

Conduct of Off-Ice Officials

This document explains how parents, guardians and other volunteers are to conduct themselves while performing the duties of an off-ice official. Much of the information in this section is included in the USA Hockey Off-Ice Officiating Manual¹. This manual includes more in-depth explanations and is a useful resource for anyone filling the off-ice official duties.

Off-ice officials are those individuals filling **any** the positions below.

- Official Scorer – individual responsible for completion of the game scoresheet.
- Game Timekeeper – individual responsible for operating the scoreboard and game clock.
- Public Address (PA) Announcer – individual responsible for making game-related announcements, communicating game activities—such as goals, penalties and time-outs—to the game spectators and playing of the national anthem and other music during game stoppages.
- Penalty Bench Attendant – individual(s) responsible for the penalty bench area.
- Other Individuals – any other individual who helps the on-ice officials with officiating a game.

Off-ice officials are essential to ensuring a game runs smoothly and considered extensions of the on-ice officiating team (aka referees and linesmen). They also represent, and are a reflection of, the Brandon Valley Hockey Association and its members. Off-ice officials **must** conduct themselves in a professional manner. The on-ice officials have the authority to **remove from duty** any off-ice official who fails to act appropriately, distracts an on-ice official and/or a coach, or becomes emotionally involved in the game. Off-ice officials must use the points below to guide their behavior.

- **Be impartial** and show **no favoritism or bias** to one team over another. This helps create a positive playing environment and includes NOT cheering for one team over another.
- **Keep attention** focused on the game play. Do **NOT** give directions or otherwise communicate with **any players** in the players' bench areas. This includes players with whom you may have a relationship.
- **Direct any** questions about responsibilities or how to handle a specific situation to the on-ice officials before the game begins or at the next stoppage of play or direct it to another off-ice official.
- **Be brief, decisive and to the point** when communicating with the on-ice officials. Provide them only the information they request.
- **Only use** the horn to indicate the end of a period, the end of a game or at the direction of an on-ice official. Do NOT use the horn to get the on-ice officials attention during the game.
- **Report any** unsportsmanlike behavior shown by players in the penalty bench area to an on-ice official at the next stoppage in play. Unsportsmanlike behavior may include—but is not limited to—harassing or attempting to incite the opponent, using obscene or vulgar language, or being disrespectful to the off-ice officials.
- **Report any** harassment or other inappropriate behavior by spectators directed towards players in the penalty bench areas.

¹ USA Hockey Off-Ice Officiating Manual, August 2011:
https://cdn4.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0042/4265/Off-Ice_Officiating_Manual_1_.pdf