



Written by Steve Wallace  
Revisions by Carl Friday

## Altercations – Three Official System

Reference: Page 3-9, *Hockey Canada Officiating Program Officiating Procedures*

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.
- Must observe and verbally direct goalkeepers to stay in their respective creases or go to a designated neutral area.
- Shall penalize any player who does not go to the appropriate bench or neutral area when directed by the referee. In most cases, penalizing the most flagrant violators will make the point of the rule.
- Would notify the players of their Misconduct penalties only after the altercation is over and the referee is at the penalty bench.
- Should then take up a position which permits a good view of the players on the ice and both benches. It is important that the referee always keep all players in view and not get caught in the middle of an altercation.

When the players have been separated the general procedure to be followed should include:

The Referee:

- Should direct the linespersons to escort the players to the penalty bench or exit.
- Should remain in the area of the altercation keeping all players in view.
- Should direct one player from the ice from each team to collect any equipment left on the ice.

The linespersons:

- 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 at this time.





Once the conference with the linespersons and the players picking up the equipment have returned to their benches, the referee:

- Will proceed to the penalty bench to report the penalties.
- Should not discuss the infractions with the players until he has reported the penalties to the timekeeper.
- 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 should get the game restarted as quickly as possible.

