

HOCKEY CANADA

Officiating Duties for Referee and Linespersons



Lead, develop and promote positive hockey experiences

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1. EQUIPMENT – OFFICIALS

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

Minimum Equipment Requirements

1. Black CSA certified helmet (with CSA stickers in place)
2. Helmet ear pieces
3. Clean black skates with white laces
4. CSA certified half visor
5. Hockey Canada Referee's Casebook / Rule Combination
6. Elbow pads
7. Shin Pads
8. Clean official's black and white sweater with the Member crest on the left chest and the Hockey Canada crest on the left shoulder
9. Athletic support and cup
10. Black pants (no jeans)
11. Metal or black plastic whistle with finger grips

Optional Items

12. Protective girdle
13. Black referee bag
14. Referee pad and pencil
15. Extra white laces
16. Extra whistle
17. Towel and soap
18. Black or White Tape
19. Shin Tights
20. Hockey Canada Rulebook App (iOS or Android)

Officiating Resources

21. Officiating Documents on Procedures and Systems
22. Off-ice Officials Manual

2. PRE-GAME DUTIES - REFEREE

This section will cover the pre-game duties of the referee(s). These duties would be assumed by both officials in the two-official system.

- ❑ The officials should arrive at the rink at least thirty minutes prior to scheduled game or as required by the official's specific league or association.
- ❑ Check the official game report prior to the start of the game. Ensure that Captains and Alternate Captains are indicated on the report and that the game sheet complies with Hockey Canada rules 1.9 (c) and 2.2 (a).
- ❑ Prior to going on the ice, have a short discussion with your linespersons regarding their responsibilities in the game, as listed under Rule 5.3 - Linespersons.
- ❑ All officials shall be on the ice at least two minutes before the players, to ensure the warmup begins on time. Officials should appear together, led onto the ice by the referee. Officials shall remain on the ice until all players have left the ice.
- ❑ Have a warm-up skate and do so in a confident manner (when officials are on the ice for warm-up).
- ❑ Do not lean on the boards.
- ❑ Do not skate or stand with your hands in your pockets.
- ❑ It is the responsibility of the referee to report the numbers players who, while warming up, do not have their chinstrap securely fastened and are not properly wearing the required equipment. This should be noted on the back of the game sheet. 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.
- ❑ 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 Member Referee-in-Chief. Also, check to see if there are any unique features of the rink 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.
- ❑ 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 officiating supervisor.

After any pregame ceremonies, such as the playing of the National Anthem, the referee and Linespersons shall initiate the "Fair Play Initiative" (Hockey Canada Rule Book) and then take their positions and start the game.

3. IN-GAME DUTIES - REFEREE

This section will cover the in-game duties of the referee(s). These duties would be assumed by both officials in the two-official system.

- ❑ The referee shall ensure that only the players taking part in the actual opening 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 [Rule 10.15 (d)].
- ❑ The referee shall conduct all centre-ice face-offs to start each period and after each goal in the two-official, three-official and four-official systems. The referee should face the timekeeper at the beginning of each period. On all other centre ice face-offs, the referee may face the players' benches, if they are on the opposite side of the ice from the penalty bench. In the two-official or four-official systems, the referee dropping the puck will face the time keeper's bench.
- ❑ Stop play after a goal is scored, by blowing the whistle and using the "goal scored" point signal (Hockey Canada Rule Book). Advise the official scorer of 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 [Rule 10.11].
- ❑ Stop play when the puck is struck above the normal height of the shoulders and subsequently touched by the offending team or an illegal goal has been scored due to the contact [Rule 8.3 (d) & (e)].
- ❑ Stop play when the puck is batted into the net by an attacking player or when the puck is passed with the hand from one teammate to another, except when the receiving player is in the defending zone [Rule 9.1 (d) & (e)].
- ❑ A goaltender freezing the puck unnecessarily should result in the referee instructing them to continue play and puck movement. Other instances of the referee losing sight of the puck [Rule 10.12] shall result in the referee stopping play by blowing the whistle. 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 to create a presence. However, the referee must maintain a position that ensures all players are in view.
- ❑ Make every effort to keep play moving any time play is on the boards. Use your voice to encourage play to continue. Stop play only when players give up or a player(s) is down on the ice. Utilize Section 10 of the Hockey Canada Rule Book as a reference for other applicable rules.

4. END OF PERIOD / GAME - REFEREE

This section will cover the end of period/game duties of the referee(s). These duties would be assumed by both referees in the two-official system.

- ❑ When the buzzer / horn 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 / horn sounds. The referee should always ensure that both linespersons have been briefed to move in quickly when the period ends to defuse any altercations that might arise.
- ❑ In accordance with Rule 9.4 (i), all players must remain on their respective players' or penalty bench until directed off the ice by the referee following the end of a period or game. The Visiting Team shall leave the ice first, unless otherwise directed by the referee. The referee should take up a position permitting a good view of all players on the ice and both benches. The referee must ensure that both teams remain on their respective benches until instructed to leave by the referee, especially if they cross the ice to exit to their dressing room. The referee is encouraged to extend their non-whistle hand to hold the home bench, while verbally directing the Visiting Team off the ice. Officials should be aware of players in the penalty bench and hold those players in their penalty bench until their team is being directed off the ice.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ At the end of the game, the intent of this rule is not to hinder a team from celebrating but to ensure that the players are separated and there will be no confrontations. If there are no situations where an altercation is anticipated, then the players may leave their benches to greet their goalies without waiting for the referee's permission. However, should an altercation occur that results in penalties being assessed, then rule 9.4 (i) would also be applied
- ❑ Check the official game report after the game to ensure that it is completed properly. When satisfied, sign the report, along with your linespersons, keep your copies, and have the official scorekeeper distribute the rest of the copies.
- ❑ Write an incident report on any penalties as outlined in the suspension guidelines (e.g. Match penalties, Gross Misconducts, and Game Misconducts, etc.). These reports should be forwarded immediately after the game in accordance with the League or Member game incident reporting guidelines.
- ❑ Leave the arena at your earliest convenience. Do not discuss any infractions or serious penalty calls on your report with any team official or in any public domain (e.g. media, social media, etc.).

5. PRE-GAME DUTIES - LINEPERSONS

This section will cover the pre-game duties of the linespersons. These duties would also be assumed by both officials in the two-official system.

- ❑ The officials should arrive at the rink at least thirty minutes prior to scheduled game time or as required by the official's specific league or association.
- ❑ When leaving the officials' dressing room and skating onto the ice surface, the linespersons should always be preceded by the referee.
- ❑ Linespersons shall check the goal, netting and ice around the goals, prior to the start of the game and prior to the start of each period, and make any repairs that are necessary.
- ❑ Linespersons should count the number of players in uniform and report any discrepancies to the referee immediately.

6. IN GAME DUTIES – LINESPERSONS

This section will cover the pre-game duties of the linespersons. These duties would be assumed by both officials in the two-official system.

- ❑ The linespersons should endeavor at all times to stay within one metre of the boards to avoid interfering with the play and with the referee.
- ❑ When play is in the end zone, the linespersons should never stand directly on or inside the blue line, but should have both feet approximately one small stride outside the line (see “working the line” in the Officiating Procedures resource).
- ❑ Whenever a linesperson must execute a turn, the turn should be made towards centre ice to face the play. Never turn to face the boards.
- ❑ Linespersons should be alert to defencemen moving deeply into the attacking zone when a gathering is taking place after a stoppage of play. Linespersons should report this to the referee. In games with two referees, the back referee will also support in this area.
- ❑ When a player on the ice is injured and being attended to by a team official, the linespersons should ensure that the remaining players return to their respective benches and that one linesperson remains in the vicinity of the benches giving a physical presence and maintaining a view of the entire ice surface.
- ❑ One linesperson should monitor any conversations between a player and the referee or whenever the referee goes to the bench. The role of the linesperson is to be a witness to what is said. The linesperson should be careful not to be drawn into the conversation.
- ❑ Linespersons will be responsible for dropping the puck for all face-offs, other than face-offs at the beginning of a period or following the scoring of a goal.
- ❑ On offsidings, the linesperson not blowing the whistle is responsible for the puck, allowing the linesperson on the line to focus on making the call and deal with any other issues. However, some situations with players may require both linesperson's attention and the puck retrieval must always be the last priority.

7. AWARENESS - LINESPERSON

One of the biggest differences between a new linesperson and a more senior linesperson is their level of awareness. While the newer linesperson is busy concentrating on the specifics of their job, such as positioning and procedures, the senior linesperson focuses their attention on what else is going on in the game. Many supervisors will tell you that a linesperson's ability to read the play is what allows them to excel at their job. This section will go through various situations when a Linesperson can use their awareness to potentially avoid unwanted situations.

- ❑ Prioritize where you focus your attention. Remember, players first and puck last.
- ❑ In addition to all the other duties, linespersons 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. Linespersons should not leave their blue line until the last attacking players have left the zone.
- ❑ Awareness is very important during stoppages of play. Linespersons must be aware of what players are doing on the ice before retrieving the puck or attending to other duties.
- ❑ Linespersons should always be anticipating potential altercations and attempt to defuse any situation before the referee is compelled to assess a penalty.
- ❑ Linespersons 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 neither player has cooled off yet.
- ❑ Be aware of the time that the coincidental penalties expire so that at least one of the linespersons 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 them 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 will soon expire, the back linesperson 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 linesperson will be in a position to go with the player on a breakout. If your partner is the back linesperson and they have not noticed, communicate with a signal that the player is coming out of the box.
- ❑ If the back linesperson is confident with their skating, they should bump up close to their partner's blue line in case there is a quick whistle or they have been bumped off their 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 linesperson, 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 linesperson should watch the goaltender change for the extra attacker, and be sure that the team has not substituted too early.
- ❑ 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 players from retaliating or escalating the situation.
- ❑ If you switch lines, do not switch back unless necessary.
- ❑ If there is the chance of a quick whistle, be sure that neither linesperson has advanced too far into the zone. In anticipation of a whistle or at the end of the period/game, the back linesperson may move to the blue line and into the end zone as necessary and is safe to do so. The front linesperson must hold their line and be in position to make a call on their blue line as required. This way the blue line is covered and if there is a quick break the two Linespersons can switch roles.
- ❑ Be aware of any matching of players, such as two tough players or a tough player 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.
- ❑ When exiting the ice after the game or between periods, and both teams exit the same way to their dressing rooms, one linesperson should go between the two teams, while the other remains with the referee.
- ❑ While leaving the ice and going to the dressing room, the linespersons should position themselves between the referee and any players, coaches, or fans that may try to get at the referee.

8. END OF PERIOD / GAME DUTIES – LINEPERSONS

This section will cover the end of period and end of game duties of the linespersons. These duties would be assumed by both officials in the two-official system.

- ❑ At the end of each period, the back linespersons 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.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Intervene in any altercations to prevent further penalties.
- ❑ Leave the arena at your earliest convenience. Do not discuss any infractions or serious penalty calls on your report with any team official or in any public domain (e.g. media, social media, etc.).