

REFEREE INFORMATION

College Hockey East 2022-23



INTRODUCTION

The CHE seeks to operate our games as smoothly and professionally as possible, and this document is intended to provide our on-ice officials and referee schedulers guidance in that endeavor and further assistance in their tasks. Our primary expectation is that officials have adequate knowledge of NCAA rules, put forth a respectable effort throughout the game, and are always professional in their conduct. We acknowledge the human element of officiating and respect the burden officials are carrying to ensure all games are covered across our sport. If the aforementioned expectations are met, mistakes and errors in judgment are tolerable. In turn, CHE teams are expected to be hospitable, respectful, and cooperative towards all referees as part of our collective mission towards producing quality hockey games. There is more information available to our officials and assignors on the Referee Information page of our CHE website, found at CollegeHockeyEast.com/referees.

REQUIREMENTS OF ASSIGNORS

Each team in College Hockey East (CHE) is required to enlist one independent Assignor of Officials each season, used to assign qualified officials to each game hosted by the team. An entity acting as the Assignor of Officials for a team – be it an individual or an assigning organization – must be reasonably and distinctly independent of the team and school.

- 1) This entity must assign officials to multiple, unrelated teams/games to be defined as “independent,” as determined by the CHE League Office.
- 2) All entities acting as an Assignor of Officials must adhere to all officiating guidelines of the league, but each entity shall retain autonomous discretion in the assignment of qualified officials.
- 3) The CHE League Office withholds the right to ban any entity from serving as a Assignor of Officials for violation(s) of officiating policies or for multiple instances of failing to supply a sufficient quantity and/or quality of officials.
- 4) The process of assigning officials shall not be influenced by the exertion of power nor financial persuasion from any team-affiliated person(s). The CHE League Office shall investigate any suspected violations of this policy and shall schedule a disciplinary hearing if evidence is found against a team.

REQUIREMENTS OF ON-ICE OFFICIALS

An On-Ice Official assigned to a CHE game shall meet the following requirements:

- 1) Must be currently certified as a referee by USA Hockey
- 2) Must be deemed by the assignor to have sufficient knowledge, abilities, and experience to adequately perform at the level of the assigned game
- 3) Must be available to perform duties on the ice at the designated time and must remain available to work until the full conclusion of the game

LIMITATIONS ON OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENTS

No person shall serve as an On-Ice Official in a CHE game in which any of the interpersonal connection(s) listed below are applicable. The CHE League Office reserves the ability to grant an exemption, per instance, to the appropriate Assignor of Officials, or in the event a conflicted official is needed to officiate a game in an emergency situation, both head coaches must verbally consent to the use of the official in-question.

- 1) Has a first-degree interpersonal relationship (relative, partner, employer, coworker, etc.) with any rostered individual of either team, regardless of that individual participating in the game
- 2) Has been on a roster (player, coach, manager, etc.) or has held decision-making powers (board member, officer, general manager, etc.) with either participating team within the past 12 months
- 3) Has been a student, employee, volunteer, or similar of an entity operating under the auspices of either host institution within the past 6 months
- 4) Has a role on another team – or a first-degree relationship with a person with a role on another team – within the same division of play in the league, as defined by official standings where the outcome of the game affects the position of one or more teams in those standings

OFFICIATING SYSTEMS

All CHE games shall be assigned to meet the required on-ice officiating system based on the level of play. An alternate approved system may be implemented if given consent by the CHE League Office in advance of a particular game. If an assigned official(s) does not appear for a game or is unable to resume his/her duties in a game, the On-Ice Officials withhold the right, at their sole discretion, to adjust the on-ice officiating system so as long as the minimum number of officials are present.

- 1) Men's Division 3: 2 referees and 1 linesman ("2-1 system")
- 2) Men's Division 4: 2 referees ("2-referee system")
- 3) Women's Division 2: 2 referees ("2-referee system")

MINIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICIALS

All CHE games require at least 2 officials to be participating on the ice. At no time shall play start or resume in any game without the minimum number of certified officials.

- 1) An available official who meets all applicable requirements shall be eligible to enter a game at any point, as agreed upon by the On-Ice Officials, to meet the minimum requirement or to restore the original officiating system.
- 2) If the minimum number of officials cannot be readily attained to start or resume play, the game shall be stopped as a Suspended Game.

REFEREE PROTOCOLS

The CHE asks that at least one referee (ideally two) are on the ice for the duration of the warm-up period. All officials assigned to the game must be present in the official's locker room by the start of the warm-up period, and in instances where an arrival is delay, the tardy official should notify a partner of the situation. If the arrival of a sufficient quantity of officials potentially affects the start time of the game, the host team should be notified at the earliest opportunity, at which time that team should contact the League Office.

REFEREE ATTIRE

The CHE simply asks that officials look presentable and professional in their attire entering and exiting the rink. Half shields are required on helmets in accordance with USA Hockey coverage of the games. Officials do not need to wear any type of crest (USAH nor ACHA) nor nameplate on their officiating sweater, and ideally, all officials on a game match each other in these areas. Helmet stickers of any other league are asked to be removed or covered in black tape during a CHE game. The CHE does provide helmet stickers for its players, but those are not to be obtained nor used by any referee.

CHE GAME OPERATIONS

College Hockey East outlines policies and procedures that apply to all game operations, all of which are presented in our annual CHE Game Manual. This manual is not an additional rulebook, so it is not something officials skating CHE games need to know and memorize. Familiarity with its contents certainly helps, but the CHE teams are responsible for implementing any and all appropriate items in our games, including informing the officials of our policies in unusual situations. All host teams are to have access to a copy (hard copy or soft copy) of the manual at their games. Several documents, including a "CHE Referee Overview," are also available on the CHE website to provide our on-ice officials with an outline of relevant game operations. All officials should visit CollegeHockeyEast.com/referees for more information.

INCIDENT REPORTS

The CHE does not require an incident report to be filed for any on-ice related matter, including a Disqualification (DQ) Penalty. The CHE does ask that a report be submitted if the referee feels that more context is warranted for a call, including the possibility of a disciplinary review by the league. The CHE also asks that referees submit a report for any unusual occurrence in a game, such as inappropriate conduct towards officials (by anyone), unsuitable working conditions (including the official's room), and situations that resulted in (or could have become) a Suspended Game.

REFEREE SUPPORT

The CHE staff fully respects and understands the demands of our referees and schedulers, especially since our Commissioner is also a college-level official and a collegiate-level assignor. Please contact the CHE Commissioner (commissioner@CollegeHockeyEast.com) at any time if we may help you in any way or address any issues you may have with games, teams, or individuals. Thank you for your contributions to our league's on-ice success, and the CHE wishes you all the best throughout the hockey season.