



February 28, 2014

Playoff MEMO

APHA and SJAMHA Officials:

Welcome to the playoffs! This is the most exciting, most stressful, most passionate, most emotion, most engaging time of year. Our jobs become harder, we are under more scrutiny and everyone is feeling the pressure. Here are our playoff thoughts:

1. Call Impact Penalties: An earlier memo discussed this in detail. During the playoffs the intensity increases, player battle harder in the corners, the stakes of the game increase and the grey area of “penalty selection” grows wider. Look for the impact penalties that emphasize the standard of obstruction, checks to the head, checks from behind, taking away a scoring opportunity, slashing and protection of the goalie. Use impact penalties to make the game fair and safe. The standard does not change from the regular season; do not “put away your whistles” because it is playoffs. An impact penalty called at the beginning of the game sets the tone.
2. Be Creative: Creativity has no bounds. Some officials will blow their whistle twice (in exceptional situations) to gain the attention of the players. I have seen others yell players’ name loudly, then, once everyone has looked at them, smile and say “I was just trying to get your attention. Thanks.” Be creative, but be comfortable with what you choose to do. If you are not comfortable yelling a player’s name then don’t do it. Creativity can be a very useful tool but it can also cause some unexpected problems.. Find your strategy and use it when appropriate.
3. Work hard: There are many things that you do not directly control in a hockey game from coaches’ behaviors to infractions you do not see, to player behaviors. But you can control your level of effort. Skate hard. Talk to the players. Blow your whistle hard and decisively. Keep your head on swivel. Be in the best possible position. All your skills will work better if you are working your butt off.
4. Be Professional: Professionalism is divided into three categories.
 - a. Professional parameters: honesty, integrity, documentation, and making correct choices.
 - i. As officials, we hold a lot of power. As professionals we need to submit game reports on time, and maintain the integrity of being a well-respected, knowledgeable official.
 - b. Professional behaviors: Respect, humility diplomacy, ongoing use of the rule book, player-centered officiating, cooperation, creativity, neatly dressed, on-time, positive and ready to go!
 - i. As officials we need to treat disrespect with respect. For example, there is an idea that “beaking” players is acceptable; in our opinion “beaking” is not an acceptable behavior from an official. Use the rulebook wisely and continuously. Work together to get the correct call, not necessarily the one that makes you look the best.
 - ii. Player-centered officiating: some officials have said to us that they are player-centered because they “let the players play” (i.e. do not call penalties). In our mind, the playoffs are about the players and everyone else (coaches, officials, parents, fans) are secondary to the players. The choices you make must reflect the fairness and safety of the game for the players.

- c. Professional responsibility: Self-evaluation, junior official supervision/mentorship, current knowledge.
 - i. As officials we are responsible to grow with each passing game. This is made possible by reflecting on our own performance, by acquiring feedback from other officials, and giving positive and constructive feedback to other officials.
 - ii. You must stay up to date by reading memos, reading your rule book, and asking questions when you are not sure of something.
- 5. Have Fun: We have been encouraging the “have fun” aspect of officiating all season. The question may become “does my having fun effect the game?” We think it does. We also think that “having fun” effects game management. Games are meant to be fun and emotions are infectious. If you frown, others will feel it; if you smile, others will embrace it. If the game is really tough (lots of penalties) you may be able to diffuse the situation by having fun, smiling, and being positive. But having fun doesn’t mean you get into long conversations with players or coaches or you laugh out loud at an inappropriate time

Rule Thoughts:

- 1. Do you know what M.O.T.O stands for? Do you know how to apply it? Page 78 of Hockey Canada Rule Book.
- 2. At the end of a period or game (when there is a flood), who leaves the ice first? Page 114, Rule 9.5i Hockey Canada.
- 3. Under what circumstances does throwing a stick result in a penalty shot rather than a minor penalty? Page 120, rule 9.8, Hockey Canada.
- 4. What are the five criteria for assessing a penalty shot when the player is fouled from behind? Page 103, Rule 9.4d, Hockey Canada.
- 5. You are the referee and waved off a game-tying goal due to a high stick, but suddenly feel as though the player may not have made contact. You ask your linemen who both say they are 100% certain that there was no contact. By the rule book, were you correct in asking for the help of the linesman? Page 83, Rule 5.3f, Hockey Canada.
- 6. What are the 5 stick infractions? Page 48 Hockey Canada Rule Book
- 7. How many penalties can a player take until he receives a game ejection? Rules and Regulations Book Page 92 SR-18

As always,

Work hard, act professional and have some fun-

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