Ask the Official - Week 11

November 23 - 29, 2012

QUESTION #1: If the same player receives two penalties for different infractions (e.g. slash, then a trip) before play is stopped, should the offending team be shorthanded two players for two minutes or one player for four minutes?

ANSWER #1: If a player receives a delayed penalty and then commits another infraction during the delay, the resulting on-ice strength would be 5 v. 4 (assuming no other penalties are assessed). On-ice strength reflects the number of players on a team who are penalized not the number of penalties.

QUESTION #2: When an official makes an error by calling an icing during a penalty, where will the face-off take place?

ANSWER #2: Rule 624(c) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“If the Officials shall have erred in calling an “icing the puck” infraction (regardless of whether either team is shorthanded) a last play face-off (end zone face-off spot nearest to the location of the puck when play was stopped) shall occur.”

QUESTION #3: If a team has seventeen players can a third goalie dress? Been looking for the rule and do not find any rule that prohibits this.

ANSWER #3: Rule 201(a) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“A maximum of 20 players, in which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in the game.”

Therefore, a team may dress seventeen players and three goalkeepers.

QUESTION #4: If an altercation happens at the end of the game and the officials assess some penalties, when does the time expire for them to add additional suspensions before the game sheet becomes permanent and not able to be changed?

ANSWER #4: In the event that an altercation occurs at the end of a game the officials should make their penalty decisions prior to signing the game sheet. This might occur in the officials’ locker room since that would provide a good location for the officials to discuss what occurred during the altercation. They would not be forced to make decisions during the handshake or while dodging the zamboni.

Once they enter the penalties and sign the game sheet, it should be submitted to the official scorer.

If the Referee discovers that a mistake was made in the assessment of penalties, he may submit a Supplemental Discipline Report to his Local Supervisor of Officials who will follow through with the team’s governing body (Association, League, Affiliate, etc.).

QUESTION #5: We were called for a delay of game penalty when our goalie dove on the puck in front of our net. The referee told me it was because the goalkeeper didn't have contact with his crease.

ANSWER #5: Goalkeepers are not permitted to cover a puck unless it is considered “in the act of playing goal”. In other words, a goalkeeper may not dive on a puck that is located in the corner of the end zone, or not located anywhere near his/her crease area.

One exception to this rule would be a goalkeeper who leaves their crease to “cut down the angle” of a long shot and then drops onto a rebound.

The general guideline is "was the goalkeeper preventing a goal, or only preventing an opponent from playing the puck with no threat of a scoring opportunity?"