

November 22, 2014

Hello APHA and SJAMHA officials

Welcome to another season of officiating minor hockey in Grant Park, Tuxedo, Charleswood, and St. James. As we write this memo, the season is thoroughly upon us and the fun has already begun. This year, we (Ken in APHA and Mitchell in SJAMHA) will write one memo per month (5 in total) with the goal of stimulating your referee mind and communicating various challenges.

In memo 1 of November 2013 we wrote:

“Hockey is a passionate sport, played by emotional players and coached by committed parents. They demand, and rightly so, the best possible officiating that we can provide. Each and every official needs to perform to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, errors will occur but that is part of the learning curve. Players make mistakes, coaches error, timekeepers miscalculate, and parents make unwise decisions.”

This remains true especially as we consider the magnifying glass that referees are always under. ***Our ability to minimize our mistakes is dependent on knowing/applying the rules, using proper mechanics, and bringing a positive-professional attitude.*** This being said, here are three situations we would like to bring to your attention:

Situation	What it says about referees	How to fix it
A minor and game misconduct check-from-behind penalty was not reported to the division director.	This falls into the “positive-professional” standard we want to set for ourselves. This looks very unprofessional when we do not report penalties that may result in suspension.	Remember, any penalty that includes a game misconduct or more severe (Match, Gross) needs to be reported to division director (page 4 of Hockey Winnipeg Rule Book). If you feel confused contact your referee-in-chief.
A referee, under assessment, spent 90% of his time below the goal line when he should be at half-piston.	This falls into “knowing the mechanics”. As we have talked to other assessors and RICs, below-goal-line positioning is becoming too common. The occurrence of this position has developed because the NHL uses the 4-man system; it is correct to set your self below the goal line in the 4-man system but incorrect in the 3-man or 2-man system. This said there are times to go below the goal line; get a good look at a goalmouth scramble or gain a different perspective/angle of the play.	Review “Rule/Procedure Quiz” question 1 below. Visit sjrefs.com
A referee	If you offer the coach an explanation that	DO NOT CHANGE YOUR

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was reported as telling a coach his “black-white” interpretation of a penalty call; “He did not knee him so it is a 2 minute tripping penalty.”	suggests your interpretation is the only option then you backing yourself into a corner. You are effectively saying you are absolutely not wrong. A black and white explanation to a coach or player may communicate that you are not open to the possibility of being wrong.	CALL, but give yourself a way to correctly leave the conversation. The official could have said “from my perspective, he did not knee him so it is a 2 minute tripping penalty” or “from my angle...” or “in my opinion...” If the official had added these extra words he has a way to leave the bench area. When the coach disagrees, the official can say “coach I am sorry but we saw this from different angles. I can appreciate that we saw this differently, however, we need to start play again. I may be wrong but we need to get going.” Now the conversation is over, skate away.
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As always, ***work hard, act professional and have some fun.***

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Rule/Procedure Quiz Questions

Read the questions as if you are on the ice and then check your answers.

1. When should you use the following positions? Home base ? Half-piston ? At the net?
2. What are the 5 stick infraction penalties?
3. Major + GM and minor on delay. Non-offending team scores a goal. Is any penalty washed out?
4. What are the three criteria to determining icing versus no-icing?

Where to find the answers: 1-sjrefs.com under resources, open file called “end zone positioning images” and read 6-2 & 6-3 of HCOP Manual (also in resources or sjrefs.com)- 2- Hockey Canada Rule 4.2e. 3-Situation 2 Rule 4.13(b) Hockey Canada, 4- See the HCOP manual on sjrefs.com under resources. The answer is on page 7-7 and 7-8.