Ask the Official - Week 20

February 1-7, 2013

QUESTION #1: Is there a way game statistics should be processed after the game? In other words, what should happen to the stats sheet? Can anyone change the stats after the officials sign the sheet?

ANSWER #1: Score-sheets are typically created in a carbon-copy triple-sheet format. One copy is given to the Home Team after the game, another goes to the Visiting Team, and the final copy (usually the top copy) is forwarded to the Local Hockey Association or League for the purposes of keeping stats and following through on any disciplinary matters (i.e. suspensions).

A game sheet may never be changed following a game. Any changes that need to be made by the referee must be made by submitting a Game Report to the USAH Local Supervisor of Officials, who will then follow through with the Local Hockey Association.

QUESTION #2: At a recent game a player on the other team was ejected for fighting. He and our player received minors. In addition we were given a ten minute power-play. In forty years of watching hockey I have never seen this at any level. I felt sorry for the other team as we scored three goals. Is there any situation where a double major results in a ten minute power-play?

ANSWER #2: There are situations where a player could put his team at a ten minute disadvantage but it does not happen very often. If a player commits a spearing infraction and subsequently delivers multiple punches to an opponent, he could be given two major penalties for Spearing and Fighting (in addition to game misconducts). If the opponent does not retaliate, his team would not be penalized. This would result in a 5 v. 4 power-play for ten minutes (rare, but possible).

QUESTION #3: A player on Team A received a penalty for boarding and a game misconduct because a player from Team B had to leave the ice due to injury. The hurt player from Team B returned to the game the same period and scored two goals. The referee stated at the time of the penalty he had to give the player from Team A a game misconduct because the player from Team B was hurt and had to leave the ice. Should the player from Team B (the hurt player) be allowed to return after player from Team A was thrown out? This situation occurred with the same team two weekends in a row. Same player from Team B leaves the ice hurt and then returns to play.

ANSWER #3: The game officials must assess a major plus game misconduct if they believe a player is injured as the result of most infractions of the playing rules (slashing, hooking, etc.). Since the officials are not trained medical personnel or doctors, they must use their best judgment when determining whether a player is injured.

That being stated, if a team is suspected of allowing players to fake an injury to remove opponents from the game the issue should be reported to the Local Hockey Association or League that governs the team.

QUESTION #4: Is it legal for a player to participate in a game with their hockey pants unzipped on the inside of their legs?

ANSWER #4: The USA Hockey interpretation of this situation is the pants must be zipped up to provide the best protection to players. Furthermore, any excessive rips must be repaired.

QUESTION #5: Team A has two players in the box with respectively one minute for Player #3 and 15 seconds for Player #17 remaining in their penalties (5 on 3 on ice). Coincidental penalties are called. Does Player #17 (with 15 seconds left) return to ice on fly when penalty expires even though there are three Team A players in box (i.e. stacked). I believe he does because the third man in box was part of a coincidental minor call.

ANSWER #5: Coincidental penalties do not affect the on-ice strength of the game and therefore do not appear on the game clock. The two players enter the penalty bench and remain there until the first stoppage following the expiration of their penalties. Therefore, they would not impact the two Team A players returning to the ice.