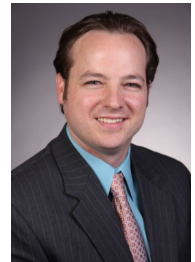




# AHOA NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Chris Zorza  
President

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The 2016-2017 season is here and we are off to a great start. Over Labor Day weekend 94 games were worked and 66 AZYHL games were worked the weekend of September 9-11<sup>th</sup>. I have heard nothing but positive feedback and want thank everyone who worked games for doing your part to show the strength of Arizona Officiating.

On the business side of AHOA I have some budget updates to share. The organization has a focus to run a lean budget and keep the majority of funds going to payment of officials working the games. During our review of the budget during the off-season we found that Arbiter is our biggest expense. This has a negative impact on our ability to execute in key areas like training, development and mentoring programs. One of the costs in Arbiter is a \$5.00 user license fee for every account we create in the system, and with over 320 users, this adds up quickly. The AHOA Board has decided to pass this fee on to each user in order to bolster the training budget. This \$5.00 fee will be deducted in a future payroll cycle that is still to be determined, and will be an annual deduction for each user. This may happen as early as the September payroll and for those who did not work games that month, it will be deducted in a future month. If you have any questions on this decision please feel free to reach out to me or any other Board member.

Good Luck this season,  
Chris Zorza

### Helpful Links:

- ◆ [AHOA Website](#)
- ◆ [AHOA Facebook](#)
- ◆ [AAHA Website](#)
- ◆ [ArbiterSports](#)
- ◆ [USAH Officials](#)
- ◆ [Ref Closet](#)



Pants looking a little worn? Helmet scratched up? Laces turning black? Whistle on its last gasp? Shin tights falling apart???

Then be sure to visit [Referee's Closet](#) for all your official's gear needs!

AHOA members receive a 10% discount from orders at Referee's Closet!\*

**Use promo code: 'AHOA' when ordering online or over the phone!**

\*The AHOA discount code is only valid to the members of the Arizona Hockey Officials Association. All use of the discount code is manually verified for eligibility after the order is placed. The discount cannot be used on any customized items or products that fall under Minimum Advertised Pricing structures.

## Monthly Q&A Review

### [Week 83 \(August 8th\)](#)

[Referee Line Change Video](#)

[Linesman Line Change Video](#)

### [Week 84 \(August 15th\)](#)

**Q. Two opposing players skate into the corner in an effort to hold the puck along the boards until the Officials stop play. When should the Official stop play?**

A. The Official must only stop play if a player falls onto or is knocked down onto the puck, or if it is evident that unnecessary contact will result from allowing the play to continue. Rule References 632(a Note & b). The Referee must use verbal commands during this play in an attempt to keep play moving. He cannot blow the whistle simply because two opposing players want to obtain a stoppage. Whenever a player falls on the puck, play must be stopped immediately. If a player intentionally falls on the puck, a minor penalty for Delaying the Game must be called. In the instance in which only one player intentionally holds the puck along the boards for three seconds, the Referee shall have no alternative but to assess a minor penalty for Delaying the Game to the offending player.

### [Week 85 \(August 22nd\)](#)

[Face-off location Video](#)

### [Week 86 \(August 29th\)](#)

**Q. Two players are battling in front of the goal and competing for body position. The defensive player uses the stick – with no extension of the arms – to “steer” the attacking player in a desired direction. May this be considered cross-checking?**

A. No. Rule Reference 609(a). Even though two hands are on the stick and the blade may be off the ice, the fact that the arms have not been extended and no check is being delivered means that cross-checking has not occurred. Of course, if a competitive advantage is gained and there is no puck in the area, an interference penalty may apply.

Did you know that Maple Leaf Gardens, former home of the Toronto Maple Leafs, became the first arena to have a four-sided game clock, in 1932?

## Training & Development

One of our very own Arizona officials, Ryan Schwarzer, attended the NHL Combine camp for referees in August and here is what he had to say!

As a western born and raised hockey player and official, I was not expecting to become an invite to the NHL Exposure Combine competing against former/current professional prospects on both the officiating and players side of the game. With that, I took a risk and applied to the combine in hopes of having a great time, learning a thing or two more about the stripes, all while getting my name out there to the higher levels. After attending, I believe I achieved just that goal. This weekend at the combine, although tough, was an absolute blast. There was a ton of hockey to be played and officiated, as well as physical tests, which included: bike tests, agility, strength, running/endurance, and on ice sprint times. Making one realize just how athletic the high level officials are required to be. It takes both the skills and hockey sense to be at the top in any level of this game, and if someone second guesses that they'll think again after attending this camp. Surprisingly, after all of the physical tests were over, and my times and scores came back fairly good (some tests better than others) I felt as if I fit right in with the rest of the participants.

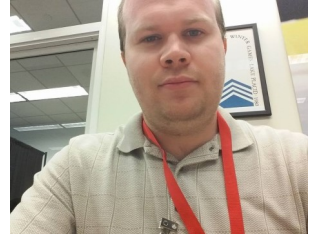
After the physical testing, most of the camp was held in a game-like situation where we utilized the four-man officiating system, along with the NHL's rules. Whenever you weren't officiating you were playing and vice versa, and when it was all said and done I'd say we fit approximately 20+ hours of ice-time into a two and a half day time period. Safe to say that my legs were complete jell-o after all of that hockey and it's time for me to start working on my conditioning if I want to keep up with the high levels.

Some of the participants had better playing experience than myself (at the top were former NHL draft picks), others had better officiating experience (at the top regular officials in the AHL) but I felt as if I was a good mix of both worlds and hung in there just as well as anyone did. Some guys/gals out there clearly never held a whistle before and didn't know which was up when they were put on the line or were wearing the floaties. Others fit right in and clearly knew a thing or two about officiating and put on quite a good show. I was partners with guys who officiated IIHF, OHL, USHL, etc. I was also lucky enough to have some great coaching from an extensive group of former professional level refs, critiquing the big picture down to the details of officiating. After this weekend I'm definitely taking a few lessons back to all aspects of my officiating game.

I skated hard, vocalized with authority to gain attention, and blew the hell out of the free whistle they gave me (the NHL hooked us up pretty good with free gear). By the end of it, I was very content with the experience I had and I'm going to try and weasel my way into the camp again next year (about half of the applicants were accepted into this camp 100/200 give or take). By the end of the camp I think all of us discovered a newfound appreciation and passion for the role the official has in this game. After that I'm pumped for another great season of some Arizona hockey!

Ryan Schwarzer

AHOA Official



**Zachary Reese**  
Board Director at  
Large

## Upcoming Events & Association News

### 2016 USA Hockey Arizona Seminar Dates & Locations

Date	Time	Level	Location
11-Sep	8:00am - 4:30pm	Level 1/2	Flagstaff
11-Sep	10:45am - 4:30pm	Level 3	Flagstaff
11-Sep	7:00am - 1:55pm	Level 1	Peoria
11-Sep	12:30pm - 4:30pm	Level 3	Peoria
18-Sep	10:00am - 5:00pm	Level 4	Peoria
15-Oct	10:45am - 4:40pm	Level 2	Gilbert
15-Oct	6:30am - 10:30am	Level 3	Gilbert
19-Nov	1:00pm - 8:00pm	Level 1	Scottsdale
20-Nov	10:45am - 5:30pm	General (1/2/3)	Peoria

Subject to change. Be sure to confirm dates, times, and locations on the USAH website when registering. Please remember that there will be **not** be a December seminar this year so sign up early.

### Open Book Review

The Arizona Hockey Officials Association hosted a free USA Hockey open rule book review on September 8th in Scottsdale where officials were invited to come and dig deeper into specific rules, proper application, unique situations, and the 16-17 USAH open book test. This was a great success and we are planning on doing another one soon. Please note that this **IS NOT** a requirement for your USA Hockey referee registration, rather a voluntary review and discussion session.

### 2016 Annual Board Meeting Results

The 2016 AHOA Annual Meeting was held on August 30th at 6:30pm, in the Ice Den Scottsdale. The positions that were up for re-election and the results are as follows;

**President:** *Chris Zorza*

**VP of Scheduling:** Mike Sarter

**Board Director at Large:** *Zach Reese*

**Alternate Board Member:** *Paul Withee*

## Meet The Stripes (6th Edition)

### Michael Fettkether



**1. How many seasons have you been officiating with USA Hockey?**

This will be my 8th year.

**2. What were some things that got you into officiating?**

Well I got caught in a downsize, was working side jobs for family and part time work. I liked hockey so I figured I'd try Referee hockey for some extra money. Well I ended up liking it, so stayed with it. The first couple years were tough until I got more experience. I also had a couple friends doing it so it helped get me interested too.

**3. With the USA Hockey playing rules committee meeting at the end of this year to determine rule changes for the next 4 years, what are a couple improvements or clarifications that you would like to see come out of it?**

One thing that would be much simpler would be to use the 9 face off dots for all face offs. It is easier for us, the players, coaches. It will be a hard sell but I think it's time at the Adult level to require a shield or cage. I've seen too many players get injured, by pucks, sticks, etc. We're so safety driven on everything else but in this area USA hockey seems to look the other way.

**4. Name three things that you've learned and find helpful while working games.**

1. Good Communication, no matter what level can go a long way in game management. Rob Harrell and Steve Correia are the masters of this. 2. Be confident, give your best effort every game; it comes from experience, knowing the rules and how to apply them. 3. Always be willing to learn from others. Even if you're working with a newer official, you could learn something.

**5. Are there any specific professional or local hockey officials you look to for inspiration or who have mentored you?**

There are so many guys I've worked with that have helped along the way. If I single guys out, I'll forget someone. The guys that worked with me and pushed me to improve every game. It's a great habit to learn. Thanks Guys!

**6. How does the Arizona Hockey Officials Organization compare to other referee associations you have worked with?**

With AHOA, I think we are and will continue to bring consistency to AZ officiating. We must never get complacent as an Organization, always work to improve.

If you think about it we have one of our own in the NHL, several others working higher level leagues around the country. That says something about the whole organization, past, present and our future.

**7. Do you have any specific routines that you usually get into before games?**

That depends on what life is throwing at me, but I like naps before late games. Just that little rest can make a difference. Before Games I like to talk with my partners about what we have game wise. Guys I've worked with a lot and know well, sometimes just general conversation is good, relaxes you before you go out and do your job.

**8. What are a few things you enjoying doing in your spare time?**

Golf (playing, not watching), Hunting/Shooting; bucket list: Dahl Sheep, Grizzly and Moose, and Wyoming Elk), Camping. I read all kinds of stuff. I really like old movies, like Film Noir. The Old Westerns from the 40's and 50's, should be reclassified as Comedies Of course Time with Family and Friends.



## Meet The Stripes (6th Edition)

### Tate Horgen



#### 1. How many seasons have you been officiating with USA Hockey?

I started officiating hockey with USA Hockey Inline in the 1998-99 season, I moved to ice in 2000-01 season.

#### 2. What were some things that got you into officiating?

I started officiating because I love to be around the sport and wanted to be more involved, I wanted to teach players in Arizona the rules of hockey. Growing up in Minnesota I was able to experience hockey from a young age and was able to convey the knowledge of hockey when it began to grow in Arizona.

#### 3. With the USA Hockey playing rules committee meeting at the end of this year to determine rule changes for the next 4 years, what are a couple improvements or clarifications that you would like to see come out of it?

Improvements I would like to see is better wording in the rulebook so everyone can understand the actual rule by the "letter" instead of having to interpret for yourself.

#### 4. Name three things that you've learned and find helpful while working games.

Be open and explain why you made a call if the player or coach wants to know, explain how it could have been avoided without spending an exorbitant amount of time with the player or coach, make sure that your scorekeeper is on the same page as you and understands what is going on i.e. penalties, time of penalties, score, Always be in communication with rink authorities in reference to house rules, suspensions, curfews, etc.

#### 5. Are there any specific professional or local hockey officials you look to for inspiration or who have mentored you?

Herb Haley and Gene Baska were instrumental in helping me make the transition from inline to ice.

#### 6. How does the Arizona Hockey Officials Organization compare to other referee associations you have worked with?

N/A

#### 7. Do you have any specific routines that you usually get into before games?

Arrive early for games, talk to officials that are in the locker room about their experiences over the past nights, weeks, or months. Before each game I stretch on the boards and make two passes of center ice.

#### 8. What are a few things you enjoying doing in your spare time?

I enjoy snow skiing as much as I can during the winter months, golfing, and supporting the Arizona Coyotes & the Arizona Cardinals.



## Ask The Official

**Question:** The NHL created a rule that prevents centers from playing the puck with a hand during a faceoff (a minor penalty results). Does this apply to youth hockey?

**Answer:** There is nothing in the USA Hockey Playing Rules that prevents a center from playing the puck with a hand during a face-off. USA Hockey is a completely separate governing body from the NHL and does not follow their rule change process.

**Question:** An attacking player takes a shot while skating toward the net which hits the goaltender and pops in the air. The attacker's momentum causes him to make contact with the goalie preventing him from blocking the puck before it enters the net. The referee disallows the goal but should the attacking player also receive a penalty for interference?

**Answer:** An attacking player may not make body contact or interfere with a goalkeeper who is positioned in his crease. The officials should assess a minor plus misconduct or major plus game misconduct penalty for Charging or minor penalty for Interference (depending on the degree of contact) if this happens.

**Question:** My question is there a ruling on what the goalie must wear underneath his leg pads? Can he wear shorts and have bare skin exposed in the calf muscle area?

**Answer:** There is no specific rule within the USAH Playing Rules that mandates a goalkeeper to wear socks or leggings underneath their leg-pads.

**Question:** Can fans bring noise makers & loud stereos to a game?

**Answer:** There is no rule in the USA Hockey Playing Rules that prevents spectators from bringing noise-makers to games. However, if the noise-makers become an obvious distraction (i.e. actually interfere with the playing of the game) then the officials could ask the spectators (by way of the team benches) to stop using them.

**Question:** Recently a player kicked his stick which caused the puck to leave his stick and go directly into his opponent's net. Is this a legal goal? If not where would the faceoff location be?

**Answer:** Situation #7 on Page 268 of the USA Hockey Casebook states,

*"A player is standing in front of the opponent's goal and has his arms "tied up" with a defending player so that he cannot play the puck in the normal manner. The puck goes out in front of the goal and the attacking player kicks the blade of his stick which knocks the puck into the goal. Is this considered a legal goal?"*

*No. Rule References 627(c) and 617(c.1).*

*Even though the puck was not directly kicked with the skate, the puck entered the goal as the direct result of the kicking action."*

The ensuing faceoff would be located outside the attacking end-zone at the nearest neutral zone dot.

**If you have a scenario or situation that you'd like featured in next month's newsletter, send an email to: [AHOA.QA@gmail.com](mailto:AHOA.QA@gmail.com).**



## Scorekeeper's Corner

### Penalty Situations & Terminations

Time	Team "A"	Team "B"	Solution
4:00	X - 2 min. Y - 2 min.	Z - 2 + 2 min.	Even though Team "A" has two players penalized, the total number of penalties to each team are equal, therefore canceling each other out. Both teams will skate at full strength. Players X and Y will return at the first stoppage after two minutes while player Z will serve until the first stoppage after four minutes.
4:00	X - 2 + 2 min.	Z - 2 + 2 min.	Coincident minor penalties still applies because there is an equal number of minor penalties to each player.
4:00	X - 2 min. Y - 2 min.	Z - 2 min.	Player Z's penalty cancels out either X's or Y's penalty (captain's choice). Team "A" will skate shorthanded for two minutes or until a goal is scored. Player Z and either Player X or Y will remain in the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play after two minutes.
4:00	X - 2 + 2 min.	Z - 2 min.	Player Z's penalty will cancel out one of Player X's penalties. Team "A" will skate shorthanded (4 vs. 5 on-ice strength) for two minutes unless a goal is scored. Player Z will return to the ice at a stoppage after two minutes while Player X waits for a stoppage after the second minor penalty expires. Since Team "A" is entitled to another player on the ice after two minutes, they need to have an additional player enter the penalty bench to serve the minor penalty and enter the ice surface when it expires or a goal is scored.
4:00	X - 2 min. Y - 2 min. W - 2 min.	Z - 2 + 2 + 2 min.	Since there is an equal number of penalties on each team, coincident penalties would apply (5 vs. 5 on-ice strength). Player Z would be eligible to return during the first stoppage after six minutes. Players X, Y and W would return to the ice at the first stoppage after two minutes.





## Level 4 Seminar Preparation

Hello Arizona Level 3 and Level 4 Officials,

USA Hockey will be holding both District and National tournaments in the Phoenix area in March and April 2017, respectively. These are amazing events that bring together the best teams and officials from across the district and the country. If you are interested in potentially being selected to work these events it is highly recommend you register at Level 4 for the 2016-17 season. In order to participate in the Regional Tournament, USA Hockey requires that you be a completely registered Level 3 or 4 official. To work a National Tournament, USA Hockey requires that you be a completely registered Level 4 official and very rarely makes exceptions to this rule.

If you will be applying for Level 4 certification it is highly encouraged that you study for both the closed-book exam and on-ice skating test. The best way to prepare for the closed-book exam is to read through the USA Hockey rulebook with specific attention focused to the Casebook information. It is also a good idea to read through the USA Hockey manuals. All of these resources are available online at <http://www.usahockey.com/page/show/902338-rule-book-and-resources>.