

New D6 Referees – Getting Through Your 1st Games

1. Gear – confirm you have the below gear before you leave for the arena:

- a. Referee jersey with current USA Hockey crest
- b. Black pants
- c. Whistle
- d. Skates
- e. Helmet w/visor
- f. Shin/knee pads
- g. Cup / pelvic protector
- h. Name & cell phone number of your referee partner (if you need to contact for any reason)

Optional but encouraged:

- i. Elbow pads
- j. Hip / thigh padding
- k. Chest & shoulder protection
- l. Water bottle

2. Rink arrival & referee locker room

- a. Referee locker room key – ask at arena office / if game going on, check with penalty box staff
- b. Arrival in referee locker room:
 - i. Tournament games – 30 minutes prior to ice time (games MAY be running early)
 - ii. League games and scrimmages – 20 minutes prior to ice time
- c. Introduce yourself to referee partner and have game prep discussion
 - i. Playing level / period length / penalty time / team insights
- d. Be prepped and ready to go 5 minutes prior to ice time
- e. As the ice will most likely need time to dry and the teams will want to go on the ice as soon as they see you, exit the referee locker room:
 - i. Only after Zamboni is done and off the ice
AND
 - ii. Only 1-2 minutes before ice time starts

3. Stepping on the ice (pre-puck drop activities)

- a. Immediately go set-up goals (so teams can get their quick warmup in)
- b. As team's warm-up:
 - i. greet time/penalty box crew – confirm period length/penalty length
 1. drop off ref locker room key (& water bottle)
 - ii. greet both sets of coaches – introductions, ask if any questions
- c. As team warm-up ends:
 - i. DO NOT collect warm-up pucks – let teams do that
 - ii. Check goals for stray warm-up pucks & inspect that posts & nets are secure
 - iii. Get a game (cold) puck from time/penalty box crew
 - iv. Move to center ice for faceoff

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4. Initial center ice faceoff

- a. Confirm scoreboard, each goalie & scorekeeper are ready.
- b. Drop the puck

5. Between periods

- a. Collect puck
- b. Have a seat in the penalty box / or stay on ice
- c. Quickly discuss any situations / calls with referee partner
- d. Grab a drink of water

6. After final horn

- a. Collect puck
- b. Observe team handshake line
- c. Position goals so Zamboni can clean ice
- d. Confirm all players and coaches are off the ice
- e. After 1st Zamboni pass, position goals along boards
- f. With time/penalty box crew:
 - i. Review game details for accuracy (goals, penalties)
 - ii. Add name as referee & sign GameSheet app
- g. Collect key & water bottle and leave ice for referee locker room

7. Post-game referee locker room

- a. Quickly de-brief game situations / calls with referee partner
- b. Make sure you have all gear packed up / trash disposed of
- c. Ref locker room key
 - i. Next game crew – leave key in their possession
 - ii. No next game crew - return key to arena office
- d. [Encouraged but not required] - Depart with referee partner to help avoid any possible parent/team/coach altercations

8. Post-game (at home)

- a. Air out referee gear (no one likes a stinky referee partner)
- b. Evaluate your performance – what you did well & what you can do better next game