

Off Ice Officials

Adapted from: USA HOCKEY OFF-ICE OFFICIATING MANUAL



1 INTRODUCTION

Off-ice officials are considered an extension of the on-ice officiating team. In order for the game to run smoothly, a good group of off-ice officials are necessary to assist the on-ice crew. This document will explain the responsibilities of each in an attempt to better prepare you as an off-ice (minor) official.

2 ON-ICE OFFICIALS

The REFEREE shall have general supervision of the game, and shall have full control of all game officials, team officials and players before, during and after the game, including stoppages; and in case of any dispute, his decision shall be final.

On-Ice Officials should enter the ice surface prior to warm-ups. Penalties may also be assessed during the warm-up period.

3 ROLE OF OFF-ICE OFFICIALS

One of the roles of the off-ice officials is to serve as a liaison between the officials and the teams both before and after the game. The off-ice officials will be responsible for securing the game rosters from each team prior to the start of the game. After the game, they will ensure the scoresheet is properly completed and signed by the referee and will distribute a copy to each team. Any questions that may arise concerning game, or variations to the rules should also be addressed by the off-ice officials. Of course, the on-ice officials will be willing and available to offer assistance or answer questions, when necessary.

As part of the game officiating team, it is important for the off-ice officials to remain impartial at all times. This is difficult to do, especially since a family member may be participating in the game. However, impartiality must be maintained at all times.

Another important role of the off-ice official is to monitor behavior in and around the area known as the penalty benches and scorer's bench. Players must sit with their helmets on and behave in a sportsmanlike manner. Any player who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner, uses obscene or vulgar language or is disrespectful to the off-ice officials shall be reported to the on-ice officials during the next stoppage of play. The on-ice officials are then charged to take the appropriate action, including possible assessment of additional penalties.

Off-ice officials work together with the on-ice officials as a team and communication between the two groups is vital. Successful communication will play an important role in developing a positive hockey environment for all participants.

Off-Ice officials shall arrive ½ hour prior to game time to commence their duties.

PENALTY BENCH ATTENDANT

The penalty bench attendants are responsible for operating the penalty bench area. Their duties include the following:

- Opening and closing the door for penalized players.
- The penalty bench attendants should work closely with the game timekeeper and the official scorer to ensure penalty situations are handled correctly.
 - **Minor penalties** - A minor penalty is the least severe type of infraction. It results in the loss of a player for two-minutes, during which time the player must leave the ice and sit in a penalty box. During a minor hockey penalty, the other team has the advantage with an extra player on the ice. If the other team scores before the penalty is over, the player is released from the penalty box early. In some cases, an official may decide a minor penalty is worth more than two minutes, but is still not severe enough to warrant a major penalty. This will often be the case if a player was injured as a result of the penalty – in these cases a double-minor, or four-minute penalty can be issued. ***Players serving minor penalties are released from the penalty box at the end of the assigned penalty time (during play) or after the opposing teams scores a power play goal.***
 - **Double Minor** - A Double minor penalty is just two minor penalties combined into one. Each minor penalty is worth two minutes of time in the penalty box for a player. If a goal is scored, there is still one more minor penalty left to serve. ***Players serving minor penalties are released from the penalty box at the end of the assigned time (during play) or after the opposing teams scores a power play goal. Player must serve both penalties.***
 - **Coincidental penalties** - an equal number of penalties of equal duration (by each team) called at the same stoppage of play. There is no change in on-ice strength. Substitutes replace the penalized players on the ice. Coincidental minor penalties are not ended when a goal is scored by either team. ***Upon completion of the penalty time, players will remain on the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.***
 - **Misconduct penalties** - involve the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, from the game for a period of 10 minutes with immediate substitution taking place on ice. ***A player whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain on the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.*** A misconduct penalty is not posted on the scoreboard. When penalized players are entitled to be released from the penalty bench during a stoppage of play at the conclusion of coincident penalties, ***the penalty bench attendants should not release these players until the on-ice officials are aware that they are going to be released.*** This practice will help prevent any additional altercations from occurring.

- The penalty bench attendants should report to the referee, at the next stoppage of play, any violation of the rules or misbehavior by a penalized player (i.e swearing, mistreatment of penalty box area).
- The penalty bench attendants assist the official scorer by keeping track of shots on goal for each team. To determine shots on goal: If the puck would have gone in without the Goalie there, it is a shot on goal; goalie catches the puck above the crossbar – no shot on goal; goalie catches the puck wide of the net, not shot on goal; puck hits the pipe or cross bar and bounces out – no shot on goal; defenseman or other player stops or deflects the puck and it misses the net and or goalie never touches the puck, not shot on goal. Team pulls the goalie – empty net goal and no shot on goal-goal recorded as empty net goal.