



SECTION 5

Procedures for Linesmen



An Understanding of the Skills and Procedures Necessary to be a Competent Linesman

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

- Conduct the basic duties required to be a linesman;
- Report on-ice incidents to the referee;
- Break up on-ice altercations.

Duties of the Linesmen

Linesmen duties can be divided into the following categories: pre game duties, duties before start of the game and each period, general duties during the game, duties after the end of the each period and the game and post game duties.

Pre-Game Duties

- Linesmen should arrive at the rink at least 45 to 75 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
- If needed, check together with the referee to see if there are any rink peculiarities, especially if you have not officiated in this arena previously. This could eliminate any confusion later on in the game.
- Before 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 game/referee supervisor.
- This is your time that you should use to continue to prepare physically (stretching exercises) and mentally for your hockey game. Use this time wisely.
- Discuss with the referee any procedures or responsibilities you want him to be aware of and talk with your partner about co-operation during the game follow the IIHF Rule Book.
- Linesmen should check the game sheet before the game to count number of players listed on the game sheet.
- Put in your pocket the peaces of the rope for repairing the nets.
- Wish good game to the referee and partner and shake hands before you go out of the dressing room.

Duties Before Start of the Game

The referee and linesmen should be the first to come onto the ice at the start of the game and each subsequent period. They should appear together led onto the ice by the referee.

- Go onto the ice with your Referee five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. **When entering on the ice, remember the "First Impression"**.



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- Have a warm-up skate and do so in an authoritative manner. Do not lean on the boards or engage in conversation with spectators. Do not skate or stand around with your hands in your pockets. The positive appearance you give will relate to the teams and spectators that you are confident in your approach, handling and control of the game.
- Linesmen should check the goal netting before the start of the game.
- Count the number of players in uniform of each team and report any discrepancies to the referee immediately before the start of the game. This will serve the problem at once and possibly remove any future problems in the game (i.e. a player scoring a goal but is not listed on the game sheet).
- Fair Play Initiative

In all games, the captains of both teams and the officials shall meet at the referee's crease and introduce each other. This process should take not more than 15 seconds and will be completed prior to the game. Officials are encouraged to shake hands with the captains.

- After any pre-game ceremonies linesmen shall take their positions for the start of the game.

Duties Before Start of the Period

- Be on the ice before the players to start each period.
- At the beginning of each period be ensure that only the players taking part in the actual face-off are permitted on the ice. All other players shall proceed directly to their respective player's benches.

General Duties of Linesmen during the Game

- Take all face-offs according to the IIHF Rule Book.
- Stop play according to the rules.
- Linesmen in accordance with the playing rules to ensure that each team has an equal opportunity to play the game. Previous games should not be taken into account nor have any bearing on the way you officiate the game.

Duties after the End of Game/Period

When the buzzer sounds to signal the end of a period or the end of the game, it is important that you be aware that the potential for problems is high at this time and you should be ready to act even before the final buzzer sounds.

The referee should always ensure that both linesmen have been briefed to move in quickly when the period ends to defuse any altercations that might arise. Any altercations shall be removed to their respective exit or bench. It is important that the linesmen remain on the ice until all players have departed. The referee should lead the linesmen off the ice.

The two linesmen should position themselves to opposite sides of the teams, when players shake hands after the game. The linesmen have to have control over the entire line up.

Linesmen should be aware that the potential for confrontation remains high in some arenas, even after the teams and officials have left the ice, due to the location of the officials and players dressing rooms. The linesmen should attempt to avoid confrontation with players and team officials at all times, but especially immediately after a game when emotions might be high.

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.

Post Game Duties

- At the request help the referee to write a report on any serious penalties if required (Match penalties, Game Misconducts).
- Change into your street clothes and leave the arena at your earliest convenience. Do not discuss any infractions or serious penalty calls on your report with any team official.

The general duties of the linesmen are listed in the IIHF Rule Book.

Face-Offs

Face-off procedure is one of the many important duties that linesman has to complete during a game.

- After play has been stopped, the linesmen shall first ensure that no altercations are taking place. Good awareness is an important quality of good linesmen.
- Once all is clear, the linesman who stops play shall go directly to the face-off spot. The other linesman shall retrieve the puck and promptly proceed to the location of the face-off. It is permissible for the linesman who stops play to pick up the puck if it is close by, or if the other linesman is busy monitoring players who are in close proximity of one another, or if retrieving a broken stick, etc.
- **As soon as the referee drops his arm to indicate that all line changes are complete the linesman conducting the face-off shall blow the whistle.**
- This is to signal both teams that they will have no more than 5 seconds to line up for the face-off. At the end of this 5 seconds (or sooner if the centreman are ready), the Linesman shall be ready to drop the puck.
- The puck should not be dropped by the Linesman conducting the face-off until all players leaving, are off the ice even if the 5 seconds are off.
- The puck should not be dropped by the linesman conducting the face-off until his partner is back in his position even the 5 seconds are off.
- **The linesman conducting the face-off should check behind before blowing the whistle.** Once he blows the whistle, it becomes the other's linesman's responsibility to check for encroachment behind his back.
- The linesman retrieving the puck should be first in the position for conducting the face-off before he will blow the whistle after the referee drops his arm.



Figure 1

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- A face-off shall take place when the referee or linesman drops the puck on the ice between the sticks of the players facing-off. It is the responsibility of the official conducting the face-off to ensure that each player receives a fair opportunity to play the puck.
- The players taking the face-off shall stand squarely facing their opponent's end of the rink. All other players on both teams must be at least 4.6 meters from the players taking the face-off and they must be on-side. For neutral zone and end zone face-offs at the spots, the sticks of both players facing-off shall have the toe of the blade touching the ice within the designated white area. The players of the attacking team shall place the stick within the designated white area first.
- Where players are "difficult" (not lining properly) it is more important to get a good quality drop. Remove the player after one warning. Take your time. Linesmen are advised to set an early and consistent standard in a game.
- All players must be stationary before the face-off is to take place and the puck is dropped.
- The puck may be dropped if only one player is in position for the face-off after the 5 seconds are up.
- If a centreman taking the face-off leaves the face-off position to direct teammates, that centreman shall be removed from the face-off by the linesman.
- For end zone face-offs, all other players on the ice must position themselves with their skates on their own side of the restraining lines (hash marks) marked on the outer edges of the circles 170 cm apart. If a player, other than the player taking the face-off, lines up off-side or moves into the face-off circle prior to the dropping of the puck, then the offending team's player taking the face-off shall be removed from the face-off. The linesman would indicate the removal of the player with arm motion out to the side of the body on the side in which the player is to be removed without blowing the whistle. The linesman should also communicate this verbally by saying something like, "white centre out, your winger encroached". Please refer to the section on Face-Off Encroachment on page 9.

Process to Drop the Puck

- Proper stance by the linesman during the face-off is important.
- When conducting a face-off, the official should stand squarely to the two players involved, about 30 centimetres from the face-off spot
- The linesman's skates should be a shoulder width apart with the knees slightly bent. (Figure 1 – 2) If the skates are too far apart or knees are bent too great an ankle, it will hinder mobility once the puck is dropped.
- The upper part of the body may be slightly bent forward, never so that it is over the face-off dot.
- The puck is held just below belt height level in standing upright position and the puck-hand extended out from the body so that the elbow is slightly in contact with the body, as shown in Figure 3



Figure 2

- The puck should be shown to the players taking the face-off.
- The hand not holding the puck should be placed at your side and never behind your back.
- The puck dropping motion is down, releasing the puck so that it drops flat on the face-off spot. Do not throw it down too hard or drop it too slowly. The recommended grip of the puck is to have the thumb on top, holding the puck against the fingers on the bottom, as in Figure 3. Proper face-off technique must be practiced often to perfect the procedure.



Figure 3

- The linesman taking the face-off shall exit the face-off spot area by backing away towards the boards about 1 metre and avoiding players and then stop to check if the way to the boards is free, he than shall continue towards the boards. When clear of all players play, the linesman shall move quickly to establish correct positioning, but the entire time controlling the play and the puck.

- The back linesman shall remain in position at the blue line as the linesman conducting the face-off resumes his normal positioning between the blue and red line. The only exception to this procedure is that if the play moves out quickly, the back linesman must move quickly to be in position to make a call at the other blue line.
- In general, when players are skating in the area of the face off before the whistle talk to them to line up proper for the face-off. Use 5 seconds to talk to players to get into the proper position. Linesmen should encourage and remind all players about the face-off procedures and standard. Linesmen are encouraged to communicate with players to ensure they understand the basic parameters within which face-offs will be conducted. Your communication should always be through the centre within 5 second time count, wherever possible, as you explain and remind the centre of the procedure and standard, he/she will now take on the responsibility of communicating this to the team.

Note: The success of the face-off procedure hinges on the understanding between the linesman and the players that any contravention of the face-off procedure will consistently result in the immediate removal of the offending team's centre from the face-off. It is imperative that both linesmen are consistent in the application of this procedure and standard. Remember, you are a team and, as such, you both must be consistent to be effective.

- Good face-offs are the major important point.
- The speed of the face-offs should not be a distracting factor from other duties and responsibilities of linesmen. Don't concentrate too much only on this part of your work.
- Better sometimes to use a few extra seconds to get a good quality and fair drop.
- A key factor is that the quality of the face-off should not be sacrificed due to the "fast face-off" procedure.

Face-Off Encroachment

This occurs when a player, other than the centre, stands with a skate either inside the face-off circle, on the face-off circle or in the area between the hash marks, prior to the dropping of the puck. It is acceptable for the player's stick to be inside the face-off circle and the area separated by the hash marks.

Here is how to apply it:

- The linesman or official conducting the face-off should be set and ready at the face-off spot before the arrival of the players. Players not taking the face-off must have their skates completely outside the circle and on their own side of the hash marks. Their sticks are permitted inside the circle and the area separated by the hash marks. This area extends right through the circle to the other side.
- Linesmen can warn players to take up their proper position for the face-off during the time player changes are taking place. However, linesmen should use some common sense and prior to the face-off, as players are preparing, remind them to keep both their skates and sticks in on-side positions. If they do not comply, or line up incorrectly, the linesman is to eject the centre of the offending side out of the face-off circle within the 5 second time count and that player is to be replaced immediately by a teammate on the ice.
- The responsibility of the linesmen with respect to encroachment is simple. The linesman conducting the face-off is responsible for the players directly in front of him and, of course, the centres. The back linesman is responsible for the players behind his partner and any players around the face-off circle that his partner cannot see. Should the back linesman notice that a player is encroaching, he is to blow his whistle and indicate with an arm signal which team is in violation of the encroachment rule. The linesman conducting the face-off would then eject the centre of the offending team and conduct the face - off with a new centre.
- Linesmen must also ensure that the first player to enter the face-off circle is the team whose centre must be ejected from the face-off. Many times when one winger moves into the face-off circle, the opposing player will follow. Too often linesmen will eject both centres in this situation. It is imperative that, if the encroachment rule is to work, the player “most guilty” be the one whose centre is removed from the face-off circle.
- The linesman conducting the face-off must ensure that the centres are fair. By fair, it is meant that both centres are square to the end boards and that their sticks are placed in the designated white area of the face-off spot. Also, the centres must place their sticks on the ice and come to a stop before the puck is to be dropped. The skates of both centres must be behind the designated lines.
- Linesmen should never attempt to time the dropping of the puck with the arrival of the players’ sticks. Remember, the attacking team must place their stick on the ice in the designated white area first.

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- By conducting face-offs with a zero tolerance for encroachment and cheating by the centres, the result will be quicker and more fair face-offs. Linesmen must ensure that they set their standard early and stick to it throughout the game. It is also very important that the standard between linesmen partners be consistent at both ends of the rink.

Linesman's Signals

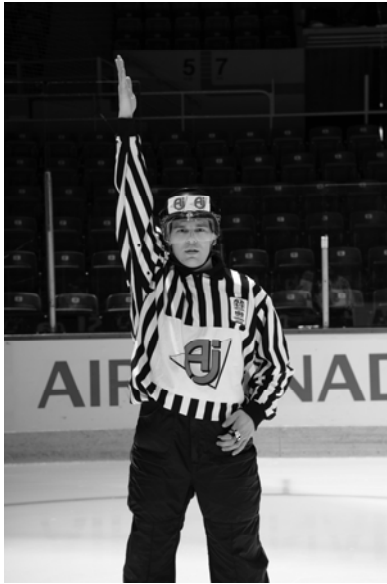


Figure 4



Figure 5a

Delayed Offside

Non-whistle arm fully extending above the head. To cancel out a delayed offside the linesman shall low the arm to the side



Figure 5c



Figure 5b

Icing the Puck

The back linesman (or Referee in the Two Official System) signals a possible icing, by fully extending either arm over his head (Figure 5a). The arm shall remain raised until the front linesman or referee, either blows the whistle to indicate an icing, or until the icing is washed out. Once the icing has been completed, the back linesman or referee shall first cross his arms in front of the chest (Figure 5b) and then shall point to the appropriate face-off spot (Figure 5c) and skate to it.



Figure 6

Offside Call

The official shall first blow the whistle and then extend the arm horizontally pointing along the blue line with non-whistle hand



Figure 7

Too Many Players on the Ice

Indicate with six fingers (one hand open) in front of the chest



Figure 8

Wash Out

A sweeping sideways motion of both arms across the front of the body at shoulder level with palms down:

“No icing”, and, in certain situations,
“No offside”

Offside

Where an offside situation occurs (without a delayed offside), the linesman at the blue line should blow his whistle to stop play and then extend the arm horizontally along the blue line with the non-whistle hand. The linesman who blows the whistle for the offside should go to the spot where the face-off is to take place.

In a situation where there is to be shot at the net simultaneously with an offside, the linesmen are advised to stop the play immediately, and then to show the signal.

When the linesman retrieving the puck is within five metres from the spot, the other linesman can leave and take up his position at the blue line.

Delayed Offside

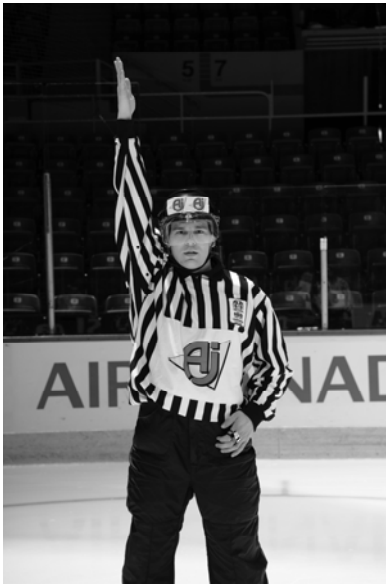


Figure 9

If an attacking player precedes the puck that is shot, passed, or deflected into the attacking zone by a teammate, or deflected into the attacking zone off a defending player, but a defending player is able to play the puck, the linesman shall signal a delayed offside. The linesman shall raise the non-whistle arm above the head immediately and keep the arm raised to indicate to all players, coaches, fans and other officials that the potential offside has been observed by the linesman (Figure 9).

The linesman shall lower the arm sharply to nullify the offside violation and allow play to continue if:

- All attacking players in the attacking zone CLEAR the attacking zone by making skate contact with the blue line. The attacking zone must be completely clear of all attacking players before the offside can be washed out.

- When the delayed offside is on and attacking players are attempting to clear the zone, the linesman shall verbally call out “**okay**” when all players have cleared the zone, and the linesman shall immediately drop the signalling arm.
- However, should all but one or two players clear the zone, the linesman should verbally call out “**offside**” to let attacking players know that the delayed offside is on and the signalling arm shall remain raised.
- The linesman shall blow the whistle to indicate offside when an attacking player touches the puck or attempts to gain possession of a loose puck while the puck is in the attacking zone Interpretation Guidelines

Interpretation Guidelines

- The defending team in the process of clearing the zone may carry the puck behind the goal line, providing they are making no attempt to delay the game.
- If an attacking player, prior to clearing the zone, deliberately plays the puck or checks a defending player who is attempting to advance the puck, **intentional** offside shall be called.
- While the delayed offside is in effect, the attacking team cannot score a goal.

- A goal may be scored by the attacking team once the delayed offside has been washed out and provided the original shot on goal was not offside.
- If the puck is shot from behind the centre red line and crosses the goal line, **icing** shall be called, even though the delayed offside is in effect.

Working the Line

It is essential that linesmen be at the blue line prior to the play crossing the line so that they are in proper position to make the correct call.

Linesmen should **work the line**, meaning that they shall be positioned so that they get the best possible angle to view the play as it crosses the blue line.

In most cases it is recommended to beat the blue line ahead of play skating backwards to control all players and the puck.

Also as a guideline when a defending team gets the possession over puck and it is apparent that play will leave the zone, the back linesman who becomes front linesman should begin moving to his blue line.

The circumstances surrounding every play and the position of the players will determine the distance inside the line that will be required to make the correct call. In some instances, working the line will not be necessary, especially when it is only one attacking player crossing the blue line with the puck with no other players in close proximity. Linesmen must remember to return to their position just outside the blue line immediately after making their call in order not to get in the way of the players or the play.

Linesmen should only change positions at the blue line with his partner, when there is a danger to a linesman or he is in position to be unable to make appropriate call.

Icing

- “Icing the puck” is completed the instant the puck crosses the goal line.
- The back linesman will initiate the signal for icing. To initiate the signal for icing, the back linesman will raise the non-whistle hand straight above the shoulder, as in Figure 10.

- The back linesman shall move up and be at the time the puck is potentially iced close by the red line, to make a correct decision. Then move up to cover the other linesman's blue line, if the play is not called icing and the front linesman is deep in the end zone. If the front linesman is not deep in the end zone, the back linesman is to position himself close to the red line.
- If the back linesman for some reason fails to initiate an obvious potential icing, the front linesman should continue with the icing procedure as normal, having had an eye-contact with the back linesman. If the back linesman fails to initiate an obvious icing, the front linesman should, at the time of an eye-contact with the back linesman, give a signal pointing forward with the hand to the end boards, that icing is the process.
- The front linesman in most cases is the one to make the final decision for an Icing or not.
- If the decision is to cancel out the Icing then the front linesman will wash out the icing using the proper wash-out signal (Figure 11), the back linesman only to drop his arm. In some cases, if the back linesman has better view over the situation, he may then after an eye-contact with the front linesman give the wash-out signal.
- In a close at the red line, the back linesman should either raise his arm to indicate icing or use the wash-out signal to indicate no icing.
- Linesmen are advised to use verbal communication to indicate icing or not.
- The front linesman shall follow the puck in deep to make sure that it completely crosses the goal line. The front linesman shall always check back when the puck crosses the blue line to confirm that the potential icing is still in effect.

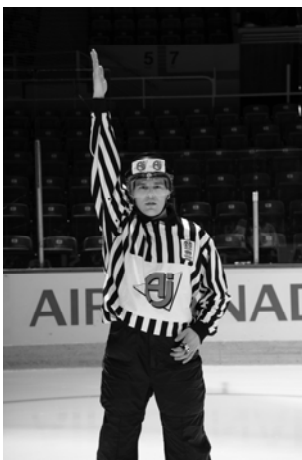


Figure 10

If the back linesman's arm is still up, the icing is still in effect; if the back linesman gives the wash-out signal; the icing is no longer in effect. Verbal communication between the two linesmen should be used when necessary to ensure that the correct call is made.



Figure 11



Figure 12

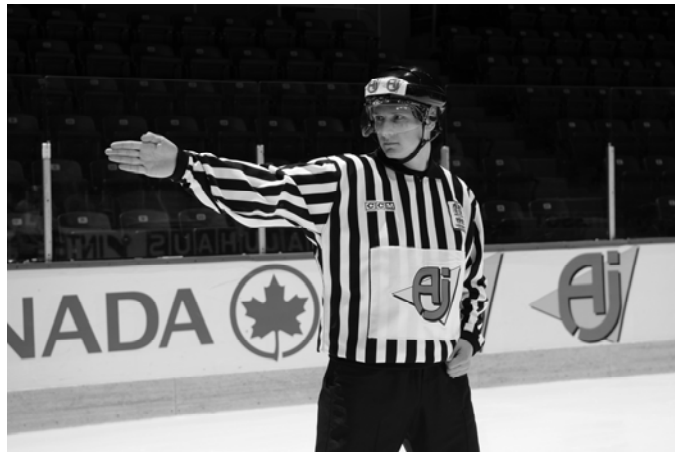


Figure 13

- If the play results in icing, the front linesman shall blow the whistle immediately when the puck crosses the goal line. The area for the front linesman to decide icing or not, is between the blue line and the upper part of the end zone face-off circle.
- Once icing has been called, the back linesman shall fold his arms to signal icing (Figure 12), point to the face-off spot (Figure 13), and skate backwards to the spot, always keeping the players in view.
- As the front linesman goes in deep, the back linesman should move up to at least the center red line to control all players behind the play.
- The front linesman shall retrieve the puck and conduct the face-off. The front linesman shall ensure that all players are kept in view while retrieving the puck and while returning to the other end. Teamwork is essential to good officiating and teamwork is required on every icing situation.
- As the front linesman approaches the circle where the face-off is to take place the other linesman can now move back to the blue line on the opposite side of the ice.

Following Penalty Situations

- When the referee signals a delayed penalty, the back linesman should move up to centre ice and watch the goalkeeper and the player substituting for the goalkeeper to see that the goalkeeper is within three metres of the bench before the substitution is made. If there is premature substitution, the linesman shall stop play and inform the referee.

- When the referee blows the whistle to assess a penalty or penalties, it is important that the linesmen be ready to react. The linesmen should immediately skate to the location of the penalized player or players to be in position to respond.
- Penalized players shall be escorted to the penalty bench or exit, depending on the penalties assessed. If only one player is being penalized, one linesman may escort the penalized player to the penalty bench. If players from both teams are being penalized, then both linesmen shall escort the penalized players to the penalty bench. It is very important that linesmen remain between the penalized players until they have left the ice.
- Once penalized players have been escorted directly to the penalty bench or exit, the linesmen shall return to their respective position to resume play.

Note: Whenever the whistle blows to stop play, both linesmen shall immediately skate to the location of the incident that caused the stoppage of play. Linesmen should not overreact, but should be alert for possible altercations prior to retrieving the puck or getting in position for the ensuing face-off. This is known as having good on-ice AWARENESS.

- It is very important that both linesmen have well on ice awareness and be alert for potential problems on every stoppage of play. Linesmen who demonstrate well on ice awareness and respond quickly on every stoppage of play will make a positive contribution to the overall control of the game and will prevent problems from occurring.

Following the Scoring of a Goal

- When a goal has been scored, it is very important that both linesmen work together. The front linesman shall immediately skate into the end zone. The back linesman should also move into the zone to be positioned between the two teams. Both linesmen must be alert for potential problems and be ready to respond as required.
- Once it is evident that the players are under control, the front linesman shall retrieve the puck and the back linesman should control all the players.
- The front linesman should assist the referee with the assists for a goal when requested by the Referee. The referee may ask either linesman for the assists.

- The linesman shall take up a position for the face-off in front of the “Happy” bench to prevent unnecessary complaining from the team upon which the goal was scored. The “Happy” bench is the bench of the team that scored the goal.

During a Time-out

- Each team is permitted one 30 second time-out per game in accordance with the rules. When a time-out is requested, the referee shall proceed to the penalty bench to report the time-out. The time-out does not start until the referee reports it to the timekeeper.
- All three officials should be in the vicinity of the referee’s crease but should observe the teams. Under some conditions, one linesman may be positioned between the benches during the time-out.
- Once the timekeeper has signalled the referee that the 30 second time-out has expired, the referee shall blow the whistle to resume play. It is important that the referee and linesmen keep the players and both benches in view at all times during the time-out.

Repairing the Ice or Goal Net

- Whenever repairs are required to the ice or goal nets, it is important that at least one of the officials takes up a position to keep an eye on all players on the ice. It is important that the repairs be undertaken and completed without delay.
- It is wise for the linesmen to keep lengths of string or laces in their pocket in order to repair the goal nets if required.

Stoppage of Play - Dislodged Goal Net

- Linesmen are responsible for stopping play whenever the goal net has been displaced from its normal position and the referee has not observed this situation. Linesmen shall follow these guidelines in dealing with this situation:
 - If the puck is in the same end zone as the displaced goal, play must be stopped immediately.

- If the goal is displaced by a player whose team is in control of the puck, play must be stopped immediately.
- If a team has control of the puck in the neutral zone and is moving up the ice, and a player on the opposing team in the opposing team's attacking zone displaced the goal, play shall be allowed to continue until the scoring opportunity by the non-offending team has been completed.

Note: It is possible for a goal to be scored at one end of the ice even though the goal at the opposite end has been displaced.

- However, if the team in control of the puck moves the puck back into their own end zone, with their goal displaced, play shall be stopped immediately.

Breaking up Fights

- Fighting in hockey is not condoned and player safety is of the utmost importance. Linesmen are required to prevent fighting whenever reasonably possible. Linesmen should read the play and react quickly to be in early between the two players to stop the altercation or scrum, and prevent possible fight.
- Linesmen have the responsibility for breaking up fights and separating players involved in fights. It is important that one player not get an advantage to continue to hit another player who is being held or restrained by an official.
- Prior to entering the fight, the linesmen should remove any equipment from the area to prevent them from tripping or falling. Both linesmen must enter the fight together. Prior to entering the fight, the linesmen shall decide which player each will take.
- When the players have stopped throwing punches or one player has gained a significant advantage, then, and only then, should the linesmen attempt to get between them, tying up their arms and forcing them apart.
- To get between players, the linesmen should approach with one official on each side, each taking a player. Do not come in from behind and pull backwards. Come in over top of the player's arms, forcing them down so that they are not able to throw punches. Force players apart with gentle, sustained pressure, using the strength in your legs to force them apart. There is no hurry if they have stopped throwing punches.

- If players are wrestling on the ice, one official should get hold of a free arm of the player on top. The linesman taking the player on the bottom must protect this player from punches. The linesman taking the player on the bottom must come in from the side, covering the player's head and face, protecting the player in doing so.

Note: A linesman should never enter a fight over a player's skates.

- If players are using sticks in the fight, or swinging sticks at each other, linesmen should stay out until they stop swinging the sticks.
- Once players have been separated, it is important that the linesmen let them go. However, the linesmen should be very alert and ready to restrain the players if they try to get away. The body position of the linesmen in relation to the two combatants is extremely important. The linesmen shall remain between the players, keeping them apart, and escort them to the penalty bench or exit as directed by the referee.

Helpful Hints in Breaking up a Fight

- Continually talk to players involved.
- You must remain calm yourself and talk calmly with the players involved in the fight to diffuse their anger and emotion.
- Do not hold players once they have been separated.
- Skate between players involved until they cool down.
- When escorting a player to the penalty bench or exit, position yourself between the player and potential hazards (i.e. the opposing team bench, other players on the ice, the referee, etc.).
- Make sure players are separated on the penalty bench, unless there are separate benches.
- Both linesmen shall mentally record the number of the players involved.
- Do not grab a player's stick and pull it away from the player; instead, push the stick away with an open hand, or come up and grab or pull a player from behind.
- Protect players. It is your duty to see that no player gets the advantage over another player because of the way that you are breaking up the fight.

- In multiple fight situations, linesmen should be methodical in escorting players either to the penalty bench or off the ice. Linesmen should make sure that they have removed the original combatants from the ice before they attempt to break up a second fight. Always work with your partner. Never go in alone.
- In multiple fight situations the two linesmen, are advised to start with most serious couple and escort them first from ice (penalty bench), and continue with the any other fight situation occurring using the same principle.
- Protect yourself. Do not be overeager or zealous. It is a time to exercise extreme caution and good judgement. Remember to remove the whistle from your hand before separating the players.

Reporting Incidents

- Linesmen have the responsibility to report to the referee all Bench Minor, Major, Misconduct or Match penalties they have observed. Linesmen cannot stop play when one of the above incidents occur (except for too many players on the ice), but must wait for a stoppage of play.
- Linesmen should not wait to be consulted by the referee, but should report the incident without delay on the first stoppage of play after the incident.
- The following guidelines shall be followed whenever reporting to the referee:
 - It is preferred to have all discussion in the Referee's Crease.
 - Keep it brief
 - Remain calm and remember you are only making a report to the referee. The referee is responsible for making the call.
 - State exactly what was observed (i.e. "Number 14 blue high-sticked Number 7 red"; or, "the blue bench is verbally abusing me"; or, "Number 6 red slashed Number 8 white").
 - The linesman does not state what penalty if any should be assessed, but is only reporting the incident. It is the referee's responsibility to end the conversation (i.e. "Are we talking a Major or Match penalty?"; or, "Thanks, I will warn them"; or, "Thank you, I saw it.").

- Linesmen are to follow the lead of the referee in these conversations. Any questions about the referee's final decision should take place in the privacy of the officials' dressing room.
- The referee shall ensure that both linesmen report their version to the referee at the penalty bench area. A referee will never assess penalties on incidents reported by a linesman without consulting both linesmen.

Covering for the Referee

- Occasionally, the referee will get trapped behind the play, in which case the linesman will be required to leave the blue line to cover for the referee. This normally happens on quick break-outs or when the referee gets caught up in the play and is unable to catch up.
- The linesman should not leave the blue line until the play has crossed the line. This will permit the linesman to make the correct call with respect to the play being on side.
- As the linesman goes in deep to cover for the referee on a fast break (provided the referee has been trapped a considerable distance behind the center red line), he must remember that coverage of his own blue line has his main priority.
- Once the decision to go deep has been made, the linesman should go directly through Base of Operations to at the Net Position.
- The linesman covering for the referee should utilize the normal end zone positioning and follow the play right into the net, just as the referee would do. This linesman must stay in the end zone until the referee is in position to make the necessary calls.
- If the play results in the scoring of a goal, the linesman covering for the referee should give the correct signal by pointing to the net. The linesman does not blow the whistle to stop play, but rather the referee shall blow the whistle. **The linesman never washes out a goal either; only the referee.**
- If no goal is scored on the play, it is then the responsibility of the linesman to avoid colliding with the referee when returning to the appropriate position in the neutral zone.
- It is very important that linesmen demonstrate good on-ice awareness and that they are prepared to cover for the referee and their partner when required.

Team work with Other Linesman

- Linesmen should consider teamwork and communication essential to their duties. Linesmen should be in the habit of communicating with each other when situations that require linesmen to cover for each other present themselves during the game.
- There are common situations that consistently arise that warrant one linesman covering for the other linesman. These situations are outlined below.

End Zone

- The linesman who conducts the end zone face-off should move immediately back to the side boards after dropping the puck, then continue along the boards back toward the neutral zone, stopping near the centre red line.
- As the linesman moves back into position after dropping the puck, he must watch the movement of the puck at all times.
- The linesman who is covering the blue line during the face-off must remain at the blue line, and continue to watch play and cover the blue line.
- If the puck goes immediately out of the end zone after the face-off, the linesman who is covering the blue line must go with the play, and the linesman who took the face-off must stop at the blue line, and then follow play up the ice.
- As the front linesman goes in deep, he must be aware of the fact that the back linesman now has the responsibility to cover both the front line and the far blue line in the situation of a long pass up ice to that line. As a result, the front linesman should make a determined effort to get back to his line as quickly as possible. In the situation where the front linesman goes in deep to cover for the referee, the back linesman should move up 2/3 of the distance between the red and blue line.
- The back linesman must move up and cover the blue line until the linesman who has covered for the referee is able to return to the line.

Neutral Zone

- When face-offs take place at the face-off spot just outside the blue line, it is the responsibility of the linesman not dropping the puck to make any calls at that line.

- The linesman who does not take the face-off is responsible for covering one of the blue lines, depending on the direction of the movement of the puck after the face-off. If the puck goes into the end zone, the free linesman will stay and cover the blue line and linesman dropping the puck will drop back near the centre red line.
- If the puck goes in the direction of the centre red line, the free linesman will follow the puck in that direction, covering the far blue line.
- Both linesmen must work together and, if it appears the puck will cross the blue line, the free linesman will hold his position at the blue line and the other linesman can drop back to the red line.
- As a back linesman follows the play up the ice, he should not leave his blue line until at least all attacking players have left that zone.
- At no time with play in progress should the back linesman be further up the ice than the last attacking player. This means there should be no attacking players between him and the blue line.
- As the back linesman moves up the ice to follow the play, he should avoid «tunnel vision» and not just follow the puck but «keep the head moving» and watch the entire ice surface as in all probability the referee and front linesman will be watching the puck.
- Due to the possibility of long passes up the ice, and the blue line not covered or a linesman being late getting to the line, the switching of linesmen at the front blue line (as the front linesman may get blocked out) should be kept to a minimum and only under extreme circumstances.
- Whenever the puck and/or play is in the neutral zone, both linesmen should be at their blue lines.
- Linesmen must be aware of the players coming out of the penalty bench or off the player's bench and receiving a long pass from the end zone.

General

- Linesmen should communicate during the game when a team becomes shorthanded and also when the team returns to full strength.
- Communication and teamwork between the linesmen will ensure limited disruptions to the flow of the game by the officials. Dedicated linesmen should endeavour at all times to make the job of the referee as easy as possible by attempting to limit the “controllable” distractions. A positive focus will always result in good preparation and game management.

- No not throw puck to your partner.

Awareness

- In addition to all the other duties, linesmen 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. Linesmen should not leave their blue line until all players have left the zone. In icing situation as the back Linesman moves up the ice, but still control the players behind play.
- Awareness is very important during stoppages of play. Linesmen must be aware of what all players are doing on the ice before retrieving the puck or attending to other duties.
- Linesmen should always anticipate potential altercations and attempt to diffuse any situation before the referee is compelled to assess a penalty.
- Linesmen, 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.
- In situations where a player(s) is in discussion or going to be in discussion with the referee, the linesman should be close by, but should never step in between the player(s) and the referee. Linesman just to be close and ready to report in case of a need.

Linesmen's Responsibilities, Procedures and Guidelines

When removing the Goalkeeper for an Extra Player while play is in Progress

- When it appears that a team is about to substitute a player for their goalkeeper while play is in progress, the back linesman has the responsibility to see that the change is not made too quickly.
- This means that the back linesman must follow all the players up the ice, watch the exchange and, if the player leaves the bench before the goalkeeper is within three metres of the bench, he should then blow the whistle to stop play, provided that that team has possession of the puck.
- Following the stoppage of play, the back linesman should go to the centre ice face-off spot while the other linesman retrieves the puck and conducts the face-off.

When a Goalkeeper is to be assessed a penalty (Delayed)

- When a goalkeeper is to be assessed a penalty, both linesmen should mentally record the numbers of the players of the goalkeeper's team on the ice. If the referee should request this information, then you, as a linesman, can provide it for him.
- Before or during the process of retrieving the puck, the linesmen should be aware of all players and any problems that may occur.
- The linesman in whose end the penalty occurred should go to the location of the face-off while the other linesman retrieves the puck and conducts the face-off.
- Linesmen should be aware of the rule that requires all goalkeeper penalties to be served by a player on the ice. Where a goalkeeper is assessed a Minor plus Misconduct penalty, two players from the ice, must serve the penalties; one player for two minutes and one player for 12 minutes.

When stopping play for “Too many players on the ice”

- When the team in possession of the puck has “too many players on the ice”, the linesmen should stop play if the referee does not observe the infraction. Upon stopping play, the linesman should report to the referee, who will assess the penalty.
- The linesmen do not have the authority to assess the penalty. This is the responsibility of the referee.
- When the team not in possession of the puck has “too many players on the ice”, the linesman should report this infraction verbally to the offending team immediately and to the referee on the first stoppage of play or stop the play at the time the offending team gets the possession over puck.



Figure 14

- The signal which is used in this situation illustrated in Figure 14.

Note: It is recommended that the linesman leave the area in front of the Player's bench as soon as the penalty has been assessed.

After a Penalty Call

- After a penalty call, both linesmen should be aware of any type of verbal or physical abuse to the referee and should disregard retrieving the puck until they are certain that no problems are about to develop. This does not mean that linesmen should skate with the referee to the timekeeper's bench or interfere with the penalized player, but they should be alert.

- Linesmen should not push a player back from arguing with the referee or make physical contact with the penalized player in this type of situation.
- When two players have been penalized, both linesmen should skate with them to the penalty box, but should not push them. When only one player has been penalized, it is not necessary for a linesman to skate with him to the penalty box.
- The linesman in whose half of the ice the face-off is to take place should skate to the location of the face-off, while the other linesman retrieves the puck and then conducts the face-off.

Note: Both linesmen should be aware that there are no problems or possible altercations before retrieving the puck and going to the location of the face-off.

Positioning and Duties during a Penalty Shot

- The linesmen should be positioned in the following manner:
 - One linesman should be positioned on the goal line and slightly further out from the goal than the referee. His responsibility is to watch the play in a manner similar to that of the referee. However, he will only give a decision or interpretation when requested to do so by the referee and **MUST** wait until requested by the referee before giving any decision.
 - The other linesman should be positioned at the centre red line on the opposite side of the ice from the bench of the team against which the shot is taken, or in front of the timekeeper's bench.

This linesman should ensure that all players are kept back of the centre red line during the shot.

He must also ensure that there is no interference or distraction from the teams during the course of the shot.

Similarly, this linesman must wait to give any decision until requested by the referee.

Note: Linesmen should ONLY report any incident to the referee when requested by the referee.



SECTION 5

During a Stick Measurement

- It is recommended that any stick measurement take place at the timekeeper's bench and within the referee's crease.
- While a stick measurement is taking place, all players should be instructed to go to their players' benches, however, the two captains may remain in the vicinity of the crease.
- It is the responsibility of the referee to measure the stick himself, and ONLY at the request of the referee should the linesmen become involved in the measurement.
- The main responsibility of the linesmen is to keep all players of both teams in view and to assist the referee when necessary.

When a Player Contacts the Puck with a High Stick

- In all instances, the linesmen should give the referee the opportunity to make the call first. There will be situations when, for some reason, the referee did not observe this infraction, the Linesman shall make a call.
- Where the puck is contacted with the stick above the height of the crossbar and enters the net, the goal is disallowed. As the referee is much closer to the net, this should be his call, but both Linesmen should be ready to assist.
- In all situations, the linesmen must be prepared to give their versions of such infractions when requested by the referee.

When There is a Hand Pass

- The linesmen should follow the same guidelines as when the puck is contacted with a high stick, giving the referee the first opportunity to make the call.
- Linesmen should have knowledge of the rule and all interpretations that permit the defending team to make a hand pass in their own defending zone.

Tips for Linesmen

- When the puck is shot over the boards, give the referee the opportunity to call it.
- Don't go deep into the end zone when the referee is only a short distance behind the play.
- When following play into the end zone, stay near the boards.
- Don't blow the whistle in an effort to get play started.
- Don't blow the whistle to stop a roughing situation after play has been stopped.
- Near the end of a period, the back linesman should watch the clock to determine when the period is over.
- With the puck in the neutral zone, both linesmen should be close to their respective blue lines.
- On a face-off, make sure that the referee is ready and in position before dropping the puck.
- At the start of each period, linesmen should direct all but six players to go directly to their benches.
- As the referee comes out of the end zone to follow play up the ice, the back linesman should watch players coming out of the end zone behind the referee.
- Be agile and alert to avoid blocking and stopping the puck along the side boards.
- A close offside play at a blue line would not usually be classified as an "intentional" offside.
- Linesmen should be alert at all times and aware of everything that is happening on the ice, and provide information when requested by the referee.
- When retrieving the puck, the linesman should be watching all of the players on the ice.



SECTION 5

Summary

The duties of a linesman are very important to the overall game. Alert, hustling linesmen, who are technically strong, can promote the smooth flow of the game.