Ask the Official - Week 14

December 21-28, 2012

QUESTION #1: A referee assesses a misconduct to a player and hours later realizes it should have been a game misconduct. Is there any procedure to follow-up on the mistake?

ANSWER #1: If a game official realizes that an incorrect penalty was assessed, he is obligated to file a game report to his Local Supervisor of Officials who will forward it to the governing body (association, league, affiliate, etc.) of the player, coach, or team who will make sure the player serves any type of suspension.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the local governing body and head coach to make sure the proper player is held accountable for any infraction that results in a game misconduct.

QUESTION #2: I am a brand new referee and I want to know how to get games?

ANSWER #2: Since all game assignments are handled by your local officiating association or local assignor we recommend contacting them through your USA Hockey State or Local Supervisor of Officials. Contact information can be found by following the appropriate District link at the main Directory page at the Officiating section of USAHockey.com.

QUESTION #3: A player approaches his attacking blue line with control of the puck. The same player loses control of the puck (the puck is no longer on his stick and about a stride behind) just before the blue line and proceeds without the puck into the attacking zone. The player stops just inside the blue line and retrieves the puck before it crosses the blue line with his feet and body still completely inside the attacking zone (only his stick reaches back to retrieve the puck). How should this play be ruled, off-side or on-side?

ANSWER #3: Rule 630(b) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“A player who is actually in possession and control of the puck prior to entering the attacking zone and precedes the puck into the zone is not considered “off-side.”

The determination must be made by the official whether the player had possession and control of the puck as he crossed the blue line.

QUESTION #4: What is the sequence and progression of penalties for a coach that abuses the official from the bench?

ANSWER #4: Situation #7 on Page 195 of the Playing Rules Casebook states,

“A Coach verbally abuses an Official on the way to the dressing room at the end of a period. What is the sequence of penalties assessed to the Coach?

A bench minor penalty followed by a game misconduct penalty if the abuse continues. Rule References 601(b.1 and e.1).

Just as if it was during play, the proper sequence of penalties as outlined in the rules must be followed by the Referee. Rule 633 Refusing to Start Play would kick in if the situation were to persist at the start of the next period.”

QUESTION #5: On a face-off, do the players have to wait until the puck hits the ice or may they hit it with their stick when it is still in the air?

ANSWER #5: Situation #4 on Page 223 of the Playing Rules Casebook states,

“The Linesman drops the puck and before it hits the ice, one of the centers hits the puck out of the air with the blade of his stick. Should the Linesman allow the play to continue?

Yes. Rule Reference 613(a)

As long as the player made a legal attempt to gain possession of the puck, the play shall be allowed to continue. If the Linesman had dropped the puck and it accidentally hit the stick or glove of either player facing-off, play must be immediately stopped and a new face-off conducted.”