Ask the Official - Week 21

February 8-14, 2013

QUESTION #1: An attacking player has possession of the puck and is skating into the attacking zone preparing to make a shot. A defender is skating behind him and is close enough to place the shaft of his stick over the top of the attacking player's stick, just barely below the hands of the attacking player. Is this a penalty?

ANSWER #1: A “stick-press” or “stick-lift” is legal if it is confined to the lower portion of the stick (near the blade) and does not contact the hands. Otherwise, a penalty for Hooking should be called.

QUESTION #2: I am a goaltender and yesterday during my game the referee said the holes on my cage were too big and stopped the game to check it by putting a player's stick blade into it. After he did that he determined that I could play with it for the game. Then after the game he checked the goalkeeper's helmet of a team playing in the following game (They each had "cat-eye" cages) and determined that they couldn't use those helmets because he put the handle end of a player's stick in one of the holes. What is the rule for the size of the holes on my face-mask?

ANSWER #2: All players at the Youth level must wear a HECC approved helmet and face-mask. Approval can be verified by identifying the HECC approval sticker located on the helmet and face-mask. For more information, we recommend checking out HECC.net. As long as the face-mask is approved it is fit for play.

QUESTION #3: I see more and more goalkeepers using a shiny almost reflective dangler for throat protection. Are they legal? It seems to be a distraction to the shooter if they are looking at the goalkeeper's helmet.

ANSWER #3: There are no specific rules in the USA Hockey Rulebook that prevent goalkeepers from wearing equipment painted in a certain color.

QUESTION #4: On an premature goalkeeper substitution, does the goalkeeper have to return to the goal and the substitution be retried after the ensuing face off?

ANSWER #4: If a team makes a premature substitution for a goalkeeper (resulting in a stoppage of play) they do not have to place the goalkeeper back on the ice. The face-off location would penalize this team (potentially taking away half a length of ice).

QUESTION #5: If a player takes a slap shot and the follow-through of the stick (above the waist) hits a player in the helmet, is it still considered high sticking?

ANSWER #5: All players are responsible for their sticks at all levels of our game. Any contact (back-swing, follow-through, or otherwise) with an opponent that occurs above the height of the shoulders should be penalized for high sticking. Furthermore, a major plus game misconduct penalty should be assessed if an injury results from this contact.