

FOUR OFFICIAL SYSTEM



FOUR OFFICIAL SYSTEM

This presentation will provide a better understanding in terms of:

- 🔑 Working within the Four Official System.
- 🔑 The responsibilities and expectations of each of the two referees.
- 🔑 The responsibilities and expectations of each of the two linesmen.



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Four Official System is to ensure that infractions do not go un-penalized. This is no different from the philosophy of the Three Official system.

Therefore:

- 🔧 Both referees should be consistent in all actions during the game.
- 🔧 There should be no competition between the two referees to assess penalties.
- 🔧 Referees shouldn't be too sophisticated (afraid of criticism) or be afraid to take charge when needed. Both referees have equal responsibility in maintaining the standard and controlling the game.



BENEFITS

This system, when used to it's potential, is able to provide referees:

- A better overall view of the play.
- Improved view of the goal and goal line.
- Less chance of being caught behind the play on a fast break, thereby reducing unnecessary hard skating.
- Players are more aware of the presence of the referee, this acts as a deterrent to any unnecessary activity.
- When using the “cone area” allowing the referee to move below the goal line the official may have better sight lines; keeping the play and players in front of him and being in a better position to avoid getting involved with the play.



TERMINOLOGY

Front/Lead Referee: is the referee in the end zone while play is going on in that end, or the referee who is skating backwards from the neutral zone into the end zone. Simply, they are in “front” and leading the play.

🎧 Their primary responsibility and focus should be the action area where the puck is.

Back/Trailing Referee: is the referee in the neutral zone while play is going on in their partner’s end, or is the referee who is in skating forwards from the end zone to the neutral zone. Simply, they are in the “back” and trailing the play.

🎧 Their primary responsibility and focus should be away from the puck and action area.







The play will determine which referee will be in the Front/Lead Referee position or the Back/Trailing Referee position.









POSITIONING

POSITIONING

REFEREES

-  CENTRE ICE FACEOFFS
-  END ZONE FACEOFFS
-  NEUTRAL ZONE FACEOFFS
-  PURSUIT OF PLAY
-  ICINGS
-  SCRUMS AND ALTERCATIONS

LINESMEN

-  CENTRE ICE FACEOFFS
-  END ZONE FACEOFF EXITS
-  NEUTRAL ZONE FACEOFFS
-  WORKING THE LINE
-  COVERING FOR PARTNER
-  AFTER GOALS



REFEREES

CENTRE ICE FACEOFFS

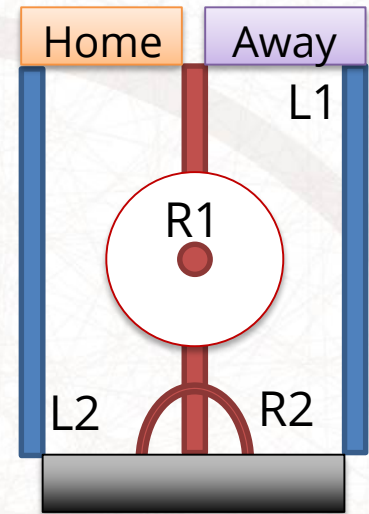
1. Start of periods

The two referees shall determine by themselves who will drop the puck at the beginning of all periods.

2. Following the scoring of a goal

The referee who is awarding a goal shall remain at the scorekeeper/timekeeper bench while the other referee is at the centre faceoff dot conducting the line change procedure followed by dropping the puck.

After puck is dropped, Free Official Goes. R2 would initially be the Front/Lead Referee and R1 would be the Back/Trailing Referee.



REFEREES

END ZONE FACEOFFS

The Front/Lead Referee will position themselves near the goal line just the same as they would in the Three Official System.

The Back/Trailing Referee will position themselves in the neutral zone between the blue line and red line. They will be on the same side of the ice of the faceoff and therefore opposite side of the ice as their partner.

End Zone Positioning is the same for Front/Lead Referee.

- 🛹 Home Base, Half Piston, At the Net / Bump and Pivot.
- 🛹 Anticipate play to stay out of the way of players.
- 🛹 Keep the puck and players in sight line.



REFEREES

NEUTRAL ZONE FACEOFFS

The Front/Lead Referee will position themselves near the top of the end zone faceoff circle on the opposite side from the face off spot as in the Three Official System.

The Back/Trailing Referee will position themselves in the neutral zone closer to the far blue line near the faceoff dot. They will be on the same side of the ice of the faceoff and therefore opposite side of the ice as their partner.



REFEREES

PURSUIT OF PLAY

The Front/Lead Referee skates backwards through the neutral zone and into the end zone.

- Ahead of the play with proper distance.
- Cross the blue line prior to the puck and players.
- Setting up in end zone and using proper positioning and maneuvers.

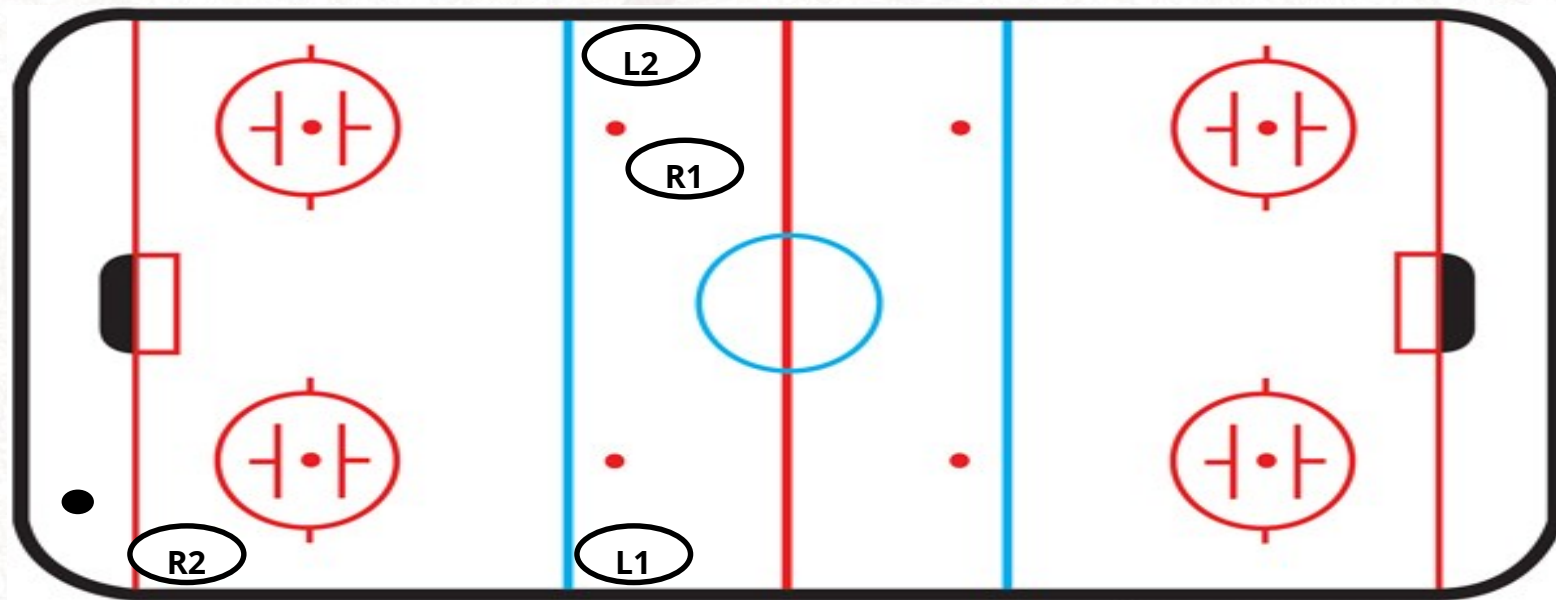
The Back/Trailing Referee skates forwards through the end zone and into the neutral zone.

- Behind the play with proper distance.
- Keeping the last attacking player in view.
- Setting up in neutral zone between attacking blue line and red line.



REFEREES

ICINGS



REFEREES

SCRUMS AND ALTERCATIONS

Following a stoppage of play in the end zone, the Back/Trailing Referee should move into an area in order to observe and/or go deeper in the end zone to observe and assist (if necessary) in penalty calls.

Referees will take on the observer role. Only when absolutely necessary will they assist in breaking up an altercation.


The referee responsible for that zone will be in charge of assessing the appropriate penalties. The other referee will have the responsibility of observing and controlling the benches making sure that no players come onto the ice. They will also monitor the attacking defencemen moving in when a scrum or altercation occurs in the end zone.



LINESMEN

CENTRE ICE FACEOFFS

As in the Three Official System, linesmen will each position themselves along the boards on opposite blue lines and across the ice from each other.

 After goals, take the “Happy Bench”.

One linesman will conduct the faceoff at centre ice if there has been an error on an icing or a premature substitution. The other linesman will stand facing their partner while being across the red line near the boards.



LINESMEN

END ZONE FACEOFF EXITS

The Front Linesman shall back out from the faceoff area towards the boards and avoid interfering with the play and players. They will face the play and exit back to the blue line. This could mean they skate forwards or backwards depending on the location of the play.

The Back Linesman is across the ice and outside the blue line. They will watch and cover the blue line until their partner has exited the end zone and acknowledged they are back in position with eye contact and a head nod.



LINESMEN

NEUTRAL ZONE FACEOFFS

The Front Linesman will conduct the faceoff. They will back out from the faceoff area towards the boards and avoid interfering with the play and players. They will face the play and get back into position at the blue line.

The Back Linesman is across the ice at the same blue line watching and covering. They will move with the play and cover as needed until their partner is back into position.



LINESMEN

WORKING THE LINE

The Front Linesman will move inside the line to best judge the play as it crosses the blue line. Once play has crossed and is onside, they will return back into position outside the blue line.

Linesmen must remember to return to their position just outside the blue line immediately after making their call in order not to get in the way of the players or the play. They should not straddle the line.



LINESMEN

COVERING FOR PARTNER

The Back Linesman should be aware of situations that they need to assist and cover their partner (Front Linesman).

This can be accomplished by having good awareness and properly reading and anticipating the play. They should skate and hustle into positions that best allow this to occur seamlessly.

Both Linesmen need to be on the same page so that there isn't a situation where both are covering the line and potentially making different calls.



LINESMEN

AFTER GOALS

The Front Linesman shall immediately skate into the end zone, get in a position between the players celebrating the goal, and the defending players or goaltender.

The Back Linesman should skate towards the players celebrating the goal, and get in a position between those players and the opposition's bench.

If all is under control, the Front Linesman shall retrieve the puck and proceed to centre ice and give to the Back/Trailing Referee.

The Back Linesman shall move with the players to prevent possible confrontations between the team that scored and their opponents.



STANDARD OF PLAY

STANDARD OF PLAY

REFEREES

- 🔑 AREAS OF FOCUS / SIGHT LINES
- 🔑 JUDGMENT – PENALTIES

LINESMEN


- 🔑 JUDGMENT – INTENTIONAL OFFSIDE




REFEREES

AREAS OF FOCUS / SIGHT LINES

The Front/Lead Referee.

 Action area (where the play is, puck and player movement).

The Back/Trailing Referee.

 Peripheral area (away from the puck, players behind play).





It is possible that both officials see the same infraction. If this occurs, they should discuss to make sure the correct penalty call is made and is assessed to the appropriate player.



REFEREES

JUDGMENT – PENALTIES

The judgment of the referees can be affected:

-  Positioning
-  Sight lines
-  Flow of the game
-  Infraction of the rules

Referees should have good judgment and trust their instincts. If they are 100% sure that what they saw is an infraction of the rules, they should assess the appropriate penalty.



LINESMEN

JUDGMENT - INTENTIONAL OFFSIDE

If an attacking player, prior to clearing the zone, deliberately plays the puck or checks a defending player who is attempting to advance the puck, intentional off-side shall be called.

The official making the intentional off-side call shall proceed to the face off spot in the offending teams end zone, while the other official will retrieve the puck and then will proceed to the offending teams end zone and conduct the face off.



PROCEDURES

PROCEDURES

REFEREES

-  LINE CHANGE PROCEDURE
-  PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE

LINESMEN

-  PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE



REFEREES

LINE CHANGE PROCEDURE

The Back/Trailing Referee is responsible to ensure that player changes are completed within the confines of the rules to prevent unnecessary delays in the game. This may mean taking a moment to ensure that possibly volatile situations are diffused before proceeding.

For player changes taking place during a stoppage of play, the Back/Trailing Referee shall begin the line change procedure as soon as it is safe to do so.

- 🏒 The Back/Trailing Referee is the referee; who did not assess a penalty, in the neutral zone at the stoppage of play, or dropping the puck at centre ice faceoffs to start the period or after the scoring of a goal.



REFEREES

PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE

The Front/Lead Referee will:

- 🚒 Be the Referee that awarded the penalty shot.
- 🚒 Give instructions to the goaltender defending the shot.
- 🚒 Take up a position on the goal line about 10 to 15 feet from the net.
- 🚒 Position themselves on the side of the goal nearest the player's stick to have the best view of the shot.
- 🚒 Blow their whistle to signal the start of the penalty shot.
- 🚒 Signal and report if a goal is scored.



REFEREES

PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE

The Back/Trailing Referee will:

- 🔊 Give instructions to the player taking the shot.
- 🔊 Take up a position along the boards (opposite of player benches when possible).
- 🔊 Follow in the shooter from a safe distance for a different sight line.

It is best to direct all other players to withdraw to the benches but at minimum to the sides of the rink and beyond the centre red line.



LINESMEN

PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE

The Front Linesman will:

- Position themselves on the goal line about 10 to 15 feet from the net on the opposite side of the Front/Lead Referee.
- Watch the play in a manner similar to that of the Front/Lead Referee.
- Assist the Front/Lead Referee when requested or necessary.
- Retrieve the puck after the shot and either conduct the faceoff in the end zone or bring it to the Back/Trailing Referee for a centre ice faceoff.



LINESMEN

PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURE

The Back Linesman will:

- 🔑 Ensure that all players are on their respective benches or behind the centre red line.
- 🔑 Position themselves between the benches.
- 🔑 Watch for any distractions from the benches.
- 🔑 Act as buffer between the shooter and benches after the shot has been taken.



**WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE
LOOK FOR ?**

REFEREES

SETTING UP IN END ZONE

When the Front/Lead Referee is entering the end zone, they should be:

- Skating backwards (forwards if absolutely necessary).
- Keeping good gap between play and players.
- Having a good sight line.
- Going to Home Base or Half Piston.
- Using cone positioning when necessary.



LINESMEN

ENCROACHMENT / PREMATURE SUBSTITUTIONS

The Front and Back Linesmen should have good judgment and enforce encroachment when necessary.

The Back Linesman should have good awareness and keep an eye out for potential premature substitution situations.



TEAMWORK

PUCK HIT BY STICK / BATTED BY GLOVE

When a puck is struck with a high stick, the referee closest to the play should make a high stick signal, and then wave it off or blow the play down as required.

When a puck is gloved ahead, the referee closest to the play should make a gloved ahead signal, and then wave it off or blow the play down as required.

Both referees have equal responsibility when it comes to using their discretion on these types of plays.

If the referee closest to the play did not observe it then the other referee should make the appropriate call. If both referees have missed the call, Linesmen shall intervene and make the correct call.



PRESENCE

COMMUNICATION

Communication skills are important when dealing with players and coaches.

Verbal Communication includes:

- 🔊 Words you choose
- 🔊 The tone you use
- 🔊 The volume you use

Nonverbal Communication includes:

- 👤 Facial expressions
- 👤 Gestures
- 👤 Eye contact
- 👤 Posture

