

OFFICIATING GUIDELINES



Hockey Canada recommends the inclusion of Officials at the Minor Novice and Novice levels (ages 7 – 8 years old). At this level a one (1) Official system will be employed. While this guideline is not an official Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) system, this section provides an outline to assist local officiating programs with integrating Officials into this developmental stage of the game. The one (1) Official system provides officials with an opportunity to experience several aspects of officiating, while keeping the operating costs at a manageable level for the teams and minor hockey associations.

BENEFITS OF INVOLVING OFFICIALS IN HALF-ICE HOCKEY

There are numerous benefits for officials when considering the aspects of building foundational officiating skills. This is a valuable opportunity for newer officials to put on their uniform, get on the ice in live action and learn some basic aspects of being an official in a less formal and positive atmosphere. Basic skills include: dropping pucks, skating skills, foundational positioning, spatial awareness, establishing good sightlines, and making decisions such as goals and minor infractions.

This allows officials to apply newly acquired information they received in their clinic in a game environment. This format also provides an excellent opportunity for senior officials to mentor new comers by shadowing them on the ice or evaluating them from the stands. The ability to mentor officials at ice level in this structure provides instantaneous feedback and assists in preparing these officials for full ice games in a two (2) or three (3) official system.

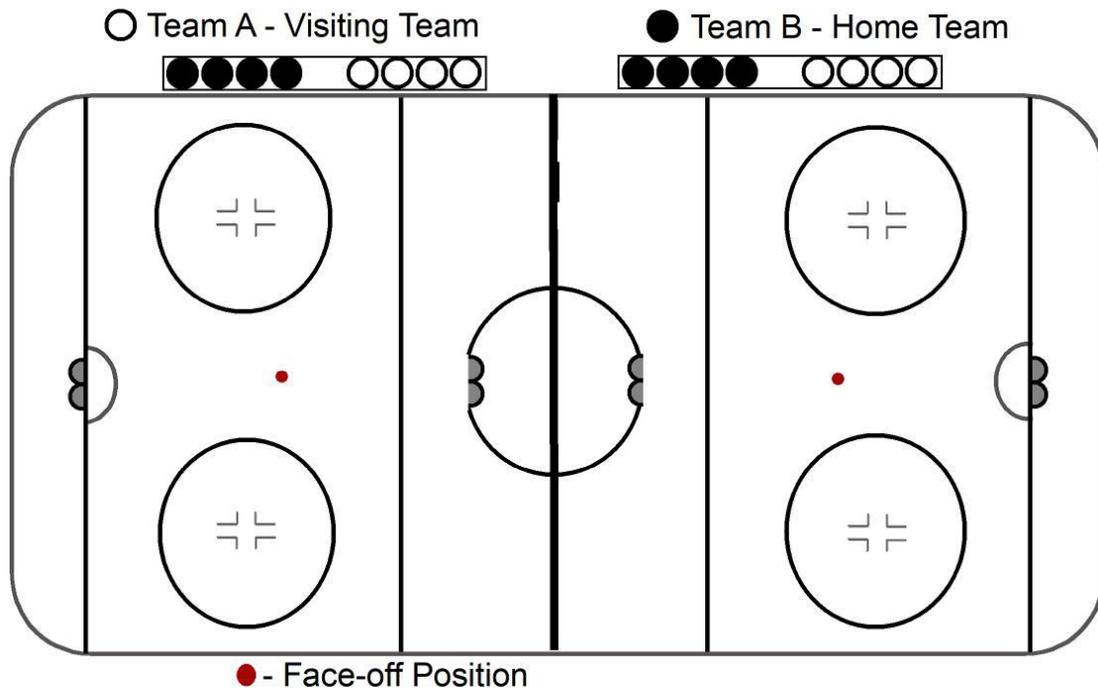
Having an official on the ice for the Half-Ice games provides players with more structure than cross ice games at the Initiation (5 – 6 year-old) level. It also presents a more realistic game environment,

while allowing the coaches to focus more on the players rather than focusing on making sure the game flows from an operational standpoint.

OFFICIATING PROCEDURES

Flexibility is an important component to operating in a one (1) Official system within the Novice game structure. There is no absolute way to handle every possible scenario. However, game flow and establishing a basic structure to the game is the primary focus. Officials will NOT be required to call infractions for icing or off-side as the appropriate rink dimensions and markings are not available. Should a Novice game be played on a mini-rink with full rink markings, it will be up to the Minor Hockey Association's (MHA) discretion as to whether off-side or icing will be called.

FACE-OFFS



There will be one (1) face-off location. This will be located approximately half way between the goals. Coaches and arena staff may mark the centre face-off location with a temporary marking for game play purposes.

FROZEN PUCKS, STOPPAGES & GAME FLOW

The line change procedure is not required on stoppages of play. Associations will have the choice of employing a stop time, run time or one/two (1/2) – minute buzzer game clock. When play needs to be stopped for:

- a goalkeeper freezing the puck
- for a player falling on the puck
- the puck is frozen along the boards
- the puck leaves the playing area

The Official should stop play with their whistle and conduct the face-off at the centre face-off location.

GOALS

When the puck enters the goal, the Official can simply signal a goal, retrieve the puck from the net and allow the team that was scored on to take possession of the puck. The team that scores the goal is require to back off 3 meters and give the player with the puck room to start the play.

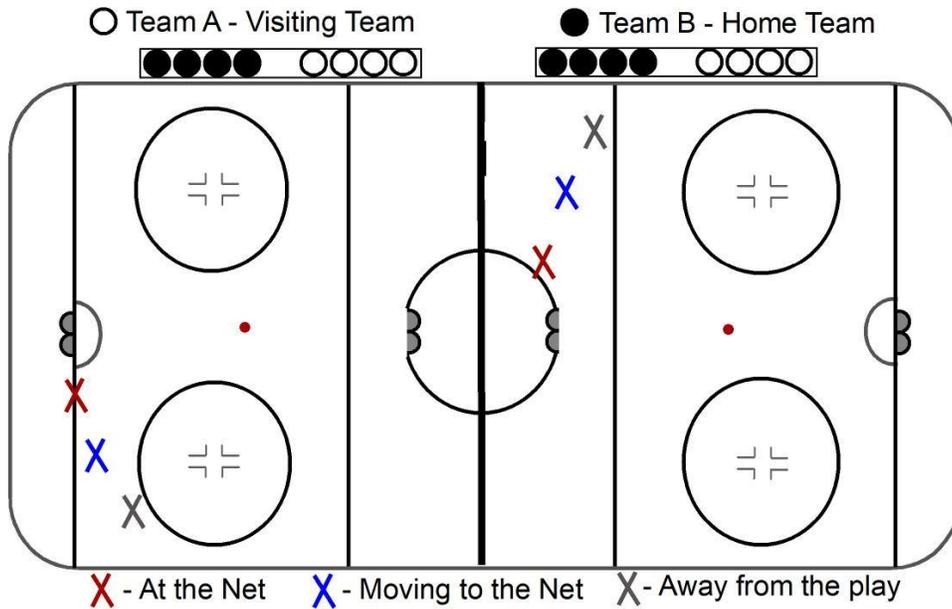
PENALTIES

Penalties shall be called in accordance with the instructed Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) standard of play. It should be understood that officials at this level will be new to officiating. Therefore, this environment will be where they are learning the application of the rules. The delayed penalty procedure will be used for all infractions of the rules. Officials will stop play and complete the penalty calling procedure (e.g. stop, plant, point etc.) as instructed. However, no penalty or penalty time will be recorded, and the player will not be sent to the penalty box. Rather, the coach will be notified of the infraction and the player will sit out the next shift they are expecting to play.

The teams will never play short-handed.

Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (e.g. Game Misconduct, Match penalty or Gross Misconduct), then the player will be removed from the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances teams will not play short-handed and no game incident report will be required.

POSITIONING



Foundational positioning principles will be used. The concept of the “cone” should be reserved for when full ice play begins. Under the Half-Ice structure, approximate “home base, half piston and at the net” positions should be used to get official comfortable with their proximity to the goal. Officials should follow the play approximately 2 – 3 meters behind the puck carrier. They should remain about 2 – 3 meters from the boards or playing area perimeters. The examples on the diagram below show guidelines for establishing recommended end-zone positions.