Ask the Official - Week 5

October 12 - 18, 2012

QUESTION #1: In a non-contact game, the puck is dumped from the neutral zone into the corner. Instead of skating after the puck the defender skates in a zig-zag pattern in front of an attacking player at the blue line. There is never any contact between players as the attacking player attempts to skate around the defender to get to the puck, but has to take a much wider path. A second defending player is then able to reach the puck before the attacking player. Is the defender guilty of interference?

ANSWER #1: The USA Hockey Standard of Play states,

“INTERFERENCE

A player cannot use his/her body (“pick” or “block”) to impede the progress of an opponent with no effort to play the puck, maintain normal foot speed or established skating lane. Examples include:

- Intentionally playing the body of an opponent who does not have possession or possession and control of the puck.

- Using the body to establish a ”pick” or “block” that prevents an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier.

- Reducing foot speed or changing an established skating lane for the purpose of impeding an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier.”

QUESTION #2: I worked a game today and had a pretty serious Boarding incident. Although the player was down and attended to by his coach, he was not injured. My partner and I agreed that a minor plus a misconduct should be assessed (and we did). Thinking about this later we were unsure if a major penalty or double minor would have been the correct call. What's the right call here?

ANSWER #2: Under USA Hockey Playing Rules an official cannot assess a minor plus misconduct penalty for Boarding. The only available options are minor, major, or major plus game misconduct (if injury occurs). If the official judges that the degree of force and recklessness of the hit outweighs a minor penalty he may assess a major penalty. If the player receiving the illegal hit is injured, the official must assess the major plus game misconduct.

QUESTION #3: Does a head coach who receives three bench minors in one game automatically get a game misconduct?

ANSWER #3: There is no rule in the USA Hockey Playing Rules that mandates an additional Game Misconduct to a coach who receives his third bench minor penalty during a game. However, an official might consider reporting any coach who earns three bench minor penalties in one game to the Local Supervisor of Officials who will contact the team’s local hockey association (or Affiliate) to investigate the matter.

QUESTION #4: Is it true that the officials need to be on the ice before any kids step on the ice before the game begins?

ANSWER #4: It is the policy of the USA Hockey Officiating Program that the game officials should always be the first and last people on the ice during a game. Additionally, the home team is obligated to notify the game officials if the game time is adjusted to begin early.

QUESTION #5: I need to find out what I need to do to receive a replacement patch.

ANSWER #5: all USA Hockey Officials may purchase an additional or replacement Crest for $5.00.

Please send a check or money order (Payable to: USA Hockey Officiating Program) to:

USA Hockey Officiating Program

Attn: Helen Fenlon

1775 Bob Johnson Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Please add a letter of request that includes:

-Your USA Hockey Officiating Number

-Your mailing address

-Contact information (email, phone #, etc.)

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH. Once we receive your purchase request and payment we will be happy to send you a new Crest.