's judgement. It will slow down reaction time and cloud judgement. Therefore, poor physical conditioning may also be reflected in some other categories as well, and, in particular, the category of judgement. This is so important that at the national level, tens testing is a mandatory requirement for all elite officials. They are encouraged to have a year-long tens program and their level of tens is evaluated each year.

Appearance and Presence

The appearance of officials when they arrive at the rink is significant. Did they enter the rink with sweaters hanging over their shoulders or was all equipment being carried in referees' bags? All officials must take every opportunity to look like they are prepared and that they take officiating seriously. The objective is to look professional.

The appearance of officials when they step onto the ice is the first impression they will make on all who see them. Certainly this is an important consideration. How they dress and the condition of their equipment make a very strong statement to players,

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coaches and spectators. Young officials are unlikely to have all the equipment, but they can make sure that when they go onto the ice they look crisp and clean. There are, however, some items that deserve special consideration. Officials should try to wear black pants and proper hockey officials' jerseys. Clothing should be clean and pressed. The crest should be properly displayed. Some officials at higher levels will change their laces every game. Certainly this is not necessary for everyone, but laces can be washed and they should be changed several times a year. Skates should be polished. The difference can be amazing. Some officials put tape on their whistles. Even this needs to be changed from time to time. It is important that when officials step onto the ice, they look as professional as they can.



On-Ice Official

Presence means, does the official look the part and carry themselves in a professional manner? Can the official take charge in a difficult situation? Does the official command respect through his actions and/or mannerisms. For some officials, their physical size gives them an immediate presence on the ice. For others, the way they handle and present themselves in all situations during the game will reflect their ability to display their presence.

Skating Ability

When judging skating ability there are many factors that need to be considered. These include speed, turning ability, stops, agility, acceleration, cross over, fluidity, style and skating upright.

The skating ability of an official should be directly related to the level of the players. The better the players and the higher the level, the better skater the official should be.

Some people believe that skaters are born not made. There is, however, one thing for certain, anyone and everyone is capable of improvement. Power skating is available in

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most centres and there is no reason for any official not to take advantage of the opportunity. All officials, regardless of level, should be interested in pursuing improvement in their skating. Often officials will recognize that they have a weakness in this area and will make every effort to avoid exposing that weakness. They will always try to position themselves or manoeuvre themselves so that they can avoid their weak skills. The true key to success lies in determining the weakness and then in practicing it until it is no longer a problem.

Positioning

Proper positioning can enhance an official's performance. Positioning is related to the functions that officials are required to perform on the ice. Positioning guidelines have been developed to assist officials to enable them to be in the best position to call penalties, to call off-sides or to make whatever call is necessary. It is critical for an official to know the proper positioning for both a linesman and a referee. Proper positioning comes from an accurate knowledge of what is recommended and then putting that information into practice in a game situation. Proper positioning will make a difference. It is a skill that needs to become second nature. It needs to become automatic. This will take time, practice and coaching.

Signals

Signals are used for communication purposes. They enable officials to communicate with each other and with players, coaches and spectators. That is why they were and that is why they are required. It is critical that officials use the standard signals which have been developed and that they do not deviate into locally developed variations of the signals. This will not only be confusing for other officials, but for players and coaches from different regions. Signals should always be given crisply and calmly and never in a showboat style or antagonistic manner. Proper use of signals by referees and linesmen will create an appearance of confidence and competence. It is essential that every official understand the significance of signals.

Procedures

Procedures, like positioning, have been developed to assist officials on the ice. If an official understands and uses the procedures properly, they will enable the official to avoid making some of the most common mistakes. Some of the procedures that are important for a referee would include the penalty procedure, the line change procedure and the altercation procedure. For linesmen there are also many procedures and techniques. Some would include the face-off procedure, the procedure for dealing with an altercation, the procedures for calling icing, off-side, clearing the zone and off-side passes, as well as the procedure for reporting infractions to the referee. All of these are contained in this manual under the appropriate headings.

Attitude

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A good attitude toward officiating is essential to development. Officials who display a positive attitude tend to develop more quickly.

On the ice this is observed in a variety of ways. Officials with a good attitude show hustle, determination and enthusiasm for the game. They do not look bored or act like a particular game is beneath their capabilities. They work hard to establish rapport with players, coaches and other officials. They do not showboat, but rather give 100% effort regardless of the game or situation.

Off the ice, these officials recognize that everything they do from the time they leave home until the time they return home reflects on the impression they make. Far too often officials believe that the only thing that should matter is the job that they do on the ice. Nothing could be further from the truth. The way that officials treat the off-ice officials, the way they talk to people as they enter the rink, the way they dress to go to a game, etc. will ultimately have a bearing on how others view them as officials. It will indicate to all involved how seriously the officials take their commitment to hockey officiating.

There is a strange phenomenon that takes place and is important to mention under this quality. It is important for officials to want to do each and every game that they are assigned. If officials do not want to referee at a certain level, then they should refuse those games, but at the same time be prepared to accept the logical consequences of that decision. The problem is that far too often officials will agree to work a game and then by their appearance and actions tell all who watch that they are not happy about having to do that game. The reason could be anything from the fact that they may think that the rink is too dark, or the fans too noisy, to perhaps the most common reason, which would be that the game in question was below them, or inferior to the quality that they should expect at this point in their officiating career. What they fail to understand is the phenomenon called **Law of Return**. If an official arrives to do a game and gives an impression of looking forward to working that game in that rink with everybody there, of being happy to be there, there is a general rule of return that seems to apply. Most often others will respond by saying and feeling that they are happy to have that official there to do the game as well. On the other hand, if an official arrives at a rink complaining about the level of hockey or the size of the rink, more often than not, before the night is out, everyone there is complaining as well. It is a rule that some officials find very difficult to learn. Officials who understand the **Law of Return** can overcome some major weaknesses in other categories.

Reaction to Pressure

Not every game will test this. Some games are more difficult to officiate, and sometimes an official is in a no-win situation. However, when faced with tough situations, one aspect that becomes very important is how well the official handled that pressure. Some officials will emerge stronger in tough games, while others will wilt and fold in the face of a tough call. It is important to have officials who have courage.

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Officials must make the tough call, even on the home team, when it is necessary. In the long run this is critical if they are to earn the respect of both teams involved.

It is also important that in difficult situations, officials are able to take charge. They must have the ability to exhibit a presence that the players can feel and respect. They must have the ability to sell their decision to the satisfaction of both teams. They must exhibit a confidence that enables them to be in complete control.

This is a very difficult area for all officials. However, very good officials will learn techniques and strategies to handle the stress and tension that a game can bring. The ability to handle pressure effectively is very important.

Rapport and Communication

This is an area that is often overlooked. It is an area that in the past has not received enough attention, in spite of the fact that there is general recognition that it is extremely important.

Officials who can establish good rapport with players and coaches give themselves a very decided edge in difficult situations or in situations that require the tough sell. An official who can display openness, a friendly attitude and a good sense of humour has a definite advantage. There have been a few officials who have emerged at the highest levels who have used this quality as their greatest strength. It cannot be ignored. It does not happen by accident. It is very carefully orchestrated by good officials.

It is important to note that in trying to establish rapport, officials must at all times be professional. However, they may want the players and coaches to know that officials can laugh when it is appropriate, even when the joke is on them. They can appreciate a pretty play, a nice goal or a good save. It takes them beyond the stripes and the whistle into being people. However, through it all they must always be viewed as professionals who are impartial and non-partisan.

Verbal communication with the players during the game is also very important. Referees and linemen are encouraged to talk to players as the game progresses. Encouragement to play the puck or keep the sticks down will help them to understand what is expected.

Under no circumstances should you lose control of your actions or words. Profanity is **NEVER** acceptable. There are appropriate penalties for any coach or player who uses profanity towards you during the game, and, if this happens, officials should assess the appropriate penalty; however, it is never acceptable for an official to use profanity to a player or coach. It will not only set up a double standard, but will most certainly cause you to lose respect in the eyes of your fellow officials as well as the players and coaches involved.

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There will be times when things will heat up. The ability to communicate effectively and calmly in these situations is a skill that will help to make you a quality official.

When it comes to communication remember, always strive to be professional. When necessary treat disrespect with respect.

Feel for the Game (Penalty Selection)

This area is regarded by many as the most important. Many coaches have expressed the belief that it is by far the most important quality of an official. Although it may be very difficult to define, certainly few deny its existence. It does not always come from previous playing experience, but that may help. There is no doubt that many officials who have “feel for the game” can work their way up the ladder very quickly in spite of weaknesses in other categories.

To rate highly in this area officials must understand what the players and teams expect from the officials on the ice. The officials must be able to deliver that and yet at the same time work towards making hockey a safer and fairer game to play. They need to be able to anticipate changes in the game pace and intensity. Good officials will read these changes and have a feel for when they must assert themselves and when they can just fade into the background and let the players and teams have the spotlight. For younger officials this is a very difficult skill to acquire. It takes time. It comes partly from experience and partly from a greater understanding of the game and how it is played. You must remember that hockey officiating is an apprenticeship and that is most evident in this area. Honest discussion with supervisors and fellow officials can help you to gain an understanding of this very important quality.

Some officials use this area, Feel for the Game, as an excuse for not calling penalties. They simply ignore infraction after infraction with a rationale that they are displaying some form of nebulous game management. This is unacceptable. All officials must work towards increasing the standard of play and our senior officials must lead the way.

Judgement / Consistency / Standard

There are three aspects to this category. First is judgement. The idea is to look at where the official draws the line when making a call. Does the official select the right penalties to call? Is the official applying adequate stick work guidelines? Does the official call checking from behind closely enough? Is the official making the game safer to play?

The second aspect is consistency. Regardless of where the line is drawn, has the official been consistent in the application of calls? It is possible that an official has good judgement but poor consistency. Ideally you would like to have an official consistently apply good judgement.

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Finally, the aspect of standard. Did the official set a good standard right from the start of the game? Are the areas of emphasis being applied? Is the official making an attempt to raise or at least maintain the standard of rule enforcement in this league? By setting a standard early in a game, the official will send a message to both teams as to what is and what is not acceptable in this game.

The Hockey Canada Officiating Program's SUPERVISORS HANDBOOK is available free of charge on the internet at www.hockeycanada.ca or from the Hockey Canada Manager, Officiating. It provides more detail on assessing the qualities of an official.

Game Management

Feel for the game...where do you find it and how much does it cost? The answers to these questions can be summed up as follows: you can't and there is no charge! There does not exist a guide or manual of instructions to direct officials through this elusive area. "Feel for the game" is a difficult skill to evaluate and to instruct. It is best taught through open and honest group discussions and through effective game supervision. Game management cannot be defined in concrete terms such that officials follow a pre-determined menu of instructions for penalty selection where each infraction represents an automatic penalty. In contrast, an official must be prepared to constantly adapt to the various faces a hockey game presents. What follows is an attempt at discussing the concept of game management so that a heightened level of awareness of its basic principles can be achieved.

Introduction

Officiating a hockey game can be accomplished by assessing penalty after penalty until the final buzzer, however, each team and all spectators would likely be totally frustrated by the end of the game. It must be recognized that, although officials play a critical role in each hockey game, they should not endeavour to become the central focus of the game. The official ought to recognize that his/her role in a given hockey game is as a "manager" of that game. The official that realizes this role is far richer than that official who regards hockey officiating as a means of asserting power in the hockey game. It should always be remembered when officiating that each team has a decided vested interest in their success in a game. The only people, involved in the participation of the game, who do not have such an interest, are the officials.

Principles of Game Management

The common element amongst the two opposing teams and the official likely includes their desire to have a hockey game that is both safe and fair. Sound mechanics and knowledge of the playing rules are important criteria in game management; however, we must not overlook the official's "feel for the game". Since it is recognized that officials cannot call every penalty in the rule book, calling the most significant infractions that ensures safety and fairness in the game becomes the focus. The official who is able to read the game and react to difficult situations while maintaining a good standard

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(without being too rigid) will handle an intense, emotional game with relatively few problems. Hockey teams, throughout the course of a game, will attempt to discern the extent to which the respective official, in their game, will judge potential infractions. In essence the team will take cues from the official as to how safe or fair they will play the game.

The official who recognizes that teams will be aware of the types of penalties called and adapt their style accordingly is the official who manages his/her game well. The timing, type and frequency of penalties during a game impact greatly on a team's style of play.

The Timing of Penalties

The time at which an infraction is called can either assist or defeat an attempt at good game management. The face of a hockey game normally changes over the span of the three periods in that the intensity builds from the drop of the puck to the final buzzer. Officials should not expect to have success in managing a particular game by commencing their penalty enforcement late in the third period. In order to ensure the hockey teams are aware of the type of infractions permitted in a hockey game, officials must enforce those unacceptable infractions early in the game. It is the role of the official to define the parameters of a specific game early, through penalty selection, and gauge the impact of such parameters on the teams' style. There is no defined time period of how long an official should be aware of setting the parameters, for instance the first call of the game may be sufficient to set the desired tone, but the official must be prepared to maintain such awareness if the teams do not relent.

The Types of Infractions

The types of infractions assessed has a direct impact on the game parameters set by the officials. There are certain penalties in the rule book that, by definition, carry a specific meaning as to their severity. For instance, a minor penalty for tripping has less effect than a minor for checking from behind. It is irrefutable that certain penalties have more impact than others. **IMPACT** penalties, when enforced, send very clear nonverbal messages to the team about the type of play that will be permitted and include checking from behind, stick infractions, high hits, restraining fouls and roughing after the whistle. Linesmen conducting face-offs must apply the rules on encroachment in a consistent fashion. By not enforcing these types of infractions, the officials non-verbally communicate to the teams that their style is permitted in the hockey game. As previously stated, teams will adopt their style to the penalty standard adopted by the Referee. Therefore, it is part of the job of the Referee to focus on those infractions that have the most **IMPACT** rather than those infractions that are inconsequential. It is likely that the longer the official waits to enforce impact penalties, the more concentrated the enforcement will become throughout the game. If the official assesses impact penalties early in the game and remains consistent early, the frequency of assessment will likely decrease over the span of the games. The teams will become aware that this Referee will consistently assess infractions and they will adapt their style to match the parameters set out by the referee. The linesman who chose to ignore, or fail to react to

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key situations by enforcing the rules, for which he/she is responsible, can easily communicate the wrong message to the teams.

Yet calling a “too many men on the ice” penalty which has no impact on the play may also communicate the wrong message.

Evaluation

The reaction of the two teams to the timing and type of penalties assessed should always be evaluated. Throughout the game, Referees should always be asking themselves how the team has responded to the penalty and what effect has the standard had on the flow of the game. The evaluation period is critical because it can prevent the Referee from falling into the trap of calling a weak penalty after calling a strong **IMPACT** penalty. It is important for linesmen to be constantly aware of the penalty selection. They too must learn to evaluate the impact of penalties called, know how to react, and how it affects the game. If the officials condition themselves to constantly evaluate the impact of their penalty selection, it is likely that they will be better prepared to react to adverse situations should they arise.

Conclusion

Making use of the “Bird” analogy is the best way to summarize “Game Management”. If you squeeze the bird too tight, you can kill it; hold on to the bird too loosely and it will get away. This image clearly illustrates a game under control and should be able to provide you with a visual reference for the subject of “Game Management”.

Official’s Code of Ethics

The Hockey Canada Officiating Program - Official’s Code of Ethics, provides guidance to registered officials across Canada. Hockey Canada Branches and their members should expect from Hockey Canada Officiating Program officials the highest possible standards of personal integrity, competence, sound judgement and discretion. Developed by the former Hockey Canada Referees’ Committee, the Official’s Code of Ethics is its public declaration of an official’s obligation to himself, his peers and the game.

I will..

- Do the best job I can in each game, no matter what the category of hockey.
- Always show respect for my fellow officials, the players, coaches and fans.
- Study and continue to improve my knowledge of Hockey Canada playing rules, the Hockey Canada Officiating Program policies and procedures.

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- Represent myself and the rules of the game as fairly and as accurately as possible at all times.
- Always be unquestionably impartial, keeping a professional and appropriate distance from teams.
- Understand that the use of alcohol is not encouraged and is totally unacceptable on game days. The use of illicit drugs is against the law.
- Uphold the philosophy and right of all hockey participants to “Fair Play” and penalize accordingly all violent acts.
- Raise the standard of play in each game that I officiate.
- Be supportive of my fellow on-ice and off-ice officials at all times, even when I am a spectator.
- Accept the fact that I will make mistakes, but I will not get frustrated or let this learning process affect my performance or my professionalism.
- Contribute to the continuing growth of the Hockey Canada Officiating Program and its officials within my Branch through support, encouragement and positive attitude.
- Respect and accept constructive feedback from supervisors and the assignments I receive from my administrators.

By registering with your Branch in the Hockey Canada Officiating Program implies that you understand and will comply with the Official’s Code of Ethics. Officials not complying will be subject to disciplinary action.

Officiating Code of Conduct

The officiating program plays an integral role in the sport of hockey. Officials must recognize their impact on the game, its participants and their fellow officials. Program leaders must recognize the need for instilling the highest values and the impact they have on aspiring officials. The following officiating code of conduct has been developed to aid the officiating program in achieving a level of behaviour which will allow all officials to become self confident and productive human beings.

Officials have a responsibility to:

1. Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.

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2. Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the individual if this is part of your role.
3. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and officiating
 - a) Refrain from public criticism of participants and fellow officials.
 - b) Abstain from the use of tobacco products.
 - c) Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when officiating and working with officials.
 - d) Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language.
4. Educate and ensure high standards of risk management are maintained.
5. Treat all other hockey participants with due respect and encourage all officials to maintain a high standard of self discipline.

OFFICIALS MUST:

1. When in a leadership role ensure the safety of the officials with whom they work.
2. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with other officials. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for rejection of such requests.
3. Respect participants' dignity, verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
4. Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned substances.
5. Never provide under age participants with alcohol; never encourage its use.

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the officiating code of conduct.

Being an Official

Let's Talk about an Official's Equipment

Officials must be mentally and physically ready to do their job (see below). They must look professional both off and on the ice and be adequately protected to complete the job safely.

Equipment	Optional Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hockey Canada Rule Book or Case Book• Black CSA approved helmet to which a CSA Needle and thread approved visor is attached• Protective girdle • Shin pads and knee pads• Athletic support and cup • Elbow pads• Black, pressed pants• Black polished skates with clean white laces• Clean official's black and white sweater with towel and soap• Branch crest displayed on the left side front• Hockey Canada crest on left shoulder• Finger grip, metal whistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stick gauge• Measuring tape• Skate stone• Referee pad and pencil• Safety pins• Off-ice official's manual• Extra laces• Extra whistle• HCOP manual

Summary

Every official must take the time to examine individual strengths and weaknesses. Every official who steps onto the ice will bring together different skills and yet at the same time minimize and work to eliminate weaknesses.

The fact that there is not a magic formula or any one right way to succeed makes the challenge all the more interesting. The recognition of the variety of qualities needed to be successful is one major step on the road to developing to your maximum potential.

SECTION 3

Common Procedures for Hockey Officials

Upon completion of this section you will be better
Understanding of common procedures used by Officials

Procedures for Hockey Officials

Section 3 Common Procedures for Hockey Officials

Fair Play Initiative

As a result of Hockey Canada's focus on fair play and improved communication between officials, coaches and players, the following process has been implemented:

In all games, the officials shall approach each bench and meet the Coaches. This process should not take more than 15 seconds and will be completed prior to the game, at the end of the pre-game warm-up. Officials are also encouraged to shake hands with the Captains where possible.

This process is supported by the Coaching Program, Officiating Program and Hockey Canada's Board of Directors.

Line Change Procedure

Rule 2.5 Change of Players

The official is responsible to ensure that player changes are completed within the confines of the rules to prevent unnecessary delays in the game. This may mean taking a moment to ensure that possibly volatile situations are diffused before proceeding with the Line Change.

For player changes during stoppages in play, the Referee shall begin the line change procedure as soon as it is safe to do so for the ensuing face-off and then allow a five-second period during which the Visiting Team may make a player change. After this five-second period has elapsed, the Referee will raise an arm to indicate that the Visiting Team may no longer change any player(s). With the arm still up, the Referee will allow a five-second period during which the Home Team may make a player change. After this five-second period has elapsed, the Referee will drop the arm to indicate that the Home Team may no longer change any player(s).

Where a team attempts to make a player change after their allotted period of time, the Referee shall send the player(s) back to their bench. Any subsequent infraction to this procedure at any time during the course of the game shall incur a Bench Minor penalty under Rule 2.5 (e).

Line change procedure is used at every stoppage of play and the start of all periods.

Face-Offs

- Face-off procedure is one of the many important duties that a linesman has to complete during a game.

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- After play has been stopped, the linesmen shall first ensure that no altercations are taking place. Good awareness is an important quality of good linesmen.
- Once all is clear, the linesman who stopped the play shall go directly to the face-off spot. The other linesman shall retrieve the puck and promptly proceed to the location of the face-off and prepare to conduct the face-off. It is permissible for the linesman who stops the play to pick up the puck if it is close by or if the other linesman is busy monitoring players who are in close proximity of one another or if retrieving a broken stick, etc. The linesmen's duties may be adjusted at a stoppage ONLY when game situations warrant a break from normal procedure.
- As soon as the referee lowers his arm to indicate that all line changes are complete the linesman conducting the face-off shall blow the whistle.
- This is to signal to both teams that they will have no more than 5 seconds to line up for the face-off. At the end of this 5 seconds (or sooner if the centre men are ready), the Linesman shall be ready to drop the puck.
- The puck should not be dropped by the Linesman conducting the face-off until all players leaving, are off the ice even if the 5 seconds are up.
- The puck should not be dropped by the linesman conducting the face-off until his partner is back in his position even if the 5 seconds are up.
- **The linesman conducting the face-off should check the player sbehind him before squareing to teh face-off dot. Once square, the players behind are the responsibility of of the official's partner**
- The linesman retrieving the puck should be first in the position for conducting the face-off before he blows the whistle after the referee lowers his arm.
- A face-off shall take place when the referee or linesman drops the puck on the ice between the sticks of the 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.
- The linesman who will conduct the face-off shall ensure that the referee and the other linesman are in position before dropping the puck.
- Linesmen must ensure that all players on the ice move quickly into position for the ensuing faceoff. Use your voice to facilitate this.

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- 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 puck is held just below belt height and close to the body as shown in the figure. The puck shall be concealed and not presented to the centres taking the face-off. The hand not holding the puck should be placed at your side and never behind your back.
- If a centre taking the face-off leaves the face-off position to direct teammates (quarterbacking), that centre shall be removed from the face-off by the linesman.
- The players taking the face-off shall stand squarely facing their opponents' end of the rink. All other players on both teams must be on-side. 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. The players of the visiting team shall place the stick within the designated white area first. For end zone face-offs, the centres must stand squarely facing their opponent's end of the rink and their skates are clear of the face-off restraining lines. No contact with the lines is acceptable. The linesman must not drop the puck until the sticks of both players have been placed on the ice and within the designated white area. Linesman are not to "time" the drop with the movements of the home team player. 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.



Four (4) points to remember:

1. The centres must stand squarely facing their opponent's end of the rink and their skates must be clear of the face-off restraining lines.
 2. Ensure that both sticks are on the ice, in the designated white areas and stopped before releasing the puck. Timing the drop of the puck shall not be permitted.
 3. Zero tolerance for all encroachment violations - to be effective, the offending team's centre must be removed.
 4. No coaching or warnings are to be given except in the advance preparation for the face-off.
- For end zone face-offs, all other players on the ice must position themselves and their sticks on their own side of the restraining lines (hash

Procedures for Hockey Officials

marks) marked on the outer edges of the circles one metre (three feet) apart. 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 face-off. The linesman should also communicate this vocally by saying something like, "white centre out, your winger encroached", and then would indicate the removal of the player with arm motion out to the side of the body on the side in which the player is to be removed.

- Proper stance by the linesman during the face-off is important. The linesman's skates should be shoulder width apart with the knees slightly bent. If the skates are too far apart it will hinder mobility once the puck is dropped. The puck should not be held too high. Belt level is preferred. As mentioned earlier, the linesman should stand squarely to the face-off spot and the two players facing-off. Linesmen should not put the free hand behind the back. This position will tend to hinder mobility and balance and increase the chance of turning sideways. The linesman should have the free hand at the side.
- 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 practised often to perfect the procedure.
- The linesman taking 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 linesman should exit backwards to the blue line. When clear of all players, the linesman shall move quickly to establish correct positioning.
- The back linesman shall remain in position until the linesman conducting the face-off has resumed normal positioning and has released the back linesman (with head nod) from the line. The only exception to this procedure is that if the play moves out quickly, the back linesman 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, linesmen should encourage and remind all players about the face-off procedures and standard. Linesmen 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, he/she will now take on the responsibility of communicating this to the team.

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- The success of the face-off procedure hinges on the understanding between the linesman 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 both linesmen 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.

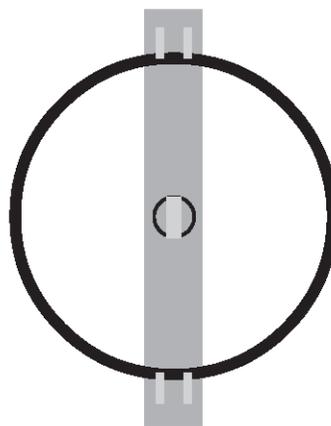
Face-Off Encroachment

Rule 10.2 Face-offs

This 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”.

Here is how the procedure is applied:

The linesman or 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 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 to the other side as shown in the figure below and extends the full width of the ice surface.



Linesmen are not to coach the players by taking time to direct them to an onside position. However, linesmen 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 linesman is to eject the centre

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of the offending side out of the face-off circle and that player is to be replaced immediately by a teammate on the ice.

The responsibility of the linesmen with respect to encroachment is simple. The linesman conducting the face-off is responsible for the players directly in front of him and, of course, the centres. The back linesman is responsible for the players behind his partner and any players around the face-off circle that his partner cannot see. Should the back linesman notice that a player is encroaching, he is to blow his whistle and indicate with an arm signal which team is in violation of the encroachment rule. The linesman conducting the face-off would then eject the centre of the offending team and conduct the face-off with a new centre.

Linesmen must also ensure that the first player to enter the face-off circle is the team who's 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 linesmen 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 his centre is removed from the face-off circle.

Finally, the linesman conducting the face-off must ensure that the centres are fair. By fair, it is meant that both centres are standing squarely facing their opponent's end of the rink, their skates clear of the ice markings, and their sticks are placed in the designated white area of the face-off spot. Also, the centres must place their sticks on the ice and come to a stop before the puck is to be dropped.

Linesman should never attempt to time the dropping of the puck with the arrival of the players' sticks. The visiting team must place their stick on the ice in the designated white area first. The home team centre must also place her stick on the ice in the designated white area and come to a complete stop. Linesmen must ensure that both sticks are on the ice in the designated white areas and stopped before releasing the puck for the face-off.

By conducting face-offs with a zero tolerance for encroachment and cheating by the centres, the result will be quicker and fairer face-offs. Linesmen must ensure that they set their standard early and stick to it throughout the game. It is also very important that the standard between linesmen partners be consistent at both ends of the rink.

The new face-off restraining lines have been adopted since the 1997/98 season. They will allow officials to ensure face-offs are conducted fairly and quickly. The concept remains the same from previous seasons. It will just be easier to ensure that the centres are lined up squarely.

Once the linesman is in position to drop the puck, the centres must enter their respective restraining line areas. The player is not permitted to make skate contact with the restraining lines, either at the sides or in front of his skates. Any contact would result in the player being removed from the face-off.

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Remember, the visiting team player must place his stick on the ice first, in the designated white area. Linesmen are reminded that both players' sticks must come to a complete stop before the puck may be dropped.

By ensuring that face-offs are conducted properly, they will always be fair for both teams.

Assessing Penalties

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.

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- As the whistle is blown, the referee shall come to a full stop with the signalling arm still fully extended above the head. This pause is done to allow players, coaches and fans to focus on the referee. The referee will then point out the offending player by lowering and fully extended arm and hand straight out towards the offending player.



Note 1: If the offending player is within a three metre (ten foot) 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. Direct eye contact with the offending player should be established to ensure that there is no doubt as to who is being penalized.

Note 2: When pointing out an offending player, the full hand shall be extended.

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

Note: The referee must be careful not to stare down any player who has been penalized as the signal is made, as this could further intimidate the penalized player. The referee must, however, keep the player or players in view.

- The referee shall then proceed to the penalty bench, turning to skate backwards, keeping all players in view, and report the infraction. The route taken by the referee will depend on the location of the penalized player

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and the tone of the game at the time. Referees shall attempt to avoid confrontation by:

trying to leave the area immediately thus avoiding the penalized player;
stopping and letting the penalized player proceed to the penalty bench first; or

a combination of these two techniques.

avoid excessive direct eye contact with the penalized player.

- At the penalty bench the referee shall report the penalized player's number, team colour, the penalty being assessed and the duration, and then give the appropriate signal for the infraction. The referee must ensure that the off-ice official has the correct information regarding the penalized player before departing from the penalty bench 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. This will help prevent further retaliation.

Important Points

- Avoid direct confrontation with penalized players at all times.
- Resist using signals, hand motions, or verbal communications which display belligerence or which could be intimidating.
- When reporting penalties, do not permit players into the referee's crease. Remember, 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.

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REFEREE'S SIGNALS

	<p>BOARDING</p> <p>Striking the clenched fist of one hand into the open palm of the opposite hand in front of the chest.</p>		<p>CHECKING TO THE HEAD</p> <p>Patting flat (open palm) of the non-whistle hand on this side of the head.</p>
	<p>BODYCHECKING</p> <p>Open palm of the non-whistle hand, with fingers together, comes across body on to the opposite shoulder.</p>		<p>CROSS-CHECKING</p> <p>A forward and backward motion of the arms with both fists clenched, extending from the chest for a distance of about one foot.</p>
	<p>BUTT-ENDING</p> <p>A cross motion of the forearms, one moving under the other arm.</p>		<p>DELAYED OFF-SIDE</p> <p>Non-whistle arm fully extended above the head. To nullify a delayed off-side the linesman shall drop the arm to the side.</p>
	<p>CHARGING</p> <p>Rotating clenched fists around one another in front of the chest.</p>		<p>DELAYED CALLING PENALTY</p> <p>Extending the non-whistle arm fully above the head.</p>
	<p>CHECKING FROM BEHIND</p> <p>A forward motion of both arms, with the palms of the hands open and facing away from the body, fully extended from the chest at shoulder level.</p>		<p>ELBOWING</p> <p>Tapping either elbow with the opposite hand.</p>
	<p>GOAL SCORED</p> <p>A single point directed at the goal in which the puck legally entered.</p>		<p>ICING THE PUCK</p> <p>The back Referee or linesman the goal in which the puck signals a possible icing by fully extending either arm over her head. The arm should remain raised until the front Referee or linesman, either blows the whistle to indicate an icing or until the icing is washed out. Once the icing has been completed, the back Referee or linesman will then point to the appropriate face-off spot and skate to it.</p>

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	<p>HAND PASS Pushing motion with the open palm.</p>		<p>INTERFERENCE Crossing arms stationary in front of the chest.</p>
	<p>HIGH STICKING Holding both fists clenched, one immediately above the other at the height of the forehead.</p>		<p>KNEEING Slapping either knee with the palm of the hand, while keeping both skates on the ice.</p>
	<p>HOLDING Clasping either wrist with the other hand in front of the chest.</p>		<p>MATCH PENALTY Patting flat of the hand on the top of the head.</p>
	<p>HOLDING THE STICK Two stage signal involving the holding signal (shown above) followed by a signal indicating you are holding onto a stick with two hands in a normal manner.</p>		<p>MISCONDUCT Both hands on hips.</p>
	<p>HOOKING A tugging motion with both arms as if pulling something from in front toward the stomach.</p>		<p>SPEARING Jabbing motion with both hands thrust out immediately in front of the body and then hands dropped to the side of the body.</p>
	<p>PENALTY SHOT Arms crossed above the head. Give the signal upon stoppage of play.</p>		<p>TRIPPING Striking leg with either hand below the knee, keeping both skates on the ice.</p>
	<p>ROUGHING Fist clenched and arm extended out to the front or side of the body.</p>		<p>UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT/DIVING Using both hands to form a "T" in front of the chest</p>
	<p>SLASHING A chopping motion with the edge of one hand across the opposite forearm.</p>		<p>WASH OUT A sweeping sideways motion of both arms across the front of the body at shoulder level with palms down. This signal is used: (a) by the Referee to signal "no goal"; (b) by the linesman to signal "no icing" and in certain situations "no off-side".</p>

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OTHER SIGNALS

When a puck is struck with a high stick, the referee should make a high stick signal, and then wave it off or blow the play down as required.

When a puck is gloved ahead, the referee should make a gloved ahead signal, and then wave it off or blow the play down as required.

If during a potential offside pass or icing situation the call is nullified because the puck was touched, the official making the call should give the wash out signal. After the wash out signal the linesman is allowed to indicate that the puck was touched by rubbing one open palm across the other with the hands held chest high.

Penalty option chart see case/rule book.

Procedures for Hockey Officials

Time Penalties and Coincidental Penalties

Rule 4.13 Calling of Penalties

Definitions

- **SHORTHANDED** - When a team is below the numerical strength of its opponent on the ice.
- - When a team is playing with less than 6 players on the ice. The team may or may not be shorthanded.
- **TIME PENALTIES** - A penalty that results in a penalized team playing SHORT. Time penalties are the ONLY penalties that are indicated on the penalty clock.
- **COINCIDENTAL PENALTIES** - When penalties of equal duration are imposed against players on each team, during the same stoppage of play, the penalized players are directed to the penalty bench. Immediate substitutions on the ice shall be made for the players who are assessed penalties that are considered coincidental.

Situations that result in Time Penalties

- Minor and/or Bench Minor penalties
- Major and/or match penalties

Situations that DO NOT result in Time Penalties

- Coincidental penalties
- Game Ejection, Misconduct, Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct penalties

Two questions that an official must ask to determine if a penalty is terminated when a goal is scored are:

- Is the team scored against playing SHORTHANDED?
- Are they serving a Minor penalty or a Bench Minor penalty?

If the answer to either question is NO, then no time penalty is washed out

If the answer to BOTH questions is YES, then wash out the first Minor time penalty (the one with the least amount of time remaining).

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Cancelling Penalties

- Always start by cancelling Major penalties, then cancel Minor penalties.
- Cancel in the following order of priority:
 1. **M** - CANCEL AS MANY PENALTIES AS POSSIBLE
 2. **O**- CANCEL IN A WAY TO MAKE THE TEAM ONE PLAYER SHORT
 3. **T** - CANCEL IN A WAY TO AVOID TAKING ANOTHER PLAYER OFF THE ICE
 4. **O**- CANCEL USING THE ORDER OF OCCURRENCE OR THE ORDER THAT THE PENALTIES WERE REPORTED BY THE REFEREE.

SECTION 4

An Understanding of The Basic Procedures for Referees.

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

explain the proper clothing and equipment for officials;

explain the general duties and procedures for referees.

Procedures for Referees

Section 4 Procedures for Referees

Duties of the Referee

The officials should arrive at the rink at least forty-five (45) minutes prior to scheduled game time.

Check the official game report prior to going onto the ice. Ensure that Captains and Alternate Captains are indicated on the report and that team officials have signed the report. A maximum of five (5) team officials are permitted to occupy the players' bench and must be duly registered and entered on the game report.

Discuss with the linesmen any procedures or responsibilities you want them to be aware of.

Be on the ice before the players to start the game and also to start each period. Remain on the ice until all players have left the ice.

Ensure that all off-ice officials are in position and ready to start the game and each subsequent period.

Check with the off-ice officials to ensure that timing devices and buzzers are working.

Count the number of players on each team prior to the start of the game. The total number of players on the ice or bench should be the same or less than indicated on the official game report.

After the game check and print your name on the official game report and return it to the official scorer.

Report any rink conditions or ice markings that do not meet the requirements of the Hockey Canada rules to the League President and Branch Referee-in-Chief.

Pre-Game Duties

When the official scorer brings in the game report to you prior to the start of the game, you will check it and make sure that it is filled out and signed correctly by all team officials. Delegate to each linesman the number of players listed on the game report for one team and the linesmen can check the total number of players dressed prior to the start of the game. If there is a discrepancy, you as the referee can check out the problem at once and possibly remove any future problems in the game (i.e. a player scoring a goal but is not listed on the game report).

Prior to going on the ice, have a short discussion with your linesmen regarding their responsibilities in the game as listed under Rule 5.3 - Linesmen. Go onto the ice with your linesmen five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.

Procedures for Referees

After going on the ice, check and make sure that all the off-ice officials are in their proper positions. Make a quick check to see if all the officials in the penalty bench are familiar with their job. Have any spectators or extra people removed from the penalty bench area who are not involved in the running of the game.

It is the responsibility of the referee to report the numbers of the offending players on the back of the game sheet that while warming up, do not have their chinstrap securely fastened and are not properly wearing the required equipment. In Junior and Senior hockey, players may not wear their visor in an offset position during the warm-up and this must also be noted.

Check to see if there are any rink peculiarities and advise the visiting team, especially if they have not played in this arena previously. This could eliminate any confusion later on in the game.

Have a warm-up skate and do so in an authoritative manner. Do not lean on the boards or engage in conversation with spectators. Do not skate or stand around with your hands in your pockets. The positive appearance you give will relay to the teams and spectators that you are confident in your approach, handling and control of the game.

Before the game, between periods and after the game, it is the referee's responsibility to make sure that your dressing room is kept clear of any persons not involved in the game. The only other person in your room might be the game supervisor.

This is your time that you should use to continue to prepare physically (stretching exercises) and mentally for your hockey game. Use this time wisely.

Start of Game/Period

The referee and linesmen should be the first to come onto the ice at the start of the game and each subsequent period. They should appear together led onto the ice by the referee.

Prior to the start of the game, the referee shall review the official game report to ensure that players and team officials are listed properly and all required signatures are recorded. The referee shall also ensure that all off-ice officials are in position and that timing devices as well as goal lights are in working order. After any pregame ceremonies, such as the playing of the National Anthem, the referee and linesmen shall initiate the "Fair Play Initiative" and then take their positions and start the game. At the beginning of each period, the referee shall ensure that only the players taking part in the actual face-off are permitted on the ice. All other players shall proceed directly to their respective players' benches. For a violation of this rule, the referee shall assess the offending team a Bench Minor penalty for delay of game.

General Duties of the Referee

Procedures for Referees

Take all face-offs to start each period and after each goal. The referee should face the timekeeper at the beginning of each period. On all other centre ice face-offs the referee may face players benches, if on the opposite side of the ice from the penalty bench.

Stop play after a goal is scored. Advise the official scorer the number of the player who scored the goal and the number(s) of the players assisting on the goal.

Stop play according to the rules and assess a penalty or penalties for any infraction of the playing rules. These penalties are to be reported to the official scorer. It is important that the scorer be advised of the player's number, the infraction and the length of the penalty (minor, bench minor, major, etc.).

Stop play when the puck goes out of bounds or is touched by an ineligible person.

Stop play when the puck is struck above the normal height of the shoulders and subsequently touched by the offending team.

Stop play when the puck is passed with the hand from one teammate to another except in the defending zone.

Referee in accordance with the playing rules to ensure that each team has an equal opportunity to play the game. Previous games should not be taken into account or have any bearing on the way you officiate the game.

Watch to make sure that both teams are able to leave the ice and go to their dressing rooms at the end of a period without any problems with spectators. If there is a problem, request adequate protection for the team involved.

Puck movement – make every effort to keep play moving along the boards at all times . Use your voice to encourage play to continue. Stop play only when players give up, or a player(s) is down on the ice.

A goaltender freezing the puck unnecessarily should result in the referee instructing him to continue play and puck movement.

On potentially volatile situations (e.g. at the net, after an aggressive play, or any scrums) the referee is advised to move near the players (i.e. show presence). However, the referee must maintain a position that ensures all players are in view.

Check the official game report after the game to ensure that it is completed properly. When satisfied, sign the report, along with your linesmen, keep your copies and have the official scorekeeper distribute the balance of the copies.

Write a report on any serious penalties if required (match penalties, gross and game misconducts, etc.) and forward along with the game report to the league or Branch

Procedures for Referees

office. These reports should be forwarded immediately after the game. If required by your league, the serious penalties should also be phoned in and reported the next day to the league office or Referee-in-Chief for their possible additional action.

Change into your street clothes and leave the arena at your earliest convenience. Do not discuss any infractions or serious penalty calls on your report with any team official.

Time Outs

Teams to be allowed to request time out provided the puck has not been dropped or centre ejected from the face-off. This will allow the procedure to remain non-confrontational.

The spirit of the rule is to allow time for the team to organize.

End of Game/Period

When the alarm sounds to signal the end of a period or the end of the game, it is important that the referee be aware that the potential for problems is high at this time and the referee should be ready to act even before the final buzzer sounds. The referee should always ensure that both linesmen have been briefed to move in quickly when the period ends to defuse any altercations that might arise. The referee should take up a position permitting a good view of all players on the ice and both benches. The referee should request both teams to remain on their respective benches until instructed to leave by the referee.

Altercations – Two Official System

When an altercation takes place, 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.

However, the officials should be very alert 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 exit.

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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 that allows the official to observe the benches and the players on the ice. At this time this official 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 VERY important that the two officials work as a team, as this is a critical time in the game.

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. The referee should get in close enough to the gathering of players so that they are aware of his presence, but not too close to restrict his 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. When an altercation starts, the referee 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. The referee must also observe and verbally direct goalkeepers to stay in their respective creases, or go to a designated neutral area.

The referee 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. The referee would notify the players of their Misconduct penalties only after the altercation is over and the referee is at the penalty bench. The referee 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.

Once the linesmen have separated the players, the referee shall direct them to escort the players to the penalty bench or exit. The referee should remain in the area of the altercation keeping all players in view and direct one player from the ice from each team to collect any equipment left on the ice. The linesmen should return to the location of the altercation and confer with the referee. Any infractions that you have not witnessed should be reported by the linesmen at this time. Once the conference with the linesmen and the players picking up the equipment have returned to their benches, the referee

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will proceed to the penalty bench to report the penalties. The referee should not discuss the infractions with the players until he has 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 should get the game restarted as quickly as possible.

Disputed Goal and Other Disputes

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 linesmen 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. 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.

If the play resulted in a disallowed goal, the referee shall immediately give the wash-out signal (Figure 36) and, once play is stopped, indicate the face-off spot. The referee shall 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 linesmen to determine if they were in position to see and make the call. If the linesmen were in position and can make the call, then any referee's decision shall be based on the linesmen's report. The referee should always consult both linesmen. If the linesmen 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.

The Official Hockey Canada Rule Book and/or Rule Book/Case Book Combination contain specific equipment dimensions and directions to which the referee must adhere with respect to equipment measurement.

Writing Out a Game Report

Procedures for Referees

Listed below are a few basic points to follow when writing out a game situation which needs reporting:

Do not discuss with anyone what you think the extent of any punishment or suspension should be.

Phone or email the League President or Branch Referee-in-Chief immediately following the game and make a verbal report.

The game report should be written while the incident is still fresh in the mind of the referee. However, there are situations when it is recommended that a cooling off period be taken, especially for Match penalties assessed for molesting officials.

Write out the report using good grammar, correct spelling and in a neat and legible manner. Do not scribble. Officials are requested to print their names on the score sheet and game report.

State details: date of game, teams, where it was played, and the names of the officials assigned to the game.

State which official saw the infraction, who made the penalty call, the players' names and numbers involved and what rule numbers under which penalties were assessed.

State all details (if any) leading up to the episode, what you saw happen and any consequences that occurred after the episode.

Send one copy to the league and keep one for yourself.

If called before the league executive or Branch, state only what you have reported. Do not change your version. Be sure to bring your copy of the report to the meeting.

Individual Branches may have their own procedure for referees to follow regarding game reports. It is the referee's responsibility to ensure that game reports are filed in accordance to Branch policy.

For Inter-Branch playoff games, the procedure for game reporting is detailed in the Hockey Canada Rule Book/Case Book Combination. Specific details are normally distributed through a Hockey Canada Action Bulletin.

Referees are responsible for reporting the following items in accordance with Hockey Canada rules:

All ten (10) minute misconducts in the last ten (10) minutes of the third period.

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All ten (10) minute misconducts during the game incurred under rule 9.6 “Abuse of officials, Unsportsmanlike Conduct” all Match penalties

all Gross Misconduct penalties

all Game Misconduct penalties

any other incident or conduct that may involve disciplinary action

any incident or problem that may affect the proper playing of the game
(i.e. crowd
control or security)

In addition to the items listed above, some Branches or leagues have other specific items which they require reported. Referees are responsible to ensure that they are aware of what is required to be reported. A sample Game Incident Report is included at the end of this section.

Penalty Shot

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:

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:

The player must keep the puck in motion towards the opponent’s goal (the player may not circle back with the puck). 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 signalling the player to execute the Penalty Shot.

Instruct the goaltender on the correct procedures to follow:

The goaltender must remain in the goal crease until the puck has been touched at centre ice. If the goaltender leaves the crease before the puck

Procedures for Referees

has been touched at centre ice and a goal is not scored, the Penalty Shot shall be repeated.

The goaltender may attempt to stop the Penalty Shot in any manner that is legal.

If the goaltender throws the stick or any other object, deliberately dislodges the goal or deliberately removes helmet or facial protector, award a goal.

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 linesman should be positioned between the benches and not across from them. The back linesman must also ensure that all players are on their respective benches or behind the centre red line, but not directly in front of their opponents bench, prior to the commencement of the penalty shot.

When the benches are on opposite sides of the ice, the back linesman 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 3 to 4.5 metres (10 to 15 feet) from the goal. The referee's position shall be on the side of the goal nearest the player's stick to give a better view of the shot.

One linesman 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 linesman will only give a report or interpretation when requested by the referee. This linesman does not give a signal.

Should the player fail to score on the Penalty Shot, the referee shall blow the whistle then signal to the end zone face-off spot.

Should the player score on the Penalty Shot, the referee shall signal a goal by blowing the whistle and pointing to the net.

During a Penalty Shot, the clock does not start.

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

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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 behaviour 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 ones 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 includes:

- Words you choose
- The tone you use
- The volume you use

Nonverbal Communication includes:

- Facial expressions
- Gestures
- Eye contact
- Posture

Remember, you are encouraged to call penalties on abusive players and coaches. As an official, you never want to be put in a situation where your behaviour is the one that is being questioned. Acting like the person upset will do nothing to improve the situation. See the Hockey Canada website for more information on communication skills and managing conflict.

Summary

There are many basic guidelines and procedures in this section designed to enhance the performance of referees. A thorough knowledge and a disciplined effort to practice

Procedures for Referees

these techniques will increase your confidence and improve your contribution to the game.

SECTION 5

An Understanding of The Procedures for Linesmen.

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

conduct the basic on-ice duties required to be a linesman;

report on-ice incidents to the referee;

break up on-ice altercations.

Procedures for Linesmen

Section 5 Procedures for Linesmen

General Procedures for Linesmen

Linesmen should arrive at the rink at least forty-five (45) minutes prior to scheduled game time.

When leaving the officials' dressing room and skating onto the ice surface, the linesmen should always be preceded by the referee.

Linesmen shall check the goal nets prior to the start of the game and at the end of each period, and make any repairs that are necessary.

Linesmen should count the number of players in uniform and report any discrepancies to the referee immediately.

The linesmen should endeavour at all times to stay within one to one and one half metres (three to five feet) from the boards to avoid interfering with the play and with the referee.

Both linesmen should not end up chasing the puck after the whistle. Not only does it look bad, but they could miss an altercation taking place.

When play is in the end zone, the linesmen should never stand directly on or inside the blue line, but should have both feet approximately one small stride outside the line.

Whenever a linesman must execute a turn, the turn should be made towards centre ice to face the play. Never turn in towards the boards.

Linesmen should be alert to defencemen moving deeply into the attacking zone when a gathering is taking place after a stoppage of play. Linesmen should report this to the referee.

When a player on the ice is injured and being attended to by a team official, the linesmen should ensure that the remaining players return to their respective benches and that one linesman remains in the vicinity of the benches giving a physical presence and maintaining a view of the entire ice surface.

At the end of each period, the back linesman should blow the whistle the instant the time runs out to accompany the buzzer to prevent any confusion regarding close plays at the net and the sound of the buzzer.

Linesmen should switch ends at the first stoppage of play following the halfway point in the game. This allows for equal coverage of the ice surface by the two linesmen. Note that if penalties are being served, the switch should be delayed until both teams are at full strength. This will eliminate any potential confusion on icing situations.

Procedures for Linesmen

One linesman should monitor any conversations between a player and the referee or whenever the referee goes to the bench. The role of the linesman is to be a witness to what is said. The linesman should be careful not to be drawn into the conversation.

Off-Side

An off-side 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 linesman will follow a two-step procedure:

Blow whistle to stop play.

Point to the spot where the face-off will take place.

Delayed Off-Side

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 linesman shall signal a delayed off-side. The linesman shall raise the non-whistle arm above the head immediately and keep the arm raised to indicate to all players, coaches, fans and other officials that the potential off-side has been observed by the linesman (Figure 3). The linesman shall lower the arm sharply to nullify the off-side violation and allow play to continue if:

The defending team passes or carries the puck into the neutral zone, or

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 off-side can be nullified.

When the delayed off-side is on and attacking players are attempting to clear the zone, the linesman shall verbally yell “**okay**” when all players have cleared the zone, and the linesman shall immediately drop the signalling arm.

However, should all but one or two players clear the zone, the linesman shall verbally yell “**off-side**” to let attacking players know that the delayed offside is on and the signalling arm shall remain raised.

The linesman shall blow the whistle to indicate off-side 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.

Interpretation Guidelines

Procedures for Linesmen

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, **intentional** off-side shall be called. The official making the intentional off-side call shall proceed to the face off spot in the offending teams end zone, while the other official will retrieve the puck and then will proceed to the offending teams end zone and conduct the face off.

While the delayed off-side is in effect, the attacking team cannot score a goal unless the defending team shoots or puts the puck in their own net without any contact by the attacking team.

A goal may be scored by the attacking team once the delayed off-side has been nullified and provided the original shot on goal was not off-side.

If the puck is shot from behind the centre red line and crosses the goal line, **icing** shall be called even though the delayed off-side is in effect.

Working the Line

It is essential that linesmen be at the blue line prior to the play crossing the line so that they are in proper position to make the correct call. Linesmen 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 surrounding every 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. Linesmen 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 linesmen so that he does not interfere with the play entering the zone.

Icing

Icing the puck” is completed the instant the puck crosses the goal line.

The back linesman will initiate the signal for icing. To initiate the signal for icing, the back linesman will raise the “back” arm straight above the shoulder, as in Figure 5. The back linesman shall move up and be at the other linesman’s blue line to cover, should the play not be called icing. The back linesman should also be watching players behind the play. If the back linesman for some reason fails to initiate an obvious potential icing, the front linesman should continue with the icing procedure as normal.

Either linesman may wash out the icing using the proper wash-out signal (Figure 6).

Procedures for Linesmen

The front linesman shall follow the puck in deep to make sure that it completely crosses the goal line. The front linesman shall always check back when the puck is in the end zone to confirm that the potential icing is still in effect. If the back linesman's arm is still up, the icing is still in effect:

Following Penalty Situations

When the referee signals a delayed penalty, the back linesman should monitor (observe) the goaltender and player substituting for the goaltender to ensure that the goaltender is within the three metres (10 feet) of the bench before the substitution can be made. If there is premature substitution, the linesman shall stop play and inform the referee.

When the referee blows the whistle to assess a penalty or penalties, it is important that the linesmen be ready to react. The linesmen 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 linesman shall escort the penalized player to the penalty bench. The back linesman 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 linesmen shall escort the penalized players to the penalty bench. It is very important that linesmen remain between the penalized players until they have left the ice.

When a player from the ice needs to serve a penalty for his teammate, the linesmen must get the numbers of the offending teams players on the ice at the time of the infraction. The linesman must then ensure one of the players on the ice at the time of the infraction serves the penalty. If necessary, he must go to the coach of the offending team and provide him with the numbers of the players who are eligible to serve the penalty. The other linesman is to take the original penalized player off the ice.

Once penalized players have been escorted directly to the penalty bench or exit, the linesmen shall return to their respective position to resume play. NOTE: Whenever the whistle blows to stop play, both linesmen shall immediately skate to the location of the incident that caused the stoppage of play. Linesmen should not over-react, 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.

It is very important that both linesmen have good on-ice awareness and be alert for potential problems during the play and at every stoppage of play. Linesmen 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.

Procedures for Linesmen

Following the Scoring of a Goal

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

Once it is evident that players are under control, the front linesman shall retrieve the puck and proceed to centre ice and await the referee.

The back linesmen shall move with the players to prevent possible confrontations with the players from the team that scored and the opposition players.

Linesmen 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 linesmen would move ahead of the celebrating players and position himself about at centre ice, along the boards, just past the bench of the team that scored. By positioning himself here, the scoring team that typically celebrates by skating past the bench and slapping hands with their team mates 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 linesmen would move with the celebrating players, keeping himself between the celebrating players and the oppositions bench, and then stop at centre ice, along the boards, just past the opposition bench. By positioning himself here, the linesman 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 linesman directs player traffic, but does so in a way that does not draw attention to the role he is playing. Body positioning is key, and verbal instructions or directing traffic with arms should not normally be required.

The back linesman 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 linesman shall take up a position for the 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.

During a Time Out

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 Branch).

Procedures for Linesmen

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.

When the players' benches are on the same side of the ice, the back linesman shall be positioned between the benches during the time out. If the players' benches are on opposite sides of the ice, the back linesman should take up the normal position for the ensuing face-off. The front linesman, the linesman that will conduct the ensuing face-off, shall be at the face-off location. The referee should also be in the appropriate position for the ensuing face-off.

Once the timekeeper has signalled the referee that the thirty-second timeout has expired, the referee shall blow the whistle to resume play. It is important that the referee and linesmen keep players and both benches in view at all times during the time out.

Repairing the Ice or Goal Net

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 an eye on all players on the ice. It is important that the repairs be completed without delay and only when necessary.

It is wise for the linesmen to keep lengths of twine or laces in their pocket in order to repair the goal nets if required.

Stoppage of Play - Dislodged Goal Net

Linesmen are responsible for stopping play whenever the goal net has been displaced from its normal position and the referee has not observed this situation. Linesmen shall follow these guidelines in dealing with this situation:

If the puck is in the same end zone as the displaced goal, play must be stopped immediately.

If the goal is displaced by a player whose team is in control of the puck, play must be stopped immediately.

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.

Procedures for Linesmen

When the net comes off and the linesmen arrive at the scene they should communicate between themselves which linesman will retrieve the puck and which linesman will replace the net.

Breaking up Fights

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

Linesmen 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 linesmen should remove any equipment from the area to prevent them from tripping or falling. Both linesmen must enter the fight together. Prior to entering the fight, the linesmen shall decide which player each will take.

When the players have stopped throwing punches or one player has gained a significant advantage, then, and only then, should the linesmen attempt to get between them, tying up their arms and forcing them apart.

To get between players, the linesmen should come in from the side with one official on each side, each taking a 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 linesman taking the player on the bottom must protect this player from punches. The linesman 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.

NOTE: Never should a linesman enter a fight over a player's skates. If players are using sticks in the fight or swinging sticks at each other, linesmen shall stay out until they stop swinging the sticks.

Once players have been separated, it is important that the linesmen let them go. However, the linesmen should be very alert and ready to restrain the players if they try to get away. The body position of the linesmen in relation to the two combatants is extremely important. The linesmen shall remain between the players, keeping them apart, and escort them to the penalty bench or exit as directed by the referee.

Helpful Hints in Breaking up a Fight

Procedures for Linesmen

Continually talk to players involved.

You must remain calm yourself and talk calmly with the players involved in the fight to diffuse 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 (i.e. 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 linesmen 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, linesmen should be methodical in escorting players either to the penalty bench or off the ice. Linesmen 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 over eager or zealous. It is a time to exercise extreme caution and good judgement.

Reporting Incidents

Linesmen have the responsibility to report to the referee all Bench Minor, Double Minor, Major, Misconduct, Gross Misconduct or Match penalties they have observed. Linesmen cannot stop play when one of the above incidents occur (except for too many players on the ice), but must wait for a stoppage of play.

Linesmen should not wait to be consulted by the referee, but should report the incident without delay on the first stoppage of play after the incident.

The following guidelines shall be followed whenever reporting to the referee:

Only approach the referee when there are no players around.

Procedures for Linesmen

Remain calm and remember you are only making a report to the referee. The referee is responsible for making the call.

State exactly what was observed (i.e. "Number 14 blue high-sticked Number 7 red"; or, "the blue bench is verbally abusing me"; or, "Number 6 red slashed Number 8 white").

The linesman does not state what penalty if any should be assessed, but is only reporting the incident. It is the referee's responsibility to end the conversation (i.e. "Are we talking a Major or Match Penalty?"; or, "Thanks, I will warn them"; or, "Thank you, I saw it.").

Linesmen are to follow the lead of the referee in these conversations. Any questions about the referee's final decision should take place in the privacy of the officials' dressing room.

The referee shall ensure that both linesmen report their version to the referee. A referee will never assess penalties on incidents reported by a linesman without consulting both linesmen.

Covering for the Referee

Occasionally, the referee will get trapped behind the play requiring the linesman 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 linesman should not leave the blue line until the play has crossed the line. This will permit the linesman to make the correct call with respect to the play being on-side.

The back linesman must move up and cover the blue line until the linesman who has covered for the referee is able to return to the line, and release it.

The linesman covering is to utilize the normal end zone positioning and should follow the play right into the net, just as the referee would. This linesman 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 linesman covering for the referee shall give the correct signal by pointing to the net. The linesman does not blow the whistle to stop play, but rather the referee shall blow the whistle. The linesman never washes out a goal either only the referee. The linesman shall not signal a goal if:

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;

Procedures for Linesmen

the puck is deliberately directed into the net by any part of the body of an attacking player other than his stick;

the puck is hit with a high stick into the net;

the net is displaced prior to puck crossing the line;

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 linesman to avoid the referee when returning to the blue line position.

It is very important that linesmen use good on-ice awareness and be prepared to cover for the referee and their partner when required.

Covering for the Other Linesman

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

End Zone

As the linesman 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.

Linesmen must give a release signal by way of eye contact and a head nod. Verbal communication is also encouraged and will assist in acknowledging receipt of the release signal. Until such time as the returning linesman indicates release of the line, all line calls at the blue line are the responsibility of the covering linesman.

Neutral Zone

At face-offs taking place at the face-off spot just outside the blue line, it is the responsibility of the linesman not dropping the puck to make any calls at that line.

Once the linesman dropping the puck has returned to the boards and is prepared to renew his duties at the line, he should indicate to his partner using the release signal.

Procedures for Linesmen

Eye contact, head nod and perhaps verbal communication can all be used to shift the line responsibility from one linesman to another.

Communication and teamwork are necessary for face-offs taking place in the neutral zone between the centre line and the neutral zone face-off spots. The linesman 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 his partner's blue line in order to make a call.

Once the linesman have changed ends they are not required to switch back as Linesman do not have "one end"...they work in whatever end they have until the play forces them to switch ends.

It is accepted that situations may arise when the linesmen in the three official system might have to change ends.

General

Linesmen should communicate during the game when a team becomes shorthanded and also when the team returns to full strength.

Communication and teamwork between the linesmen will ensure limited disruptions to the flow of the game by the officials. Dedicated linesmen should endeavour 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.

Awareness

One of the biggest differences between a new and a more senior linesman is the awareness level. While the newer linesman is busy concentrating on the specifics of his job, such as positioning and procedures, the senior linesman focuses his attention on what else is going on in the game. Many supervisors will tell you that what makes a good linesman is their ability to read the play and the players and know what is going to happen before it does. All officials know what an off-side or an icing is, but what separates two linesman is their awareness. This section will go through in point form various situations when a linesman can use their awareness to potentially avoid unwanted situations.

In addition to all the other duties, linesmen have the very important responsibility of watching players away from the puck. This includes players who are late leaving the zone as play moves down the ice. Linesmen should not leave their blue line until the last attacking players have left the zone.

Procedures for Linesmen

Awareness is very important during stoppages of play. Linesmen must be aware of what players are doing on the ice before retrieving the puck or attending to other duties.

Linesmen should always be anticipating potential altercations and attempt to diffuse any situation before the referee is compelled to assess a penalty.

Linesmen who hold the line, cover for the referee when required, cover for their partner, and are alert to the actions of the players on the ice, will demonstrate good on-ice awareness and make a positive contribution to the game.

Inform the timekeeper to keep one player in the penalty box after a set of coincidental penalties has expired. This may prevent a problem if both players have not cooled off yet.

Be aware of the time that the coincidental penalties expire so that at least one of the linesmen can be there for the players leaving the box.

Communicate with the referee when there is a delayed penalty and get the number of the player that is getting the penalty so that you can go directly to her when the whistle is blown.

When hustling in after the whistle is blown, don't focus on just where the puck is. Be sure to watch all players on the ice as a situation may occur away from the play.

If the play is in the defending zone while the defending team is shorthanded and the penalty is soon to expire, the back linesman should be in a position close to the red line in case the puck is fired out of the zone when the player comes out of the box. The back linesman will be in a position to catch the potential off-side pass or go with the player on a breakaway. If your partner is the back linesman and he has not noticed, communicate with a signal that the player is coming out of the box.

If the back linesman is confident with their skating, they should bump up close to their partner's blue line in case there is a quick whistle or he is bumped off his line. This will reduce the time it takes to get into position and keep the line from being uncovered at any time.

If there is a problem behind the play and you are the back linesman, communicate with your partner and go to the players. If the problem is on the other side of the ice, communicate with your partner and switch lines so that your partner can go to the players.

Be aware of any premature substitutions, especially when there is a delayed penalty. The back linesman should watch the goaltender change for the extra attacker, and be sure that the team has not substituted too early.

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If there is the chance of a quick whistle, be sure that both linesmen have not pinched too far into the zone. As a rule of thumb, front linesman should remain in their position and allow the back linesman to pinch into the zone. This way the blue line is covered and if there is a quick break the two linesmen can switch lines.

Be aware of any matching's of players, such as two tough guys or a tough guy on a key player, and be ready to react if there is a problem.

After the whistle is blown, focus on the players first. Once the players have dispersed, get ready for the face-off. **Remember - PLAYERS FIRST, PUCK LAST.**

There are times that the procedures may need to be changed. For instance, when the face-off is in the end-zone and there are a couple of players that are chirping back and forth as they go to the players bench, or there is a line change, the back linesman should go with the players, while the front linesman retrieves the puck herself. This will keep a presence there for the players to see.

When a fight occurs, it is the linesmen'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.

Use your voice and communicate with the players so that they know that you are there. Just knowing that an official is there can stop a lot of things from happening.

After a goal is scored, linesmen should be aware that some teams will skate by their bench and slap hands. This can be a problem if both benches are on the same side and the players have to skate by each other. The back linesman should be aware of this situation and skate with the team if necessary.

Be ready to cover for your partner or the referee if needed. There is nothing worse than a line being left open while both linesmen are up at the red line, or the play going into the end-zone while the referee is trapped down at the other end.

While escorting players to the penalty box, position yourself between the penalized player and other players or the referee. Don't hold onto the player unless it is **absolutely** necessary. Never get too far away from the player that you can't grab him if he tries to take off. If necessary, remain at the box until the gate has been closed.

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.

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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.

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.

When exiting the ice after the game or between periods, and both teams exit the same way to their dressing rooms, one linesman should go between the two teams, while the other remains with the referee.

While leaving the ice and going to the dressing room, the linesmen should position themselves between the referee and any players, coaches, or fans that may try to get at the referee.

This section has tried to cover situations where a linesman can use their awareness in the game. There are many other situations that are not included, and there are probably lots more that other linesmen may use. Talk with your senior linesmen about any situations that they know of. Share this information with the people you work with so that we can all strive to become excellent linesmen.

Respect for Officials

Many Linesmen take much more abuse from players and coaches than they should. Whether it is a coach yelling profanity at the Linesman or a player shoving a Linesman out of the way, it is essential that the Linesman report these infractions to the Referee. Many Linesmen feel that they should have to put up with this because they do not have the authority to call these penalties themselves. However, there is not a Referee in the game that will not back up the Linesman in these situations. If the Linesman feels strong enough that they should call a penalty, the Referee will not hesitate to call it. However, the Linesman should not be too sensitive to these situations. A certain level is inherent

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in the game and we expect that. It is when the abuse goes above this level that we must take action.

Summary

The duties of a linesman are very important to the overall game. Alert, hustling linesmen who are technically strong can assist the game in flowing smoothly.

Section 6

Understanding Hockey Official System for Positioning.

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

work within the different Official Systems;

understand the differences between the Official position Systems

understand and working as a linesman and/or Referee within the Official position System;

Understanding Hockey Official System for Positioning

Section 6 Understanding Hockey Official System for Positioning

Positioning

The official in any game must have a complete knowledge of the playing rules, be a good skater, in good physical condition and be able to display good judgement. One more quality is required and that is good positioning. To be a good official you must have all of the above qualities.

End Zone Positioning

The fundamentals of End Zone Positioning involve the use of the piston system.

This system gives the referee:

- A better overall view of the play.

- Improved view of the goal and goal line.

- Less chance of being caught behind the play on a fast break, thereby reducing unnecessary hard skating.

- Safer positioning from deflections of shots on goal.

- Players are more aware of the presence of the referee, this acts as a deterrent to any unnecessary activity.

The **Piston System** consists of three positions and two manoeuvres to help you to be in the best possible location. They are:

Home Base (HB)

Half Piston (HP)

At the Net (ATN)

Home Base is a position 15-20 centimetres (6-8 inches) from the boards, halfway between the goal line and the face-off circle hash marks.

Half Piston is the area located between **Home Base** and the nearest goal post, usually in line with the face-off dot.

At the Net (or Full Piston) is the position anywhere around the net that gives the referee the best view to see if the puck has crossed the line, but ideally, at the corner of the net, 0.6 to one metre (2-3 feet) from the goal line. This gives the referee the best possible

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position to view the activity on and around the goal line and goal crease area. The two important manoeuvres are:

The Bump

The Pivot

The Bump is used when the play comes around the boards and in the direction of the referee standing at **Home Base**. The referee will **Bump** away from the play (either up or down the boards) until he reaches either the hash marks or the goal line. At this point he will use the second manoeuvre called **The Pivot**.

The Pivot consists of taking a stride out away from the boards, crossing under and skating backwards to **Home Base** after the play has passed behind the referee. At this point the referee can follow the play either up the ice or watch as it continues in the end zone.

When play is in progress and as it enters the end zone, the referee will also enter towards the **Home Base** position. The referee will stay at **Home Base** until the play warrants (i.e. the play is on the far side of the ice), then the referee will move to **Half Piston**. While the referee is at **Half Piston** and the puck is on the far side of the end-boards and the net blocks your view of the puck in the corner, it is advisable for you to take **one step** towards the face-off dot. This can be done without going into No-Mans land. Never, should you go behind the goal line to enhance this blind spot while at half piston. If the puck goes to the net area the referee will also move into the **At the Net** (Full Piston) position, ready and in an excellent position to make the appropriate call. If the puck moves behind the net and around the boards to the referees side of the ice, the referee will move backwards quickly to the **Home Base** position. This is a common error and results in an unfavourable position for the referee. You may become involved in the play as the player with the puck will use you as a block and gain an unfair advantage. Allow 15-20 centimetres (6-8 inches) from the boards to allow the puck to go behind you.

Good referees never find themselves behind the goal line (unless you are **At the Net** and this is the best angle to see the play). Try to avoid this situation by using the **Bump** and **Pivot** effectively.

The shaded area in Figure 2 is called **No Man's Land**. A good official never enters this area as you will become involved in the play, and be a factor in its eventual outcome and risk putting yourself in danger of being injured.

End Zone Positioning for a referee in the three official system is the same as in the two official system. Once the official enters the end zone, the use of the three positions (**Home Base, Half Piston, At the Net**) and the two manoeuvres (**Bump** and **Pivot**) are the same.

Understanding Hockey Official System for Positioning

The ability to anticipate the play is very important to an official. This will allow the official to easily keep up with fast breaks and to quickly move to **Home Base**, out of the way of the play. Relax, anticipate the play and move only when the play warrants it, this will help you to be in a better position and also enjoy the game more.

Two Official System - Referee

In this system, the ice is divided by the centre red line. This means that one referee will take all face-offs in one half of the ice and the other referee will take all face-offs in the other half of the ice. The referee taking the face-off will conduct the line change procedure while the referee not taking the face-off will retrieve the puck, skate back and hand it to the other referee. Note: The division of the ice is for face-off procedure only. Penalties can be assessed by either referee anywhere on the ice where there is an infraction.

General Guidelines

Each referee covers two thirds of the total ice surface. This coverage overlaps in the neutral zone (Figure 3).

Try to never let the puck pass you in the neutral zone and be closer to your blue line than you are. If there is a situation where you are in the path of the players and the puck is in the neutral zone then always move towards your blue line. In this procedure you should never be out of position. If the puck comes in your direction, you are in the correct position. If the puck goes in the opposite direction, simply stop and follow the play, again, you are in position.

Another thing that you should **never** do is **climb the boards**. If you do, the puck will pass you, leaving you out of position and not being able to call an off-side at your blue line. Also, being on the boards puts you in a vulnerable position and the potential for personal injury is much greater. "Turn, face and brace" when a puck is shot at you or a collision is imminent.

Officials should always be at, or just inside their blue line prior to the puck and players. They cannot accurately call off-sides if they are 3-6 metres (10- 20 feet) from the line.

When you are the front official you must be at the centre red line as the puck approaches in order to effectively call potential off-side passes and icings.

When the puck is in your partner's end zone making you the back official, watch for fouls in front of the net. If your partner is watching the play in the corner or along the boards, he may not be able to watch in front of the net as well.

Positioning While the Play is in Progress

To start the game, or any face-off at centre ice, the two officials should be positioned along the centre red line facing each other. The official taking the face-off (1), should be

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facing the penalty bench so that the timekeeper can start the clock when the puck is dropped (Figure 4).

When the puck is dropped, (2) must go with the puck, whether to the left or right. This will allow (2) to be at the blue line as the puck crosses. In either case note that (1) has skated backwards to the boards after dropping the puck (Figure 5).

As the puck moves into the end zone, (2) must follow the play and begin to implement his **End Zone Positioning**. Meanwhile (1) will move up the boards and take a position one stride outside the blue line, at an appropriate angle to face the play. In these positions, (2) can watch the play in the entire end zone and (1) can watch for any off-sides at the blue line and must also watch the entire end zone play. (1) will watch the play that is away from the puck. For example: a shot from the blue line, (1) will continue to watch that player and any checking player while (2) must follow the puck and players as they go towards the net (Figure 6).

When the play moves towards (2), the official should not move into **No Man's Land** (Figure 2 - Page 6-2). Never should both (1) and (2) be on the same side of the ice.

As the play moves towards (2), the official should anticipate the play and quickly skate backwards to **Home Base** (Figure 7).

The official, when positioned at **Home Base**, will keep all players in front and avoid player congestion that may develop in the corner.

If the defending team gains control of the puck and starts to move out, (1) must leave the blue line and be at the red line by the time the puck enters the neutral zone. At the same time, (2) should be as close to the blue line as possible as the puck crosses into the neutral zone (Figure 8).

When the puck is in the neutral zone in the vicinity of the centre red line, both (1) and (2) should be within 1.5 metres (five feet) of their respective blue lines which places them in position to call off-sides which may happen at either blue line

If the play continues towards (1)'s zone, (1) must move to the blue line to call any potential off-side, then move in deep with the play. At the same time, (2) must be at the red line by the time the puck crosses over his partner's blue line and then move up to within one stride of the outer edge of his partner's blue line as play goes deep into the end zone (Figure 10).

If we summarize the movements of the two officials while play is in progress, you will easily see that at all times they are in a diagonal position relative to one another, **no further than one line apart**. In this way they are in position to call off-side plays, etc., regardless where it may occur on the ice surface (Figure 11).

Positioning for Face-Offs

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All face-offs shall be conducted at the designated face-off spots as indicated by the reason for the stoppage of play, or on a line parallel to the side boards from one end zone face-off spot to the other end zone face-off spot (Figure 12).

All face-offs are taken by the official for that end, regardless of what side of the ice they are to be on.

For all face-offs in the neutral zone, officials should keep in mind the acronym F.O.G. This stands for “Free Official Goes”. This means that the free official, or the one not conducting the face-off in the neutral zone, should be prepared to move in either direction, depending on the direction the play moves. This will allow for all lines to be covered without the official conducting the faceoff having to rush back to their end and potentially getting caught up in the play. The official conducting the face-off should still make every effort to exit the face-off quickly, but do so in a safe manner.

For a face-off at centre ice, both officials should be positioned on the centre red line, facing each other, so that the official taking the face-off (1) is facing the penalty bench (Figure 13).

When a face-off is at one of the four spots in the neutral zone, the official not conducting the face-off (2) should be prepared to move in either direction, depending on the direction the play moves. The official conducting the faceoff should skate backwards to the boards as soon as it is safe to do so, and then move as needed to assume appropriate positioning as described earlier (Figure 14).

If the play begins to move out of the end zone, (1) must move quickly up the side boards to call plays at the blue line as the puck enters neutral zone. (2) must **hold** the blue line until (1) is in the proper position to call off-side as the puck enters the neutral zone. When sure, (2) must move quickly to the centre red line in order to call a potential off-side pass (Figure 17).

For face-offs at other points in the end zone, (1) is positioned facing away from the near boards, (2) on the opposite side of the rink just outside the blue line, 30 centimetres to one metre (1-3 feet) from the boards. If the puck goes deep into the end zone, (1) backs initially to the boards, then moves into regular end zone positioning. (2) covers the blue line (Figure 18).

If, after the drop of the puck the play moves out, (1) should back off towards the boards, then move out immediately with the play. (2) must hold the original position just outside the blue line until sure (1) is in a position to call a potential off-side at the blue line. Once sure, (2) can back off quickly to the red line to call any potential off-side pass situations

When a Goal is Scored

When a goal is scored in (1) 's end, he will signal the goal and report it to the scorekeeper. (2) will retrieve the puck and go to centre ice for the ensuing faceoff. (1)

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will take his position on the centre red line facing (2). Positioning and procedures are now the same as for the start of the game (Figure 21).

When a Penalty is Assessed

When a penalty is assessed, the official (1) will assess the penalty and report it to the scorekeeper. (2) will retrieve the puck and proceed to face-off spot of the ensuing face-off, even if it is in his partner's zone. (2) will now assume the responsibility for face-offs and positioning in this end zone. The official who assessed and reported the penalty (1) will take up a position outside the blueline or across from (2) in the neutral zone depending on where the face-off is to take place. In this situation the officials have changed ends (Figure 22).

If the official assessing the penalty in Figure 22 is (1) then he will report the penalty to the scorekeeper, (2) will retrieve the puck and proceed to conduct the ensuing face-off. (1) will take up a position outside the blue line or across from (2) in the neutral zone depending on the location of the face-off. In this situation the officials **DO NOT** change ends.

Common Faults and Tips

A common fault is the failure of the official responsible for the attacking zone to leave the zone quickly in pursuit of the play; a quick turnover in the neutral zone could result in a close off-side call at this official's blue line and the official must be in position to make the call.

When there is a stoppage of play at the net, to reduce the conflict between players, a tip for the official in the attacking zone is to move to the **At the Net** position immediately, but keep all players in full view. Your presence and verbal communication will act as a deterrent to altercations after the whistle.

How does the official in the end zone know when to retreat from **Half Piston** to **Home Base** as the play moves towards him? If the puck carrier is an attacking player you can hold your position a little longer as they will normally go to the net, and you can follow. If the puck carrier is a defending player, retreat to **Home Base** immediately as this play generally goes up the boards.

Three Official System - Referee

In the three official system, the referee is the person in charge of the entire hockey game and has the final decision in all situations.

The two linesmen come under the referee's jurisdiction and the three of them form the "on ice team". It is important that the referee give the linesmen as much support and backing as possible and that all of them work as a team both on and off the ice. A good knowledge of proper positioning enables the referee to carry out his duties while not

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interfering with the duties of the linesmen. It also enables the referee to avoid interfering with the flow of the play and the players, keeping him in a position such that he is able to make any necessary calls.

Position of the Referee for Face-Offs

The referee should take all face-offs at centre ice at the start of the game, of each period and after a goal has been scored. The linesmen should take all other face-offs during the course of the game.

For a face-off at any of the four spots in the neutral zone, the referee should be positioned on the opposite side of the ice, about 1.5 metres (5 feet) inside the blue line and 1.5-3 metres (5-10 feet) out from the boards. From this position, if the play goes directly into the end zone, the referee is able to follow the play quickly, where he can implement his **End Zone Positioning**. If, however, the play breaks up the ice, the referee is far enough out from the boards to avoid collision with the linesman (Figure 23).

For face-offs at other points in the neutral zone, the referee should be positioned on the side opposite the face-off location, 1.5-3 metres (5-10 feet) from the boards, and 2.5-3 metres (8-10 feet) in the direction of the closest net. This will enable the referee to move in quickly and be on top of the play. If the play were to proceed to the far end, the referee would still be in proper position while following the play up the ice (Figure 24).

When the face-off takes place at one of the end face-off spots, the referee should be positioned at **Half Piston**. From this position the referee will be ready for a close play at the net and have an excellent view of the goal line. Also, in this position the referee will not be in the way if a quick shot is taken at the net (Figure 25). The referee should avoid the area behind the goal line and the corners. If caught in these areas, the referee will lose mobility due to player congestion, be screened by the net and will be too far behind the play should it break out of the zone quickly.

Positioning While Play is in Progress

Positioning for the referee in the three official system is basically the same as for the two official system with a few variations.

The referee in this system has the responsibility of calling penalties for infractions anywhere on the ice. The referee will not call off-sides, off-side passes, or icings. These are the responsibility of the linesmen. If a call is very obvious and your linesmen have been blocked out, then the referee may stop the play. This type of call would only be the odd exception.

After conducting the face-off at centre ice, it is imperative that the referee get back towards the boards as quickly as possible, for while the referee is in the middle of the ice, part of the ice and some of the players will be behind the referee's back. Good positioning means keeping all of the players in front of you.

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How does the referee get back to the boards after a face-off? Does the referee skate backwards along the centre red line to the boards? The answer to both those questions will vary depending upon the direction of the puck after the face-off. If the puck remains in the centre ice area, the answer to the second question is yes, providing the puck is in front of the referee. Common sense dictates that the referee will not skate to the boards when the puck is behind the referee. If the puck goes into the end zone, the answer is no, as the referee must follow the play. This means that the referee should angle towards the end and side boards, thus remaining within proper range of the play (Figure 26).

As the play moves into the end zone, the referee should follow the play at these distances: 2.5-3 metres (8-10 feet) behind the play if the puck is on the opposite side of the ice, 4.6-6 metres (15-20 feet) behind the play if the puck is on the same side of the ice. This will provide the referee with a good perspective of all the players. Also, if the puck suddenly changes possession and the play starts out in the opposite direction, the referee will have sufficient room to avoid interfering with the play. If the play does go deep into the end zone, the referee should assume the **End Zone Positioning** as described earlier in this section (Figure 27).

The referee skating up the ice should be in the white area only. The shaded area is “**No Man’s Land**” and should not be used by the official nor should they cross over from one side of the ice to the other side while play is in progress (Figure 28). Naturally, you can move over at a stoppage of play depending on the location of the face-off and for a face-off at centre ice.

If the defending team gains possession of the puck, the referee must be prepared to move out of the end zone with the play. When the puck is on the opposite side of the ice, the referee should be 1.5-3 metres (5-10 feet) from the boards, 2.5-3 metres (8-10 feet) behind the play (Figure 29). If the puck is on the same side of the ice, the referee should be 1-1.5 metres (3-5 feet) from the boards, and follow 4.6-6 metres (15-20 feet) behind the play (Figure 30).

When play is in the end zone the referee will utilize the **End Zone Positioning** as described earlier in this section.

As play moves into the neutral zone and approaches the far blue line, the referee should remain close to the side boards if the puck is on the same side of the ice and roughly 4.6-6 metres (15-20 feet) behind the play. This will enable the referee to keep all players in view. If the puck changes direction and starts coming back, the referee will be able to get out of the way of the players. However, if the play is on the other side of the ice, the referee should move out 1.5-3 metres (5-10 feet) behind the play. In this position the referee will have sufficient time to move back if the play comes back. As the play moves into the end zone, the referee should accelerate into the zone rather than coast, and can then establish **End Zone Positioning** based on the location of the play.

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Common Faults and Tips

A common fault for referees is their failure to move out of the attacking zone in pursuit of the play if there are opposing players straggling behind. Follow the play, glance back several times and rely on your linesmen to communicate with those players and to keep you informed of any problems that may occur.

To reduce the number of stops and starts, and to maintain excellent position while play is in progress, try to maintain a "figure 8" pattern of positioning by using tight turns to loop behind play and accelerate back into good position. (Figure 31).

Many altercations occur in the area around the net. Once play has stopped the referee should move to a position of not more than three metres (10 feet) from the net but with all players and both benches in full view, your presence and verbal communication will deter any actions and you will have a good view of any altercation, or players leaving the benches.

Three Official System - Linesmen

The ice surface is divided into two halves, using the centre red line as a natural dividing line. Each linesman shall be responsible for stoppages of play occurring in that half of the ice surface. Before going on the ice the linesmen should confer and decide for which end each will be responsible.

Face-offs are conducted by the linesman for that half of the ice surface. The linesman not conducting the face-off should retrieve the puck. Upon the stoppage of play, the linesmen should watch the players on the ice as their first priority. If two players are talking and challenging each other, they should be immediately aware of potential trouble, move in quickly and move the players out before any serious altercation occurs. If there is no potential trouble, one linesman will proceed to the position of the face-off and the other will retrieve the puck, skate back and hand it to the other linesman.

Positioning While Play is in Progress

They should always be in position to call the play.

They should be at their blue line (or slightly inside the blue line, establishing the best position to have an unobstructed view down the line - this is called **Working the Line**) as the puck crosses the line. They should not straddle the line.

They should work from their blue line to a position about half-way between the centre red line and the other blue line (Figure 32).

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When play is in the end zone, the front linesman (1) should be one stride outside the blue line, while the other linesman (2) should be mid-way between this blue line and the centre red line on the opposite side of the ice (Figure 33).

When the defending team gains possession in their end zone, (2) should anticipate the play coming out of the end zone and move back to the red line. In these positions, (1) and (2) now have both the blue line and the centre red line covered. As the puck comes to the blue line, both linesmen are in position to call a potential off-side pass (Figure 34).

Linesman (1) must observe attacking players behind the play as the play leaves (1)'s end zone and be able to get back to the blue line in time to make a call if the play changes direction. After the puck crosses the blue line, (2) will move to (2)'s blue line and be in position to call a potential off-side at that line (Figure 35).

When the puck approaches the blue line, (2) must be at the line while (1) should move up to a position mid-way between the centre red line and (2)'s blue line.

Both linesmen should always be at their blue line and in correct position **before** the puck on any potential off-side play at their blue line (Figure 36).

When the puck comes out of the end zone, the procedure for positioning is then reversed for each official.

Positioning for a Face-Off

Face-offs will be taken by the linesman responsible for that half of the ice.

The linesman not taking the face-off must hold and cover the line of the linesman taking the face-off.

When the referee is taking a face-off at centre ice, the two linesmen should be on opposite sides of the ice against the side boards, just outside the blue line at their end of the ice (Figure 37).

For a face-off close to the blue line or at the face-off spot in the neutral zone, (2) must cover the blue line until the direction of the puck is determined or until (1) is back in position, and has given a release signal (eye contact and head nod) to (2). For instance, if the puck goes just over the blue line and (1) is caught amongst the players, (2) must remain as shown until (1) has gained the proper position at the blue line and released his partner. At this point, (2) can release the line and move to the proper position between the blue line and the centre red line (Figure 38).

For other face-offs in the neutral zone, the two linesmen should initially be positioned opposite each other. (2) is responsible for all lines in case (1) is trapped in the middle of the ice (Figure 39).

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When the face-off is at an end face-off spot, (2) should be positioned one stride outside the blue line on the opposite side of the ice. If (2) is screened from seeing players positioned behind (1), who is conducting the face-off, then (2) may move off the boards an appropriate distance to get a clear view. If a player is off-side (encroaching), (2) will blow the whistle and point out which team caused the **face-off encroachment**. (1) will then remove the offending team's centre player and conduct the face-off with a new centre from the offending team. After the puck is dropped, (2) will move back to the side boards and take a position one stride outside the blue line. (2) will remain there until (1) has moved out of the end zone and resumed the position at the blue line and given the release signal. If the play stays in the end zone, (2) will then move out to mid-way between the centre red line and blue line.

If the play comes out of the end zone, (2) must move quickly to the centre red line in order to be in position for a potential off-side pass call (Figure 40).

One Referee - One Linesman System

In the three official system, the referee is the official in charge of the game. In the event that one of the three officials is unable to appear or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following procedures should be followed (officials should find out what the policy is in their Branch):

If the referee is unable to continue or appear, the two linesmen shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

If the referee is unable to continue or appear, one of the linesmen shall assume the duties of the referee. This system shall be known as the one referee – one linesman system. The selection of which linesman will assume the duties of the referee would normally be done by the referee, however this may not always be possible. If not possible, the linesmen, in consultation with the managers or coaches of the competing teams shall decide. In most instances, the linesman selected is usually the most senior of the two.

Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the one referee - one linesman system. NOTE: The one referee - one linesman system should be used as the exception rather than the rule. If used, it should only be used in upper level games where the consistency of the referee is of utmost importance.

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NOTE: Should another official be available in the arena or nearby, that individual should be encouraged to replace the missing linesman (provided this individual is qualified to officiate at the level of hockey being played).

Positioning and Procedures (One Referee - One Linesman System)

The referee is responsible for all end zone face-offs while the remaining linesman shall be responsible for all neutral zone face-offs.

For icing calls, normally the referee will be the back official and will have to indicate that a potential icing is in effect by extending the arm at shoulder level and pointing up ice (similar to the off-side pass signal) and accompanied by a verbal communication. This is done until the front official (linesman) either blows the whistle to indicate icing or until the icing is washed out. If icing is called, the referee will proceed to the face-off spot and prepare to conduct the ensuing face-off.

NOTE: The referee must be careful not to raise the arm for icing. This could cause confusion for the players, coaches and spectators who may think that a penalty is about to be assessed. The key in this situation is to communicate well with your partner, using eye contact, signals and verbal communication.

For off-side pass situations, the referee should indicate using the same signal as the linesmen.

Off-side at the blue line would be a rare call for the referee in this system, however, there will be occasions when it must be done. This would usually happen as the referee is pursuing the play through the neutral zone and suddenly there is a change in possession and it would be impossible for the linesman to go from one blue line to the other to make an accurate call. The referee must be prepared to make a call in these situations.

NOTE: The referee must not raise the arm for delayed off-side. Vocal directions must be used in this situation. Yelling "Off-Side" will be effective in ensuring that the attacking players are aware that they must clear the zone. Once the linesman reaches the blue line, and using effective communication with the referee, the linesman can take over this call at the blue line and the referee can resume the necessary end zone positioning.

The referee in this system must also assist with altercations. Otherwise, the remaining procedures for the referee and linesman remain unchanged from those outlined in the three official system.

One Referee System

In the event that one of the two officials is unable to appear or due to sickness or

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injury is unable to finish the game, the following options are suggested (officials should find out what the policy is in their Branch):

Appoint a replacement official (if available) and continue using the two official system.

Appoint a player from each of the competing teams to act as a linesman and the remaining official shall become the referee in a three official system. Both teams must be in full agreement with this option.

Suspend the game and advise the appropriate authority of the circumstances.

Continue the game using one official. This is not highly recommended, although in reality, is often less expensive than suspending the game and having it replayed. In lower levels of minor hockey, this may certainly be an option to consider.

Officials should always report on the game sheet the circumstances surrounding an official not appearing or unable to finish a game.

NOTE: Branches must give specific directions to their officials with respect to the procedures they are to follow when officials are unable to appear or become sick or injured.

Two Referee - One Linesman System

In the three official system, the referee is the official in charge of the game. In the event that one of the three officials is unable to appear or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following procedures should be followed (officials should find out what the policy is in their Branch):

If the referee is unable to continue or appear, the two linesmen shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

If the referee is unable to continue or appear, one of the linesmen shall assume the duties of the referee. This system shall be known as the one referee – one linesman system. The selection of which linesman will assume the duties of the referee would normally be done by the referee, however this may not always be possible. If not possible, the linesmen, in consultation with the managers or coaches of the competing teams shall decide. In most instances, the linesman selected is usually the most senior of the two.

Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

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OR

Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the one referee - one linesman system.

NOTE: The one referee - one linesman system should be used as the exception rather than the rule. If used, it should only be used in upper level games where the consistency of the referee is of utmost importance.

NOTE: Should another official be available in the arena or nearby, that individual should be encouraged to replace the missing linesman (provided this individual is qualified to officiate at the level of hockey being played).

Positioning and Procedures (One Referee - One Linesman System)

The referee is responsible for all end zone face-offs while the remaining linesman shall be responsible for all neutral zone face-offs.

For icing calls, normally the referee will be the back official and will have to indicate that a potential icing is in effect by extending the arm at shoulder level and pointing up ice (similar to the off-side pass signal) and accompanied by a verbal communication. This is done until the front official (linesman) either blows the whistle to indicate icing or until the icing is washed out. If icing is called, the referee will proceed to the face-off spot and prepare to conduct the ensuing face-off.

NOTE: The referee must be careful not to raise the arm for icing. This could cause confusion for the players, coaches and spectators who may think that a penalty is about to be assessed. The key in this situation is to communicate well with your partner, using eye contact, signals and verbal communication.

For off-side pass situations, the referee should indicate using the same signal as the linesmen.

Off-side at the blue line would be a rare call for the referee in this system, however, there will be occasions when it must be done. This would usually happen as the referee is pursuing the play through the neutral zone and suddenly there is a change in possession and it would be impossible for the linesman to go from one blue line to the other to make an accurate call. The referee must be prepared to make a call in these situations.

NOTE: The referee must not raise the arm for delayed off-side. Vocal directions must be used in this situation. Yelling "Off-Side" will be effective in ensuring that the attacking players are aware that they must clear the zone. Once the linesman reaches the blue line, and using effective communication with the referee, the

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linesman can take over this call at the blue line and the referee can resume the necessary end zone positioning.

The referee in this system must also assist with altercations. Otherwise, the remaining procedures for the referee and linesman remain unchanged from those outlined in the three official system.

One Referee System

In the event that one of the two officials is unable to appear or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following options are suggested (officials should find out what the policy is in their Branch):

Appoint a replacement official (if available) and continue using the two official system.

Appoint a player from each of the competing teams to act as a linesman and the remaining official shall become the referee in a three official system. Both teams must be in full agreement with this option.

Suspend the game and advise the appropriate authority of the circumstances.

Continue the game using one official. This is not highly recommended, although in reality, is often less expensive than suspending the game and having it replayed. In lower levels of minor hockey, this may certainly be an option to consider.

Officials should always report on the game sheet the circumstances surrounding an official not appearing or unable to finish a game.

NOTE: Branches must give specific directions to their officials with respect to the procedures they are to follow when officials are unable to appear or become sick or injured.

Two Referee - Two Linesman System

In the three official system, the referee is the official in charge of the game. In the event that one of the three officials is unable to appear or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following procedures should be followed (officials should find out what the policy is in their Branch):

If the referee is unable to continue or appear, the two linesmen shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

If the referee is unable to continue or appear, one of the linesmen shall assume the duties of the referee. This system shall be known as the one referee - one

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linesman system. The selection of which linesman will assume the duties of the referee would normally be done by the referee, however this may not always be possible. If not possible, the linesmen, in consultation with the managers or coaches of the competing teams shall decide. In most instances, the linesman selected is usually the most senior of the two.

Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the one referee - one linesman system.

NOTE: The one referee - one linesman system should be used as the exception rather than the rule. If used, it should only be used in upper level games where the consistency of the referee is of utmost importance.

NOTE: Should another official be available in the arena or nearby, that individual should be encouraged to replace the missing linesman (provided this individual is qualified to officiate at the level of hockey being played).

Positioning and Procedures (One Referee - One Linesman System)

The referee is responsible for all end zone face-offs while the remaining linesman shall be responsible for all neutral zone face-offs.

For icing calls, normally the referee will be the back official and will have to indicate that a potential icing is in effect by extending the arm at shoulder level and pointing up ice (similar to the off-side pass signal) and accompanied by a verbal communication. This is done until the front official (linesman) either blows the whistle to indicate icing or until the icing is washed out. If icing is called, the referee will proceed to the face-off spot and prepare to conduct the ensuing face-off.

NOTE: The referee must be careful not to raise the arm for icing. This could cause confusion for the players, coaches and spectators who may think that a penalty is about to be assessed. The key in this situation is to communicate well with your partner, using eye contact, signals and verbal communication.

For off-side pass situations, the referee should indicate using the same signal as the linesmen.

Off-side at the blue line would be a rare call for the referee in this system, however, there will be occasions when it must be done. This would usually happen as the referee is pursuing the play through the neutral zone and suddenly there is a change in

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possession and it would be impossible for the linesman to go from one blue line to the other to make an accurate call. The referee must be prepared to make a call in these situations.

NOTE: The referee must not raise the arm for delayed off-side. Vocal directions must be used in this situation. Yelling "Off-Side" will be effective in ensuring that the attacking players are aware that they must clear the zone. Once the linesman reaches the blue line, and using effective communication with the referee, the linesman can take over this call at the blue line and the referee can resume the necessary end zone positioning.

The referee in this system must also assist with altercations. Otherwise, the remaining procedures for the referee and linesman remain unchanged from those outlined in the three official system.

One Referee System

In the event that one of the two officials is unable to appear or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following options are suggested (officials should find out what the policy is in their Branch):

Appoint a replacement official (if available) and continue using the two official system.

Appoint a player from each of the competing teams to act as a linesman and the remaining official shall become the referee in a three official system. Both teams must be in full agreement with this option.

Suspend the game and advise the appropriate authority of the circumstances.

Continue the game using one official. This is not highly recommended, although in reality, is often less expensive than suspending the game and having it replayed. In lower levels of minor hockey, this may certainly be an option to consider.

Officials should always report on the game sheet the circumstances surrounding an official not appearing or unable to finish a game.

NOTE: Branches must give specific directions to their officials with respect to the procedures they are to follow when officials are unable to appear or become sick or injured.

Understanding Hockey Official System for Positioning

Summary

Positioning is an important element in becoming a good official. You must understand and perform the procedures outlined in this section to allow you to make the correct call. Each official from coast to coast must become familiar with the Hockey Canada Officiating Program positioning and procedures to ensure that we are all consistent when applying these skills.

Section 7

Examples and Interpretations Regarding
Off-Sides, and Icings.

Upon completion of this section you will be
better prepared to:

explain the guidelines used to make the correct off-
side, and icing calls;

Offside and Icing Procedures

Section 7 Offside and Icing Procedures

Offside

An offside occurs when the puck has been preceded over the blue line by both skates of a player on the attacking team. It is the position of the attacking player's skates at the instant the puck **completely** crosses the blue line that is the determining factor. If both skates are over the blue line, then the player is **OFF-SIDE** (Figure 1). Face-off takes place at the point from which the pass was made. (Rule 57g)

An attacking player has both skates over the blue line. A teammate in the **neutral** zone shoots the puck. The puck hits the opposing player, deflecting off the body or stick, then crosses the blue line. **DELAYED OFF-SIDE** until touched by attacking player or zone is cleared. (Figure 2).

A player advancing into the attacking zone, has one skate off the ice above the blue line and one skate over the blue line at the instant the puck completely crosses the blue line. **OFF-SIDE** (Figure 3).

An attacking player crosses the blue line with the puck. The player then brings the puck back out over the blue line into the **neutral** zone while both of the player's **skates** are still in the **attacking** zone. The player then brings the **puck** back into the **attacking** zone. **OFF-SIDE** (Figure 4).

A player has one skate on the ice in the **neutral** zone, and one skate on the ice in the **attacking** zone. Prior to the puck crossing the blue line (entering the **attacking** zone), the player raises the skate in the **neutral** zone. **OFF-SIDE** (Figure 5). A player with **both skates** over the blue line (in the **attacking** zone) receives a pass from a teammate in the **neutral** zone. The player stops the puck with the stick before the puck crosses the blue line, and then pulls the puck over the blue line (into the **attacking** zone). **OFF-SIDE** (Figure 6).

Not Off-Side

A player has one skate on the blue line and one skate inside the blue line at the instant the puck completely crosses the blue line. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 7). An attacking player receives a pass with one skate inside the blue line, while the other skate and puck are in contact with the blue line. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 8). The player's skate must remain in contact with the line or on the ice in the Neutral zone until the puck is brought completely across the line for this to remain **NOT OFF-SIDE**. Provided the player has possession and control of the puck, she may now precede the puck into the attacking zone. **NOT OFF-SIDE**.

A player has one skate outside of the blue line or on the blue line, and one skate inside the blue line at the instant the puck completely crosses the blue line. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 9).

Offside and Icing Procedures

An attacking player is in the **attacking** zone. An opposing player having **possession and control** of the puck in the **neutral** zone, carries the puck back into the **defending** zone, while the attacking player is still in the **attacking** zone. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 10).

An attacking player is in the **attacking** zone. An opposing player having **possession and control** of the puck in the **neutral** zone passes or shoots the puck back into his **defending** zone while the attacking player is still in the **attacking** zone. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 11).

An attacking player is in the **attacking** zone. An opposing player having **possession and control** of the puck in the **neutral** zone passes or shoots the puck back into his **defending** zone. The puck is intercepted by the attacking player who is already in the **attacking** zone. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 12).

The attacking team is in possession of the puck in the **attacking** zone. The puck is passed back to the blue line, and then is shot back again. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 13)
NOTE: The puck did not **completely** cross the blue line.

An attacking or defending player in the **attacking** zone shoots or deflects the puck out over the blue line. The attacking player(s) in the attacking zone make skate contact with the blue line until the puck completely crosses the inner edge of the blue line inside the attacking zone. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 14).

An attacking player has both skates over the blue line, but the puck is still on the blue line. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 15). NOTE: Since the puck has not **completely** crossed the inner edge of the blue line, **no off-side infraction** has been committed. The puck is in possession of the attacking team in the **attacking** zone. The puck is passed back to the blue line, where it comes half out over the blue line (half on the line and half over the outer edge of the line). The puck is then shot back into the **attacking** zone. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 16). NOTE: Again, the puck did not **completely** cross the outer edge of the blue line.

An attacking player with both skates inside the blue line receives a pass from a teammate in the **neutral** zone. The player stops the puck with the stick before the puck crosses the blue line. The player now comes back, puts one skate on the blue line, holds the skate on the blue line and then pulls the puck over the blue line while one skate is on the blue line. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 17).

A player who is actually propelling the puck shall not be considered off-side if the player crosses the blue line ahead of the puck. (Example: A player takes a pass from a teammate while about 1.5 metres (five feet) from the blue line in the **neutral** zone, then turns around skating backwards, propelling the puck over the blue line after the player. One skate of the receiving player must be outside or on the blue line when the pass is received. **NOT OFF-SIDE** (Figure 18).

An attacking player or defending player shoots the puck out over the blue line. The puck then deflects off an attacking or defending player in the **neutral** zone, back into the **defending** zone while an attacking player is in the **attacking** zone.

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DELAYED OFF-SIDE (Figure 19).

An attacking player or defending player in the **attacking** zone shoots the puck out over the blue line into the **neutral** zone. The puck hits an official in the **neutral** zone, deflecting off of the official, back into the **defending** zone while an attacking player is still in the **attacking** zone. **DELAYED OFF-SIDE** (Figure 20).

When any attacking player(s) precedes the puck into the **attacking** zone, the official will signal a **DELAYED OFF-SIDE**, by raising his arm. All attacking players must “**CLEAR THE ZONE**” by making skate contact with the blue line, without making contact with the puck or a defending player playing the puck. **DELAYED OFF-SIDE** (Figure 21). When a **DELAYED OFF-SIDE** is in effect, and all attacking players have “cleared the zone” by making skate contact with the blue line (or defending team has passed or carried the puck into the **neutral** zone), the official will drop his arm to nullify the delayed off-side.

NOTE: The attacking zone must be clear of all attacking players at the same time (for a least a fraction of a second) before a delayed off-side can be nullified with the puck still in the attacking zone. (Figure 22).

When the puck is shot on goal from outside the **attacking** zone with an attacking player(s) already in the **attacking** zone, the play shall be allowed to continue under the normal “**clearing the zone**” rules. **DELAYED OFF-SIDE**. (Figure 23). No goal will be allowed if the puck is shot into the zone while the delayed off-side is in effect. (Rule 72).

Intentional Off-side

If, in the opinion of the Referee or Linesmen, an **intentional offside** play has been made, the puck shall be faced-off at the end zone face-off spot in the end zone in the defending zone of the offending team. (Rule 72f).

An attacking player **deliberately** plays the puck or the puck carrier while knowing that he himself is off-side. **INTENTIONAL OFF-SIDE** (Figure 24). An attacking player **deliberately** carries the puck into the **attacking** zone, while knowing that a player(s) from his team is in an off-side position. **INTENTIONAL OFFSIDE** (Figure 25).

ICING

The puck is shot down the ice from behind the centre red line, hits the end boards, then rebounds through the goal crease. **ICING** (Figure 43). **NOTE: Icing occurs the instant the puck crosses the goal line.**

The puck is shot from behind the centre red line and goes down the ice over top of the crossbar. **ICING** (Figure 44). **NOTE: Icing occurs the instant the puck crosses the goal line**

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The puck is shot by a player who is on his own side of the centre red line. The puck goes down the ice, through the goal crease and over the goal line. **ICING** (Figure 45).

The puck is shot by a player who is on his own side of the centre red line. The puck goes down the ice, hits the goal post and over the goal line. **ICING** (Figure 46).

NO ICING

The puck is shot from behind the centre red line and goes down over the goal line.

ICING (Figure 41).

The puck is shot by a player behind his own blue line, then hits a teammate's stick or body on his own side of the centre red line, and the puck then continues down over the opposing goal line. **ICING** (Figure 42). **NOTE: Icing occurs the instant the puck crosses the goal line.**

The puck is shot by a player from behind the centre red line and goes down the ice into the goal. **GOAL COUNTS!! - NOT ICING** (Figure 48).

Figure 48

A player standing behind the centre red line and with the puck on the stick over the centre red line shoots the puck down over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 47).

The puck is released from the stick of a player who is over the blue line to a teammate who is over the centre red line. The puck hits this player's stick or body, and continues down over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 49).

The puck is shot by a player standing behind the centre red line. The puck hits the body or the stick of an opposing player and then goes down over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 50).

The puck is released from the stick of a player behind his blue line to a teammate who is standing with both skates on his own side of the centre red line. The puck hits this player's stick which is over the centre red line, and continues down over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 51).

Figure 51

The puck is released from the stick of a player inside of his blue line to a teammate who has one skate over the centre red line. The puck hits the stick or skate which is over the centre red line, and continues down over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 52).

The puck is released from the stick of a player with both skates inside his own blue line, and with the puck on the stick over the blue line. The puck hits a teammate's stick or skate which is over the centre red line, then deflects down over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 53).

Figure 53

A player standing with one or both skates behind the centre red line, and the puck on the stick over the centre red line, shoots the puck over the goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 54).

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The puck is shot by an attacking player and hits a defending player who is back of the defending blue line. The puck, after hitting the defending player, then goes down over the opposing goal line. **NO ICING** (Figure 55).

ADDITIONAL ICING THE PUCK SITUATIONS AS PER RULE 65b

“Icing the puck” shall not be called if a team is below the numerical strength of the opposing team at the instant the puck is shot. (Rule 65b).

The penalty has expired (door is open), and the player is returning to the ice at the instant the puck is shot. **ICING** (Figure 56).

The player’s penalty time has not expired at the time the puck is shot. **NO ICING** (Figure 57).

ICING THE PUCK

“The Black, the White and the Grey”

Most of the calls that a linesman is required to make are largely a “black or white” decision. That is to say that there is very little need for judgement. It is either offside or no off-side; it is either an off-side pass or no off-side pass. However, the one call that we do have that is not always black or white is icing. Icing has been a concern of players, coaches and hockey administrators due to the lack of consistency in this call. Why is there a lack of consistency? It may be due to poor judgement or laziness on the part of the linesman, but more importantly, it may be due to lack of direction as to what truly does constitute icing. This section will try to answer some of those questions as to what is and what is not icing, and hopefully will help us as linesmen develop a consistent standard in this call.

1. WHAT IS ICING?

Icing occurs when the puck is completely released from the stick prior to completely crossing the center red line and completely crosses the goal line at the opposite end of the ice without contact between the puck and any other players prior to crossing the goal line. The only time that a team may ice the puck is when they are playing below the numerical strength of their opposition.

Based on the above description of icing, let us look at the following situations:

. “The Black” - When Does Icing Occur?

i) The puck is completely released from the stick behind or on the center red line, continues down the ice and crosses the goal line.

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ii) The puck is completely released from the stick behind the center red line and is not physically contacted by an opposing players body or stick prior to it completely crossing the goal line.

iii) The puck is completely released from the stick and before the puck completely crosses the center red line, it is deflected off the body or the stick of a teammate, and then continues down the ice across the goal line.

As long as the point of contact with the teammate is behind the center red line, it must be icing.

iv) The puck is released from behind the center red line and prior to crossing the goal line it goes through or makes contact with the goal crease.

*

The important idea to keep in mind is that it is the position of the stick of the player releasing the puck and not their skates that determines whether it is icing.

B. "The White" – When Is It Not Icing?

i) The puck is completely released from the stick after it has completely crossed the center red line.

ii) The puck is completely released from behind the center red line but fails to reach or entirely cross the goal line.

iii) The puck is released from behind the center red line, makes actual physical contact with any player's body or stick which is across the center red line and the puck continues down the ice and across the goal line.

iv) The puck is released from behind the center red line and makes contact with an opposing player's body or stick that is behind the center red line, crosses the center red line and continues down across the goal line.

v) The puck is released from behind the center red line and deflects off a teammates stick that is across the center red line although his skates are behind the center red line and continues down the ice across the goal line.

vi) The team that shot the puck is playing shorthanded.

C. "The Grey" - Is It Icing or No-Icing?

There are three major concerns to keep in mind when deciding whether a puck has been iced or not. They are:

a) The Speed Of the Shot

Was the shot blasted down the ice or was it flipped or shot lightly? Obviously, if it was blasted, the defending player would have little or no chance to play the puck. It is also important to judge the speed of the shot on the age and skill of the players as well.

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b) The Height Of the Shot

Hockey players are not baseball players. That is, they are not obliged to play the puck once it has left the ice.

c) The Position Of the Defending Player

It is important to determine whether the player would have had a reasonable opportunity to play the puck based on their position to the puck. If the puck is shot down the ice, but is far enough away from the player as it passes by her that she could not play it, icing must be called as long as all criteria are met.

****The difficulty in icing is when two or all of these considerations occur in the same play and the linesman must make the call.****

IN ALL THESE EXAMPLES, ASSUME THAT THE PUCK IS COMPLETELY RELEASED FROM BEHIND THE CENTER RED LINE AND WILL CONTINUE ACROSS THE GOAL LINE.

i) The puck is blasted along the ice with no player making contact with it.

ICING - the puck is shot hard and fast enough that no player would have the chance to play the puck.

ii) The puck is wristed along the ice on a bad pass, but a defending player gives chase after the puck and will have no problem catching the puck before it crosses the goal line.

NO ICING - the defending player is close enough to play the puck and should be expected to finish the play.

iii) The puck is wristed along the ice and an attacking and defending player both give chase. Both players are making a hard effort to reach the puck. The attacking player begins to pull away from the defender and will reach the puck first, but only once the puck has crossed the goal line.

ICING - since both players have made an effort to reach the puck, it would be unfair for the team that is responsible for icing the puck in the first place to also get an advantage of a potential 1-on-0 on the goaltender. Icing must be called.

iv) The puck is blasted off the ice with no player making contact with it. The shot however is only a few feet away from a defending player as it passes him.

ICING - this situation meets two of the criteria for icing. Since the shot is hard enough and it has been raised off the ice, the linesman can assume that the player would not have a reasonable opportunity to play the puck. Therefore, icing must be called.

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v) The puck is flipped down the ice over the head of a defending player. It was a high enough that the player could not reach for it. However, the puck lands just behind the defenceman and continues down the ice. The defenceman gives chase and it appears the player will probably reach the puck before it crosses the goal line.

NO ICING - this situation also initially meets two of the criteria for icing; the height of the shot and the position of the player. However, once the puck lands and the linesman realizes the player could reach the puck, then she must wash out the icing immediately.

vi) The puck is wristed down the ice, splitting the two defencemen. It was however close enough for defenceman "A" to play the puck. Instead of turning towards the puck and playing it, the player turns away from it in an attempt to chase down the puck. The puck continues down the ice.

NO ICING - since the player had a reasonable chance to play the puck, however, chose to turn away from it, icing must be washed out. If the player has a reasonable chance to play the puck but avoids playing it, icing must be washed out.

vii) The puck is fired down the ice. The defenceman, having read the play turns and skates after the puck. The player is skating hard but realizes that he will not reach the puck and begins to slow down.

ICING - the player has made a reasonable attempt to play the puck. Since he has done so before giving up on the play, the icing shall be called.

viii) The puck is wristed down the ice between the defenceman and the side boards. The player is close enough to the puck to have a reasonable play, but does not and the puck continues down the ice.

NO ICING - since the player had the opportunity to play the puck but refused to make a play, the icing shall be washed out.

ix) The puck is fired off the ice between the defenceman and the side boards. The player is close enough to play the puck but does not.

ICING - this situation satisfies all three of the criteria for icing. However, the fact that the puck is fired hard and is travelling off the ice wipes out the fact the player was close enough to play the puck. Therefore, the icing shall be called.

x) The puck is wristed along the ice and is close enough to the defenceman. However, prior to it making contact with the players stick, it takes a hop off the ice and bounces over the players stick and continues down the ice.

ICING - even though the player would have easily had the puck but missed it, the defending team should not be penalized due to the ice. This sets up the potential for an attacking player to reach the puck first once it has crossed the

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line or force the defending team to have to move it back up the ice when they made every effort to play it. Therefore, icing shall be called.

xi) The puck is blasted down the ice and is unable to be played by any defending players. The goaltender had a reasonable opportunity to play the puck but does not.
ICING - the goaltenders are the only players on the ice that are not required to make a play on the puck.

xii) The puck is blasted down the ice and one player from each team begins a hard chase down the ice for the puck. The goaltender seeing this moves out to make a play on the puck, but just before contact lifts his stick and the puck continues across the goal line.

ICING - even though the goaltender initially moves to make a play on the puck, they are allowed to avoid making the play and the icing shall still be called.

xiii) The puck is wristed down the ice past the players bench. An opposing team player is within 3 metres (10 feet) of his/her bench and a line change occurs. Neither player (the one exiting the ice or entering the ice) plays the puck even though it is close enough to be played as they would be called for too many men on the ice if they did play it.

NO ICING - the team that is shooting the puck should not be penalized because a line change is being made. Icing must be washed out.

xiv) The puck is shot down the ice and is not able to be played by any player. The puck goes wide of the net, but makes contact with the outer edge of the goal crease line before it crosses the goal line.

ICING - Icing is still in effect if the puck passes through the goal crease prior to crossing the goal line.

xv) The puck is shot down the ice over the head of the defenceman and continues through the air to the far end of the ice. The puck lands on the mesh on the top of the net.

ICING - The shot has passed all the criteria for it to be icing.

xvi) The puck is fired down the ice and is not played by any player. The puck crosses the goal line, bounces off the back boards and slides back through the goal crease.

ICING - Once the puck has crossed the goal line the linesman must stop play and signal that icing has occurred.

xvii) A team is playing shorthanded and the penalty is about to expire. A player from the team that is shorthanded fires the puck down the ice, however the penalty time on the clock has expired prior to the puck being released from the stick.

ICING - The time remaining on the penalty clock is the determining factor when deciding if the icing is waved off. If the time expires before the puck is

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released, regardless of whether or not the penalized player has returned to the ice, icing must be called.

xviii) The puck is fired down the ice directly off the face-off. It is fired by a player taking the face-off.

NO ICING - Icing can not be called directly off the face-off when it is iced by a player taking the face-off.

xix) The puck is shot down the ice past a defenceman. He could have easily made a play for the puck, but decides instead to try to take the attacking player out of the play.

NO ICING - Since the player had a reasonable chance to play the puck but decided to play the man instead, icing must be waved off.

xx) Prior to the puck being released, the defenceman sees a winger coming up the boards to potentially receive a pass. The defenceman turns to follow the player and immediately after, the puck is shot down the ice. The defenceman who would have been able to play the puck if he had not moved, does not play it.

ICING - Since the defenceman committed to the man prior to the shot occurring, the icing must still be called even though he could have played the puck if he had not moved.

There are other situations with regards to icing that are available in the Case Book/ Rule Combination.

2. WHEN SHOULD ICING BE SIGNALLED?

As the back linesman, the icing should be initiated using the back arm the instant the released puck crosses the center red line. The front linesman should signal that the icing has been completed the instant the puck completely crosses the goal line. If the front linesman judges that the icing will be washed out, she should make that signal immediately. As a matter of risk management, the linesman should have decided and signalled that the icing is washed out prior to the puck crossing approximately the top of the circles. This will allow for the defenceman that is being chased down to have time to prepare for a body check, or allow the attacking player enough time to avoid the check if icing is to be called. This will also prevent a goaltender that is expecting the icing to be called, enough time to reset and get ready for a potential play. Hopefully with good leadership and instruction, we can make the calling of icings a little more consistent. Although not every single possible situation could be created in this manual, it is intended that some of the situations presented could be adapted to fit in all situations that may occur.

Summary

Offside and Icing Procedures

Sound judgement and competent linesmen calls are crucial to the success of any hockey game. Consistent review of the different examples displayed in this section will assist all officials to develop sound judgement.