Ask the Official - Week 23

February 22-28, 2013

QUESTION #1: Team A's coach is whistling to get his players to make changes. Team B's coach asked me to ask him to stop as this was confusing his players and he felt someone could get hurt. Is there any specific rule(s) that could be applied?

ANSWER #1: There is no rule within the USA Hockey Playing Rules that restricts a coach from whistling to his players to change lines. If the whistling is causing an obvious distraction to the participants then the official can ask the coach to stop, but if he refuses then the game should continue. The official can forward the matter to his Supervisor of Officials who can pass the information onto the Local Hockey Association to handle.

QUESTION #2: Not that I agree with this but we have a goalkeeper who does not like to wear anything behind her leg pads. She basically wears shorts under her hockey pants and goes bare legged behind the pads. We are going to put a halt to it as a safety concern, but we were wondering if there is any rule to specific to this that can support us?

ANSWER #2: Strictly speaking, there is no specific rule in the USA Hockey Playing Rules that mandates goalkeepers to wear socks, sweats, or some other leg covering under their leg-pads.

QUESTION #3: During the game the coach decided to substitute our goalkeeper. The referee would not allow the substitution because we were the visiting team and the home team had already had the "last change".

ANSWER #3: The “last change” privilege that is awarded to Home Teams does not apply to goalkeepers. The “spirit and intent” of “last change” is to allow the Home Team to wait and see what players the Visiting Team is placing on the ice. It’s very unlikely a Home Team is attempting to match lines with the visiting goalkeeper (or empty net). That being stated, both teams are expected to execute any goalkeeper substitution within the 10-15 seconds of the line-change process.

QUESTION #4: In the Basic Officials Manual, under Officiating Equipment, we are required to wear a black helmet, my question is does the new Easton E700 Matte Black meet this requirement?

ANSWER #4: Strictly speaking this helmet does conform to the traditional officiating uniform policies. However, the matte finish would likely contrast with the polished helmets of the other officials on the ice.

QUESTION #5: This past weekend we had an official call a two line pass foul because the pass crossed the red line. I don't see this foul listed in the USAH Rulebook for 2011-13. Can you please clarify if this is still a violation.

ANSWER #5: There are no provisions in the USA Hockey Playing Rules that prohibit the traditional “off-side” pass. All passes between zones are legal as long as they do not cause an offside play into the attacking zone.