



# The Referee's Crease

A Newsletter for ALLIANCE Hockey Officials

December 2009

## GAME MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR LINESMEN – FACEOFFS

Faceoffs? How can there be any game management issues for faceoffs? The game is not even on. Fair point grasshopper, but ask yourself this question – “Do I have any choices now which could impact the fairness and safety of the game?” If you do, you have game management issues.

Location. Yes, the referee is responsible for fixing the location of the faceoff (R 10.2 (b) Note), but you must know the rules in case the ref asks you for your input. Fairness starts with the faceoff being properly located.

On every faceoff, before the puck is put into play, do a body count. Again, the referee has primary responsibility for ensuring that the proper number of players are on the ice, but the linesmen are part of the ref's team. Back him / her up by counting at every drop.

If each linesman takes responsibility for counting one of the teams and makes certain that his / her team has the correct number of players on the ice, you will help ensure that the game is decided by the players. The last thing you want is to contribute to making a team shorthanded under R 2.5 Sit 1.

Do not put the puck in play too early.

- 1) Make sure that your partner and the referee are in position. There may be a quick call needed after the drop, so be fair to the teams and wait.
- 2) Make sure that players are not encroaching and that the centres are properly lined up. The back lines' job is to position himself to

watch the wingers behind his partner. Your enforcement choices affect the game's fairness. Be consistent.

- 3) Make sure that all changing players are fully off the ice. A slow change may be a tactic. It may be laziness. Regardless, it is a faceoff violation. Fairness says that the centre gets tossed from the faceoff.
- 4) Make sure that the bench gates are fully closed. This affects fairness and safety. A clearing shot could go into the bench or take an odd bounce back into play. If you have to point out the gate, chances are that it is a faceoff violation. Enforce it.

## ONTARIO WINTER GAMES

Congratulations to Shawn Canito, an ALLIANCE Hockey official out of Hamilton, who has been selected to officiate at the Ontario Winter Games in 2010.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

Whatever approach you take to this time of the year, everyone at the Referees' Crease wishes all of our readers the best of the season and a happy and healthy 2010.

## COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

Email us at [refscreece@alliancehockey.com](mailto:refscreece@alliancehockey.com).

Review Board: Lorne Campbell, Rick Mophew, Marshall Copp, Sean Reid, Dave Beech, Doug Ryerson and Chris Perkins.

23 Dec 2009



[www.alliancehockey.com](http://www.alliancehockey.com)