Ask the Official - Week 1

August 31 - September 7, 2012

Question #1: Team B is short-handed with a player in the penalty box for a minor penalty. Team B player trips a Team A player coming in on a breakaway, and a delayed penalty is signaled on Team B. A penalty shot situation would have applied, but the Team A player scores anyway. I counted the goal for Team A and had the scorekeeper mark a minor tripping penalty for the tripping call on Team B, but since a goal was scored I said the penalty would not be served. Team A remained short-handed until their minor penalty expired. Was this correct?

Answer #1: Since the attacking team scored on the play the infraction could not result in a penalty shot. However, the goal would nullify the penalty being served at the time of the infraction, and the delayed tripping minor would be immediately recorded and served.

Count the goal, and start play 5 v. 4 for two minutes.

Question #2: In a college club game (using USAH Playing Rules Rules), what penalty should be called if another player intentionally pulls of an opposing players helmet?

Answer #2: Rule 615(c) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player whose helmet/facemask comes off their head during an altercation.

A match penalty shall be assessed to any player who deliberately removes his (or opponent’s) helmet/face-mask prior to or during an altercation.”

That being stated, several College Club leagues use an amended version of the USA Hockey Rulebook. Therefore we recommend contacting the ACHA officiating department to find out more about ACHA College Club rules.

Question #3: In a game I recently officiated, I signaled a delayed penalty for the Home Team. As my arm was in the air (delayed penalty signal), the Away Team pulled their goalkeeper and scored a goal. After blowing my whistle and signaling the goal, my partner skated up to me and informed me play should have been stopped due to a premature substitution of the goaltender. What is the proper call and should the goal stand?

Answer #3: If the attacking team made a premature substitution for their goalkeeper during the delayed penalty call then the goal must be disallowed. Ultimately, the officials need to quickly discuss the play to “get the call correct”. Despite the unfortunate situation this is what they should remind the coach if he complains about the late substitution call nullifying the goal (“it’s an ugly call, but it’s the correct call”).

Question #4: May a 18 & Under (Midget) age player play on more than one team at a time?

Answer #4: Since District Registrars are responsible for tracking player and team eligibility we encourage you to contact them with this question. Your District Registrar’s contact information can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guidebook located at the AboutUSAH link at USAHockey.com.

Question #5: A Team A player is fouled-from-behind near the Team B goal on a break-a-way. An altercation broke out after the whistle and the Team B goalkeeper was ejected from the game. Team B did not have a substitute goalkeeper. If Team A decides to accept the penalty shot, does Team B have to place a "temporary goalkeeper" in goal to defend against the penalty shot.

Answer #5: It is the interpretation of the USAH Playing Rules Committee that a team must have a goalkeeper, or temporary goalkeeper (see USAH Rulebook definition) in place during a penalty shot. Therefore, the offending team would need to designate a temporary goalkeeper to defend against the shot if the opposing team decides to take the shot.