



The Referee's Crease

A Newsletter for ALLIANCE Hockey Officials

September 2008

FACEOFFS REVISTED

The teaching of the new faceoff locations has been a bit of a moving target this clinic season. As usually happens during rule change years, questions get raised during the clinics which spark a look at the rule changes from a different perspective, resulting in refinements in how the rules should be applied. This year has been no different.

It is hoped that the following structure will help you keep non-centre ice faceoff positions straight.

THE BASICS - As all know, the rink is divided into 3 zones - defending, neutral and attacking. For the purposes of locating offside faceoffs only, it may be helpful to divide the neutral zone into two halves, divided by the centre red line.

Play gets whistled down for one of 3 reasons - (1) one team causes the whistle (eg. penalty, freezing the puck), (2) both teams cause the whistle (eg. co-incident penalties, mutual freezing of the puck) or (3) neither team causes the whistle (eg. puck goes out off official). Where's the faceoff?

STEP 1 - Identify in which zone (or, if it is an offside, which half of the neutral zone) the puck was frozen / deflected out / passed from (offside) / blown down (penalty).

STEP 2 - Identify the cause for the whistle. Is it an offside situation? Did just one team cause the whistle?

STEP 3 - If it is an offside situation, take the puck back to the faceoff dot in the

offending team's end zone (if the pass originated from that zone) or to the half of the neutral zone in which the puck was last played before the offside touch of the puck.

STEP 4 - If it is not an offside situation, did just one team cause the whistle?

If the answer is "No", there is no zone change. The faceoff is at the nearest dot in the zone in which the puck deflected out off the ref, or where the puck was when the whistle went (eg. the puck deflects out off the ref in the end zone near the blueline - it's not offside, neither team caused the whistle => end zone dot faceoff).

If one team caused the whistle, there may be a zone change, depending on the situation.

If Team A caused the whistle in Team B's defending zone, the faceoff is at the nearest dot just outside Team B's blueline.

If Team A caused the whistle anywhere in the neutral zone, the faceoff is at the nearest dot just outside Team A's blueline.

If Team A caused the whistle in its own end, the faceoff is at the nearest dot in A's zone.

For visual examples, see the Powerpoint display on the Alliance website (under "Development - Referees").

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29 September 2008



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