



ASK OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT

This is a collection of questions submitted by officials ahead of the 2023 Winter Development Sessions. We are publishing the questions and answers as a resource for all officials.

In the two official system what is the optimal position for the front official on a rush, watching for offsides and/or goals off the rush?

- As the play enters the zone, the front official needs to be just inside the blue line so they can accurately determine if the play is on-side. From there the official needs to hustle to get into the End-Zone Cone and all the way to the net if the play warrants. A quickly developing play means that the referee will have to work hard and utilize significant hustle to get to the net in time.

During the Fair Play Initiative, a Team Official refuses to acknowledge the referee or shake their hand. Should this result in a penalty?

- While it is regrettable that the Team Official elects not to partake in the Fair Play Initiative, this does not meet the criteria for penalty under the Hockey Canada Playing Rules. Thus, no penalty is to be assessed.

Could you clarify the rules regarding mandatory protective equipment coming off during play?

- If a player's helmet or facial protector comes off while play is in progress, they must immediately replace the equipment and have it properly fastened or proceed to the Players' Bench. If they participate in the play in any way without that equipment, play is immediately stopped and a penalty is assessed under 10.6 (a) Illegal Equipment. If the player's throat protector comes off, that player must immediately replace the equipment and have it properly fastened or proceed to the Players' Bench. If they participate in the play in any way without that equipment, it is a delayed penalty under 10.6 (A) Illegal Equipment. Officials are strongly encouraged to alert a player that their throat protector is off.

Note that no goal may be retroactively disallowed due to a violation of this rule. If you realize after the goal is scored that the player was not wearing a throat protector, the goal still counts.

Is any cross check to the head a Major penalty and Game Misconduct, no matter the degree of violence?

- As per Rule 7.6 (b), any player who cross checks an opponent above the normal height of the shoulders is assessed a Major penalty and Game Misconduct for Head Contact. A Match penalty would be assessed if the offending player attempts to or deliberately injures the opponent.

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As a linesperson, I heard a coach making abusive and harassing statements. How do I handle this?

- At the next stoppage of play, report the maltreatment to the referee (tell the referee exactly what the coach said).

All officials, including the referee, know that the league expects them to take action and thus they will assess the appropriate penalty.

On centre ice face-offs, the Home team's players began to move before the puck was dropped. Is this allowed?

- No, this is not permitted. It is considered encroachment.

Even though it is not explicitly stated, the intent of rule 6.2 is that players are to stand still at face-offs. The definition of Encroachment in the Glossary of the Rule Book makes it clear that players cannot be in motion.

This happened in my game the other night, and I was not sure what to do as I had never seen it in 15+ years officiating. During the play, the Visiting Team's Head Coach reached over the boards and interfered in the play. What penalties should I have assessed?

- This is a rule that was updated this year. A Bench Minor is assessed, and since it is a team official, they are assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty (if it was a player, they would be assessed a Game Misconduct).

What is the best way to handle your referee making an erroneous call or missing a call and the coach is asking/complaining to you about it as a linesperson?

- As we are a team, we want to make sure that our words and actions support each other. Just like your referee will support you if a Coach asks about an offside or icing call, you need to support your referee in this situation.

Phrases such as "the referee is in a great position to see that play" or "I fully trust the referee's judgement" are great ways to deal with these situations.

I was just wondering what are the best ways to deal with spectators.

- If there is a problem with the behaviour of a spectator, it needs to be reported to the League Office along with a description of the spectator. That will allow the league to address the matter. Game Officials should never interact with spectators.





During the line change procedure, should the referee signal a hand up at the visitors bench as a sign to stop, or a hand up at the home team bench as a sign to change?

- The official conducting the line change procedure wants to make sure that they are in a position where both benches can see them. When it is the Visiting Team's time to change, the official should make eye contact with their coach. Once the 5 seconds have elapsed, the official should raise their arm towards the benches and then make eye contact with the Home Team's coach.

What do you do if you saw a penalty but forgot the hand signal for it?

- Take a deep breath. This happens from time to time. It is okay, the most important thing is that the penalty is still called. If you have not remembered the signal by the time you stop play, verbalizing the call (for example, "3 Blue Slashing") is okay.

Are mirror type visors allowed for players?

- Minor hockey players are required to wear full facial protectors that are CSA certified.

