



SECTION 11

The 4 Man Officiating System

THE 4 MAN OFFICIATING SYSTEM



SECTION 11

An Understanding of the 4 Man Officiating System

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

- Work within the 4 Man Officiating System
- Understand the Responsibilities of each of the two referees
- Understand the Role of the linesman in the 4 Man Officiating System

4 MAN OFFICIATING SYSTEM

1. INTRODUCTION

Using two Referees and two Linesmen for the top level ice hockey gives plenty of new opportunities for the game officials on the ice - to reach a better level and standard of officiating. The Referees must also remember the following basic facts when using this system:

1. Being consistent in all actions during the game
2. There should be no competition between the two Referees to assess penalties,
3. Being too sophisticated (afraid of criticism) and being afraid of taking charge when needed - both Referees are as much responsible for controlling the game.

The purpose of the 4 Man Officiating System is to ensure that infractions do not go un-penalized. This is no different from the philosophy of the "Three Man System" of officiating which is in use at the present time.

When the "4 Man Officiating System" is used in IIHF Championships and competitions, both Referees have equal status and neither one is to be considered or classified as the senior Referee. Each Referee has the same responsibility to call penalties, to call for a video review, to deal with players and coaches and to stop play, whenever a situation dictates the stoppage of play.

2. TERMINOLOGY

- Name of the system" 4 Man Officiating System"
- Front / Lead Referee = responsibility - his first priority is the action area
- Back / Trailing Referee = responsibility – play / situations away from the action area
- Action area – the area where the puck is.

PART I - POSITIONING

1. REFEREES' POSITIONING DURING FACE OFFS'

1.1. OPENING FACE-OFF TO START THE GAME AND THE PERIODS

- The Referee (R1) will drop the puck facing the Scorekeeper's Bench while the other Referee (R 2) shall be on the Scorekeeper's Bench side, facing the players' bench. (Figure1)

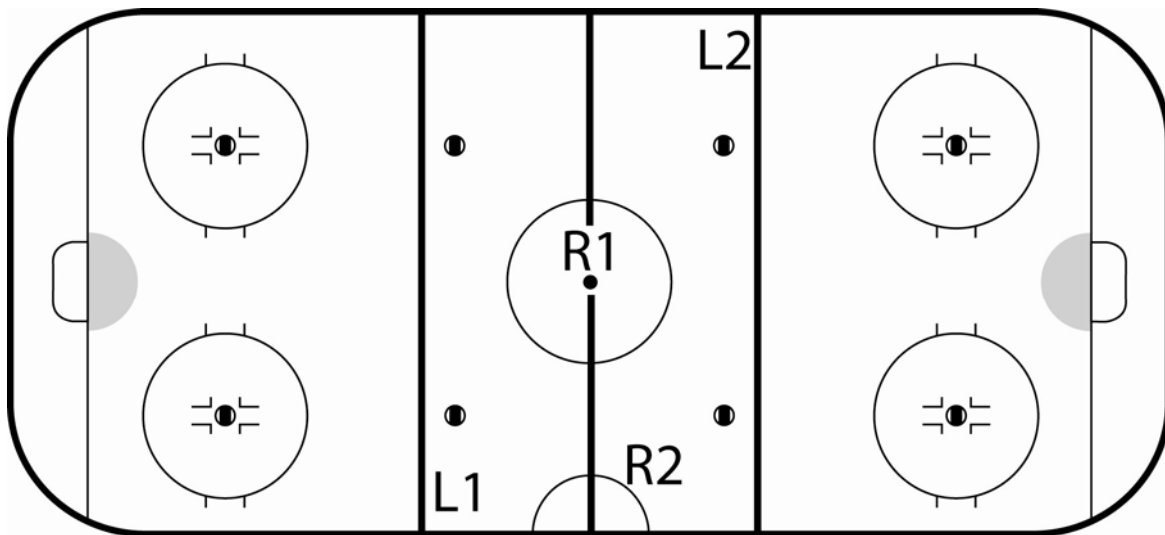


Figure 1

- The two Referees shall determine by themselves, who will drop the puck at the beginning of the game, to start the play at the commencement of periods two, three and any overtime period.

1.2 CENTER ICE FACE OFFS FOLLOWING THE SCORING OF A GOAL

- The Referee who is awarding the goal will stand/remain at the Scorekeeper's Bench, while the other referee shall drop the puck facing the Scorekeeper's Bench.

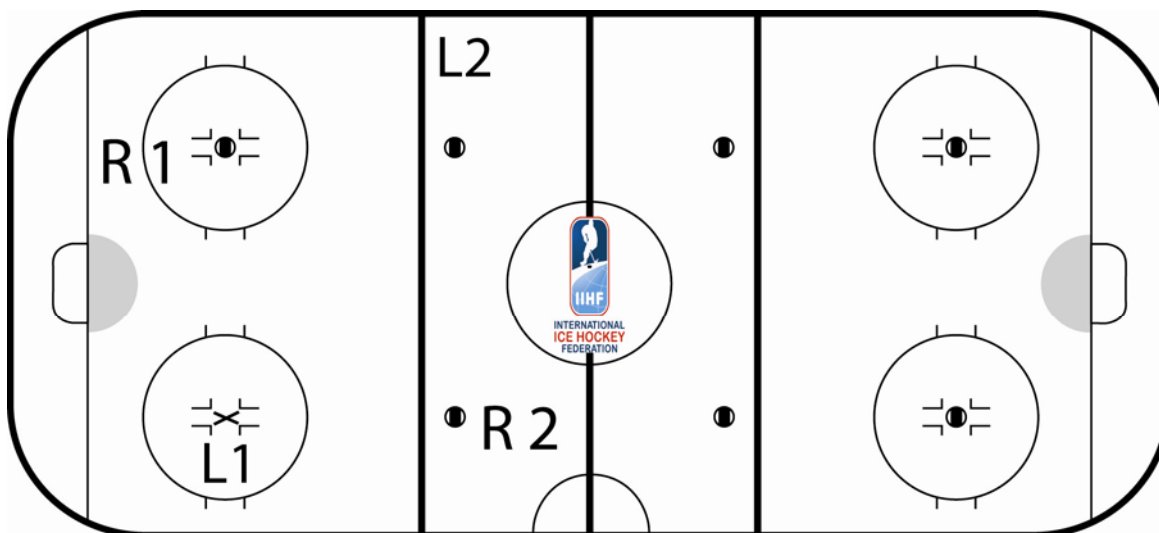
1.3 END ZONE FACE OFFS

- For end zone face-offs Referees shall stand on opposite sides of each other.

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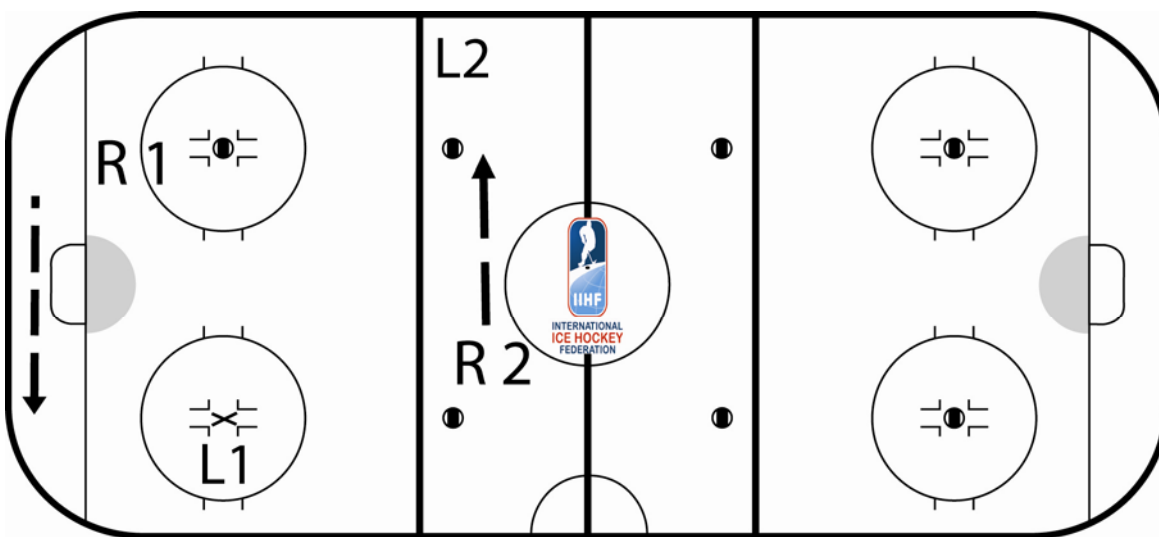
- The Lead Referee (R1) will position himself at or near the goal line as in the three-man system. The Trailing Referee (R2) shall position himself on the opposite side of that of the Lead Referee (R1) mid-way between the red line and blue line around mid ice, generally moving, prepared to go to either side, and in position to get a better view of the play once the puck is dropped. He must be clear of the view of the Linesman who is covering the nearest blue line. (Figure 2)



X = puck

Figure 2

- If the Lead Referee (R1) has the need to cross over to the other side of the ice during an end zone face-off, it then becomes imperative that the Trailing Referee (R2) then crosses the ice prior to the face-off being conducted, (Figure 3)

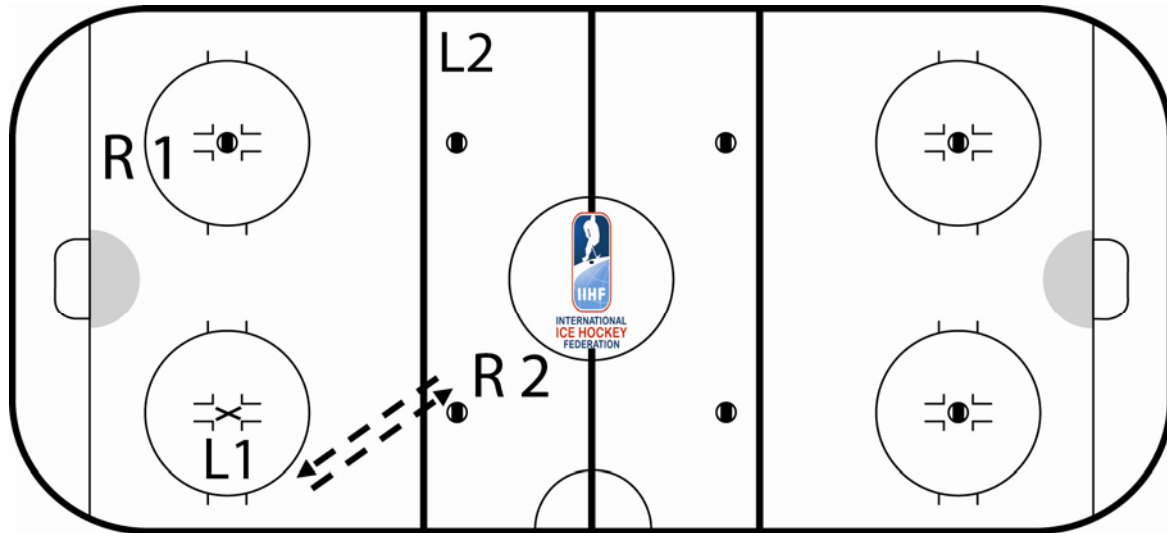


X = puck

Figure 3

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Note: *If wingers behind the Linesman dropping the puck should encroach or line up off-side, the back Linesman shall indicate this to his partner following the procedure describe in the OPM. Removing one center for such a violation will often resolve the problem. The Trailing Referee (R2) shall only intervene when absolutely necessary skating close to the players in the end zone face off circle, warn them and then return back to his positioning in the neutral zone.(Figure 4)*



X = puck

Figure 4

- When changing the center during the end zone face-off violation the Linesman taking the face-off must be fully aware of both Referees having taken their proper positioning.
- When there is a stoppage of play in the end zone (without a penalty) the Linesman moving in shall point to the side of the face off when it is at one of the two end zone face off spots.

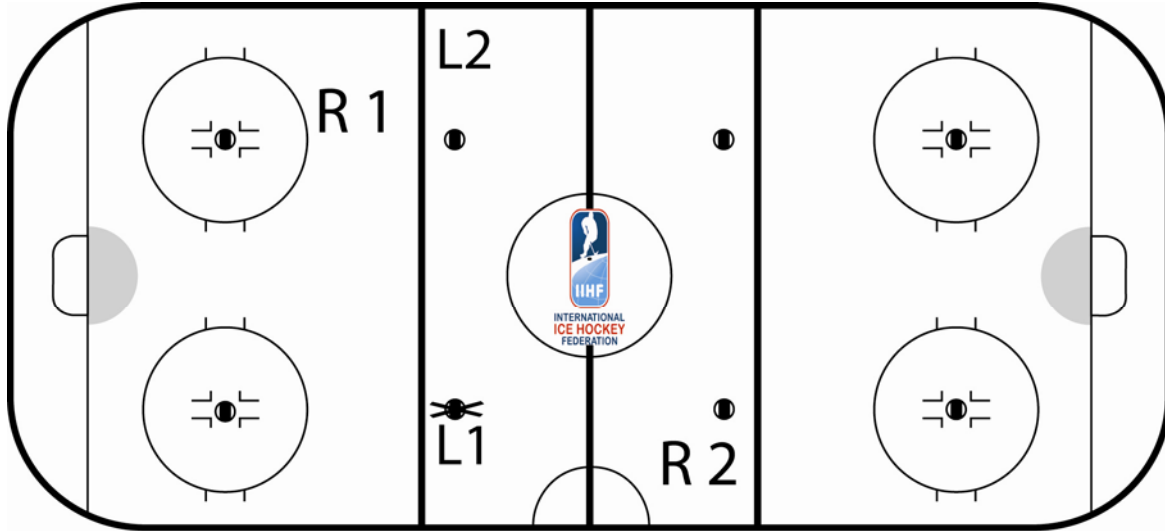
1.4 NEUTRAL ZONE FACE-OFFS

- For the neutral zone face-offs, the two Referees take their positions on the opposite sides of the ice surface.
- Normally the two Referees stay on that side of the ice prior to the stoppage of the play.

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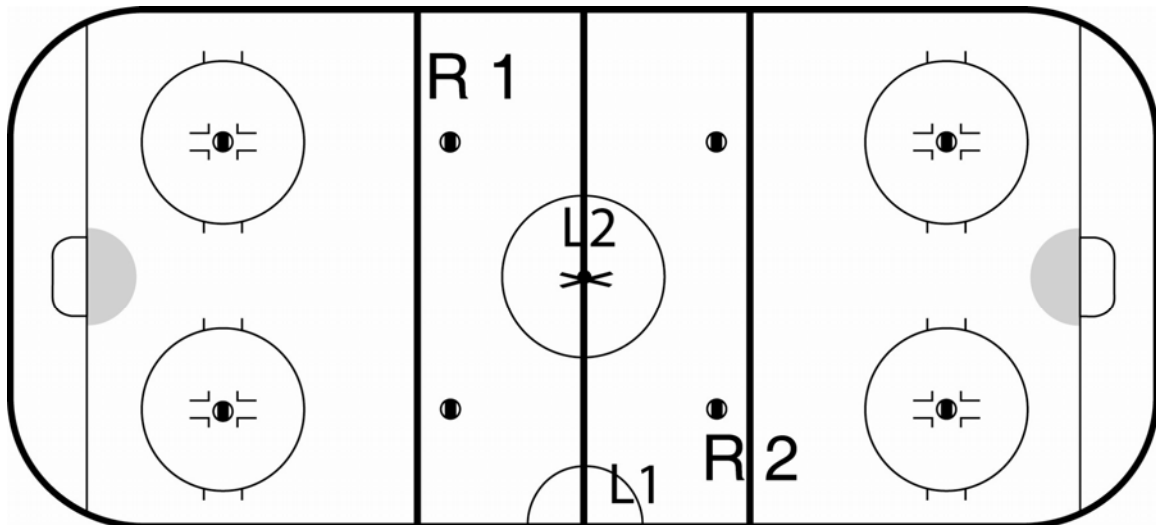
- The Referee (R1), shall position himself near the top of the end zone face off circle on the opposite side from the face off spot as in the three official system, as the other Referee (R2) shall take his position on the same side of the face-off close to the far blue line, seeking ice that is not anticipated being used, and ready to move towards his designated end anticipating the play after the face-off has been conducted. In these positions, both Referees will be in a position to go deep into an end zone if play/puck were to go into the end zone. (Figure 5)



X = puck

Figure 5

- Where the face off takes place in the neutral zone at the center red line, both Referees shall position themselves in the neutral zone near the blue lines and on opposite sides of the ice. In these positions they will be able to go quickly into the end were play/puck is directed. (Figure 6)



X = puck

Figure 6

Note: *If wingers behind the Linesman dropping the puck come in contact with each other or did not line up properly which cause the problems for Linesman (L2) than Referee (R1) on the side of the Linesman (L2) dropping the puck shall intervene when absolutely necessary skating close to the players behind the Linesman (L2), warn them and then return back to his positioning in the neutral zone. If this happened with the players on the side of the other Referee (R2) then Referee (R2) shall follow the same procedure (Figure 7)*

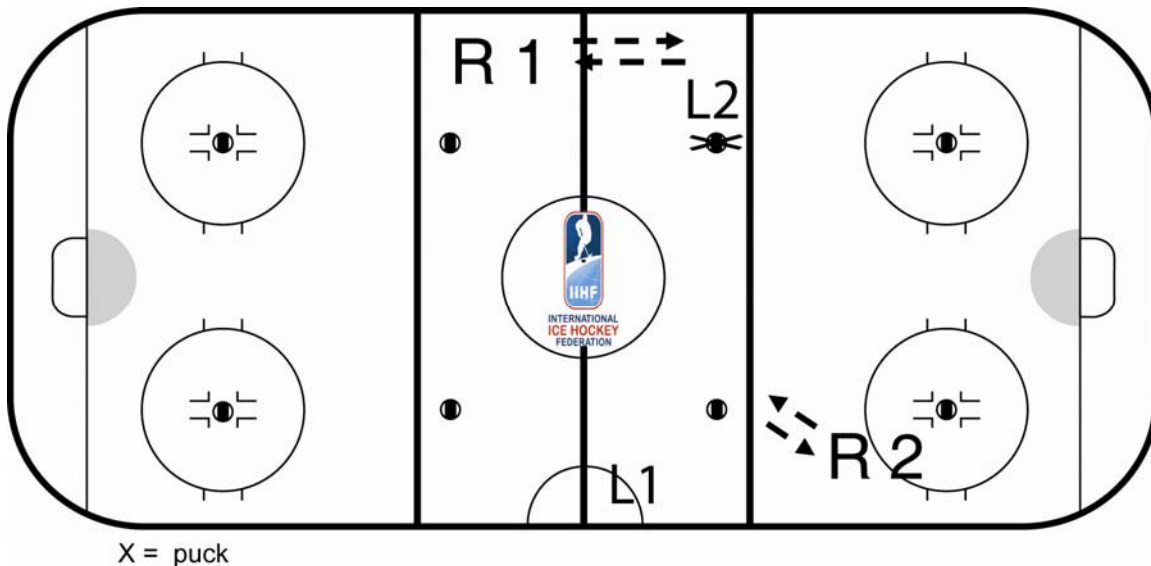


Figure 7

2. REFEREES' POSITIONING WHILE PLAY IS IN PROGRESS

2.1 WHO IS DESIGNATED TO WORK "DEEP" IN AN END ZONE AFTER CENTER FACE OFF?

- The Referee not conducting the center ice face-off shall go in the direction of the puck and shall assume that end of the ice. He will follow the play to that end zone and start that way as the Lead Referee, as the Referee who is conducting the center ice face-off shall position himself as a Trailing Referee. It is important that the Referee going into the end zone get in as quick and deep as possible.

2.2 REFEREES' POSITIONING - END ZONE POSITIONING

- Referee R1 (See Diagram 7) shall go deep into the end zone as pre-determined. His end zone positioning shall generally go along with the OPM, and it does not differ from that of the Three - Man System:

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1. ☐ To be at the net when ever needed,
 2. ☐ To anticipate the play so that he is able to stay away from the play/players,
 3. ☐ To keep the puck and players around in his field of vision,
- Referee R2 (Trailing Referee) shall move to the area of the face-off spot outside the blue line, and his first priority is to control the players away from the puck carrier and the players coming to his direction following an end zone face-off. He must be clear of the view of the Linesman who is covering the nearest blue line (Figure 8),

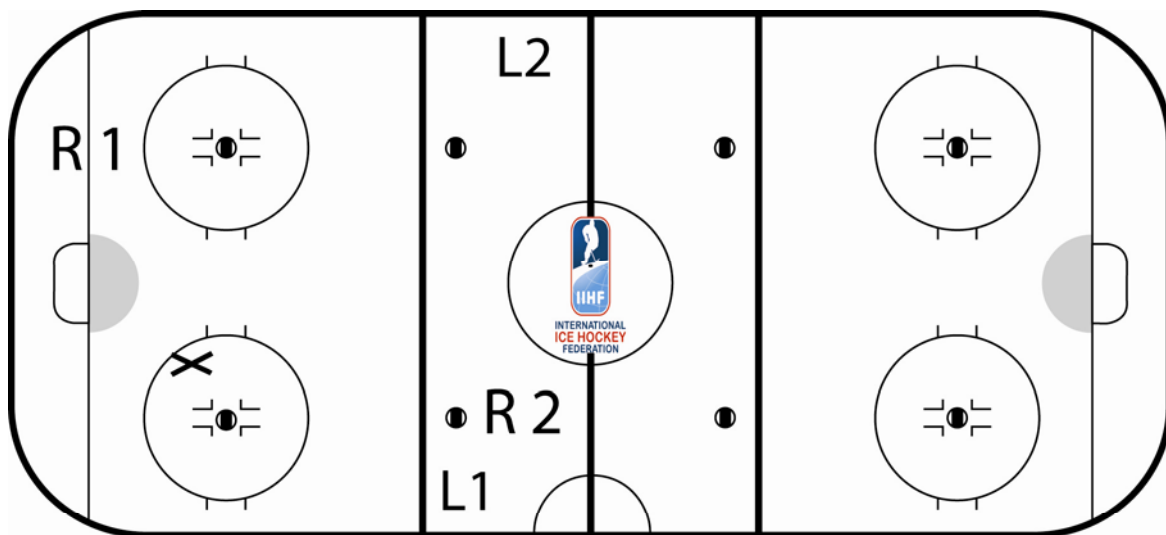


Figure 8

R1 = Lead Referee
R2 = Trailing Referee
L1 = Front Linesman
L2 = Back Linesman

X = puck

- The leading role in changing positioning belongs to the Lead Referee (R1) whose end zone positioning is dictated by the situation to be close to the area of action, to get a better view or angle of the action and the position or positioning of the players and/or the puck. The Lead Referee (R1) can change the side of the ice at his end zone positioning if the play dictates this.
- The Trailing Referee (R2) positions himself between the blue and red lines and may vary his position moving up and down between red line and blue line and back and forth across the ice in order to be on the opposite side to Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone and always prepared to cross over if end zone Referee crosses behind the net. He can also move close to the blue line in order to obtain the best observation or angle of the play.

- The Lead Referee in the end zone dictates the side with play in the ends as he may cross back and forth behind the net.
- It is the responsibility of the Trailing Referee (R2) in the neutral zone to adjust his position according to the position of the Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone and in addition position himself in such away that he can best observe the play.
- The Lead Referee (R1) can not change the side of the ice without Trailing Referee (R2) having the opportunity to change his side as well. There is no procedure for the Referees to change sides while the play is in progress.
- If one of the attacking players is skating around the center ice when the play is still back in the end zone, then the Trailing Referee shall be up at least the same level of the player as shall the back Lineman. The Linesman shall be prepared to cover his blue line and the Trailing Referee shall be prepared to move in deep in the end zone in front of the player anticipating any collisions with him on his way to the end zone.
- Lead Referee (R1) shall continue the end zone positioning procedure of being in quick and close to the net.

2.3 REFEREES' POSITIONING – TRANSITION OF PLAY FROM ONE END ZONE TO OTHER END ZONE

- As soon as the defending team gains control of the puck the Trailing Referee in the neutral zone shall be prepared to move from his position in the neutral zone into the end zone **skating backwards**, so that he is ahead of the play and in no way obstructing the view of the Linesman who has the responsibility to control the blue line.
- It is important that the Trailing Referee transferring himself into the Lead Referee shall be ahead of the play going into the other end zone and not to be on the same line as the puck or puck carrier or follow them from behind.
- The Lead Referee shall cross the blue line prior to the puck and so avoid blocking the view of the Linesman at the blue line.

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Note: *In some situations and at times it might be better if the Lead Referee follows the play into the end zone so that it is not a concern about contact with the players (Not concentrate on his safety and lose control of the game) and he can concentrate on the play. In addition, as he is already either near, at or just inside the blue line, he can still get quickly to the net and can concentrate on the play and probably get a better angle of the play.*

- The Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone transferring himself into the Trailing Referee shall follow the flow of the play, staying behind, keeping the last attacking player in clear view and continuing to observe the play as it proceeds into the other end zone. (Figure 9)

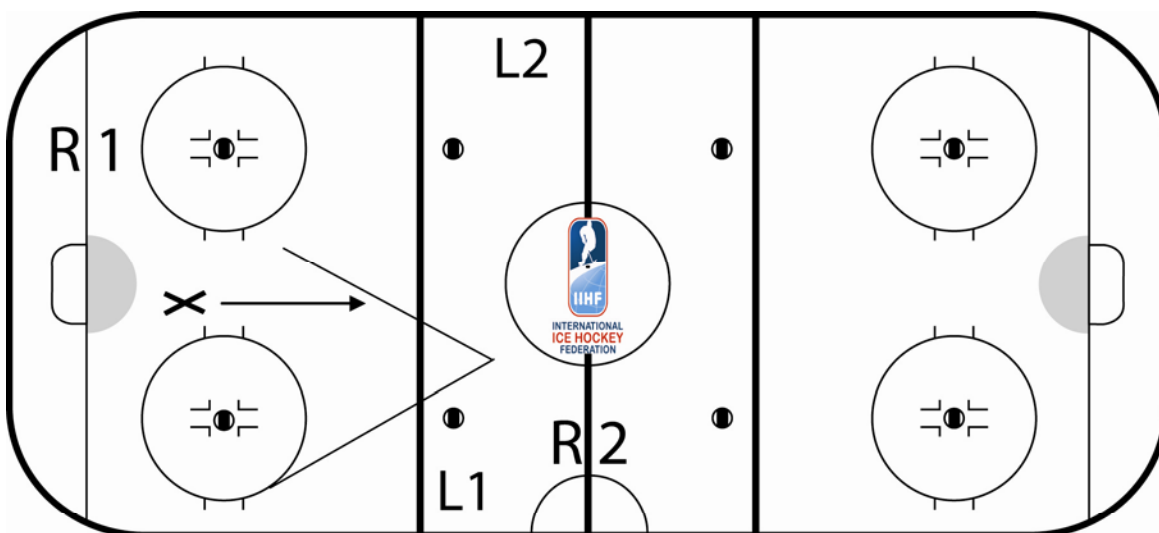


Figure 9

R1 = Lead Referee
R2 = Trailing Referee
L1 = Front Linesman
L2 = Back Linesman

→ = Movement of puck
X = Puck

- The Trailing Referee is not allowed to leave any players behind his back when leaving the end zone.

Note: *When the Trailing Referee sees the problem facing the Lead Referee of trying to avoid the puck or incoming players, he shall now be more aware of the players going into the end zone, probably moving up much quicker getting a better angle on the play.*

- The Trailing Referee transferring his positioning to the Lead Referee is to adjust his positioning coming up the ice so that he will be on the opposite side of the ice from the end zone Referee. However, as the Trailing Referee comes up the ice he may skate along the mid line of the neutral zone in order to get a better view or angle of the play, while being prepared to move to the side of the neutral zone if the play changes direction and or the defending team gains possession of the puck and begins to leave their zone.

Note: *This positioning (Lead Referee) going into the end zone, may change based on traffic and pursuit of the puck. The Referee shall use good judgment and anticipation with respect to the movement of the puck to move to the opposite side of the ice. The Trailing Referee MAY adjust his position. As the play exits the zone, the now Trailing Referee must return to his original side of the ice. The now Lead Referee must concentrate on the area of the puck as it travels through the Neutral zone, while his partner is in the process of changing sides*

- The Trailing Referee (R2) in the neutral zone shall position himself mid-ice, close to the blue line and shall be always in a little movement and never stationary. (Figure 10)

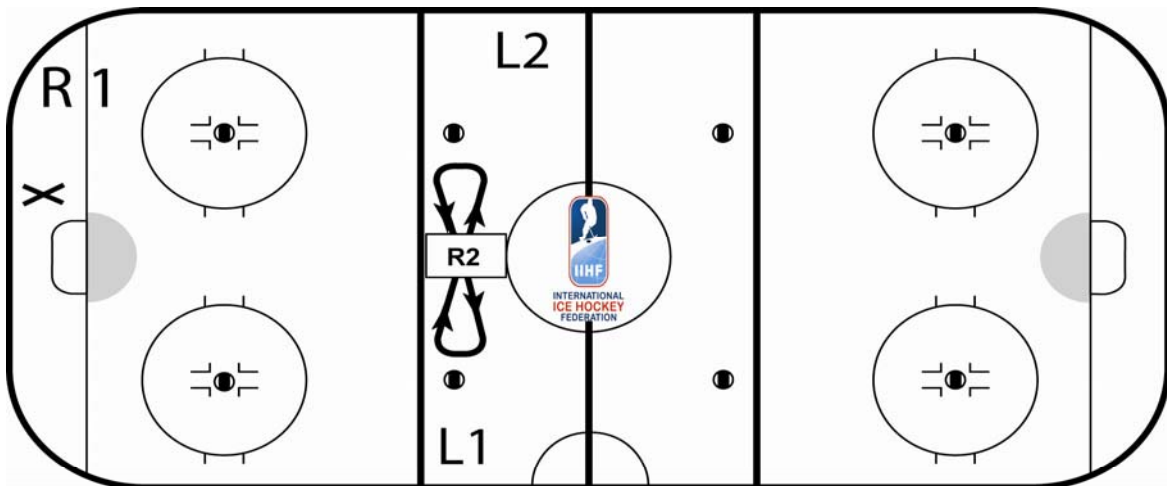


Figure 10

R1 = Lead Referee R2 = Trailing Referee X = Puck location

Note: Mid-ice shall be regarded as the space between the neutral zone face-off dots and close to the blue line

- Such position of the Trailing Referee (R2) allows him to move to either side of the ice surface away from the play and puck during the transition of the game in front of him.(Figure 11)

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- It also allows Trailing Referee (R2) some flexibility in anticipation of the play in his transition from Trailing Referee to Lead Referee, while directing his skating away from the action area - puck/play.(Figure 11)
- It now becomes the responsibility of the former Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone to adjust his positioning crossing the ice to the opposite side of R2 either crossing the ice behind the far net (Figure 12) or approaching the close blue line move from the mid-ice position to opposite side as his partner (Figure 13).

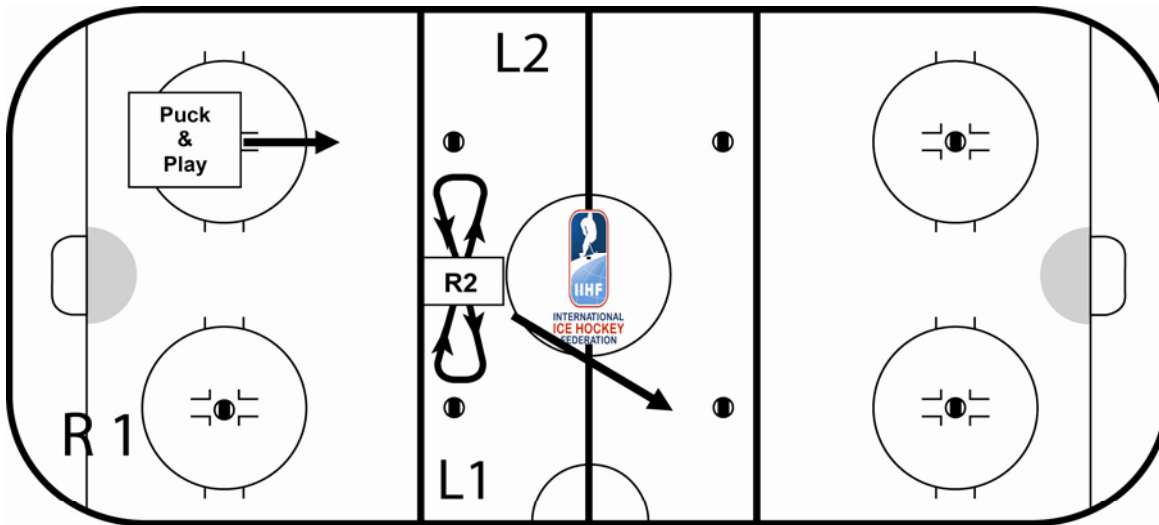


Figure 11

R1 = Lead Referee
R2 = Trailing Referee

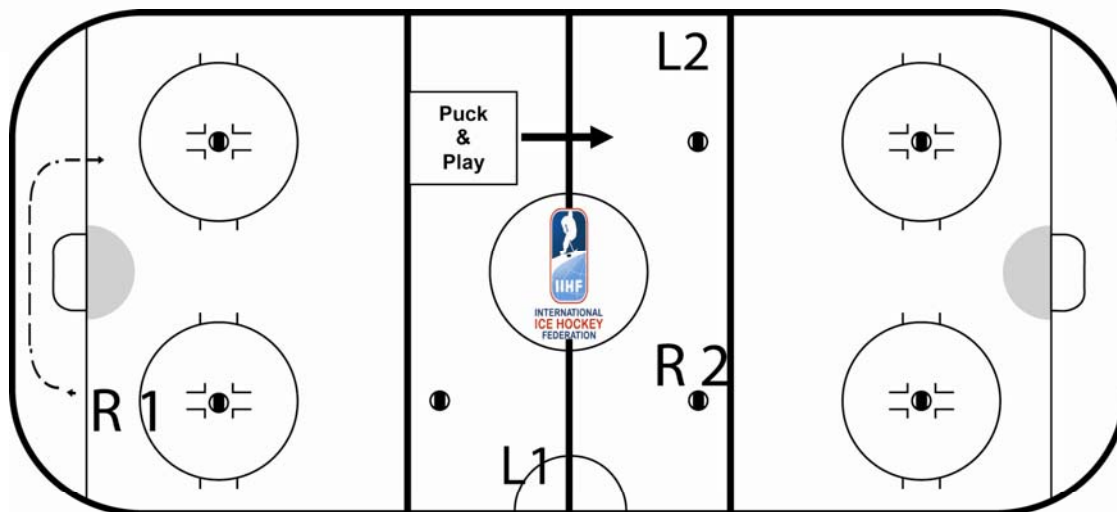


Figure 12

R2 = Trailing Referee
R1 = Lead Referee

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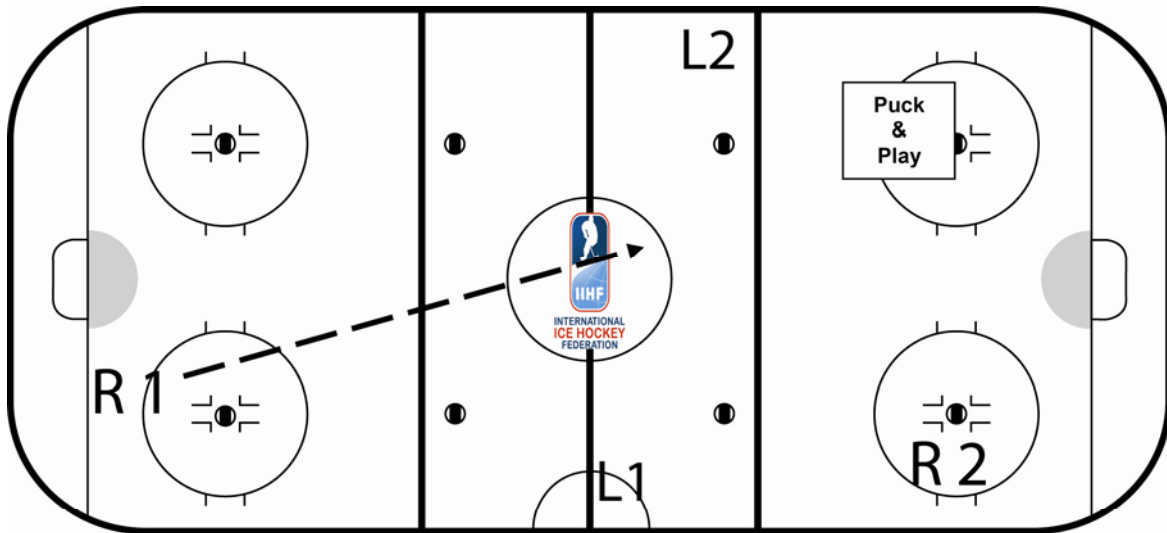


Figure 13

R1 = Lead Referee
R2 = Trailing Referee

- Where there is no strong fore-checking as play is shot into the end zone, it is not necessary for the Lead Referee to go quickly and deep into the end zone. This may leave the neutral zone clear of any Referee as the Trailing Referee will have to follow play out of his end zone. If the infraction were to occur in the neutral zone, it is possible that no Referee will be in a position to make a good judgment call or get a good view/angle of the play.
- If one Referee (Lead) is "knocked down/trapped" and unable to cover the action area, it will become the responsibility of the other Referee (Trailing) to assume his role and cover for him in the end zone and the other Referee (Lead) will position himself as a Trailing Referee.
- The neutral zone Referee (R2) shall be aware of players changing while play is in progress. If Referee (R2) is on the same side of the benches, he shall drop back and let the players go in front of him.

2.4 REFEREES' POSITIONING – ICING THE PUCK

- When the puck is shot from the side of the red line of one of the teams and becomes a potential icing, the Referee in the neutral zone shall skate backwards to the end zone and resume his position there until the play is stopped by Linesman calling icing.

- Following the stoppage of play for icing by the Linesman the Lead Referee from that end zone (if there are no difficulties with the players) shall skate quickly to the other end zone where the face off will take place and established his position at that end zone for the upcoming end zone face off based on the side of the face off.
- The Linesman shall indicate the side of the face off.
- The Lead Referee as he starts dropping back to the end zone for the face off shall skate backwards, facing up ice so that he can observe all the players.
- In the mean time the Trailing Referee (from the end where the puck was shot) shall move to the neutral zone following the play and following the stoppage of play shall take control of the change of player procedure. He shall move out to the middle of the ice and face the benches and shall follow IIHF players' change procedure.
- The Trailing Referee, who is in control of the players' change procedure shall wait until the Linesman retrieving the puck is crossing the close blue line, and then start to count the time for visiting team.
- At the time the Linesman is at the face-off spot, the Trailing Referee shall give him 3 to 4 seconds to control the players at the circle and behind him before Referee's arm goes down for the home team. It allows the Linesman to have 5 seconds to conduct a good quality face-off.
- The Trailing Referee in the neutral zone shall adjust his position after the change of player procedure has been completed.

3. REFEREE POSITION - FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM(S)

- Referees are positioned In front of the Scorekeeper's Bench area, standing in the Referee's Crease.
- Linesmen are positioned on the outside of the Referee's Crease on both sides.

PART II – CALLING OF PENALTIES. PROCEDURES and GUIDELINES

1. REFEREES' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Trailing Referee, as play is coming up the ice, will be responsible for coverage of the peripheral area. The Lead Referee will be prepared to go deep into the end zone, **skating backwards**, working his way towards and starting his end zone positioning as in the OPM.
- The Lead Referee will assume the coverage of the entire end zone, until "the play" has established itself in the end zone, at which time he shall devote his coverage area to the coverage of the "action area" (where prime puck and player location exists) as the Trailing Referee shall assume his coverage area to the coverage of "peripheral areas" (Figure 14).

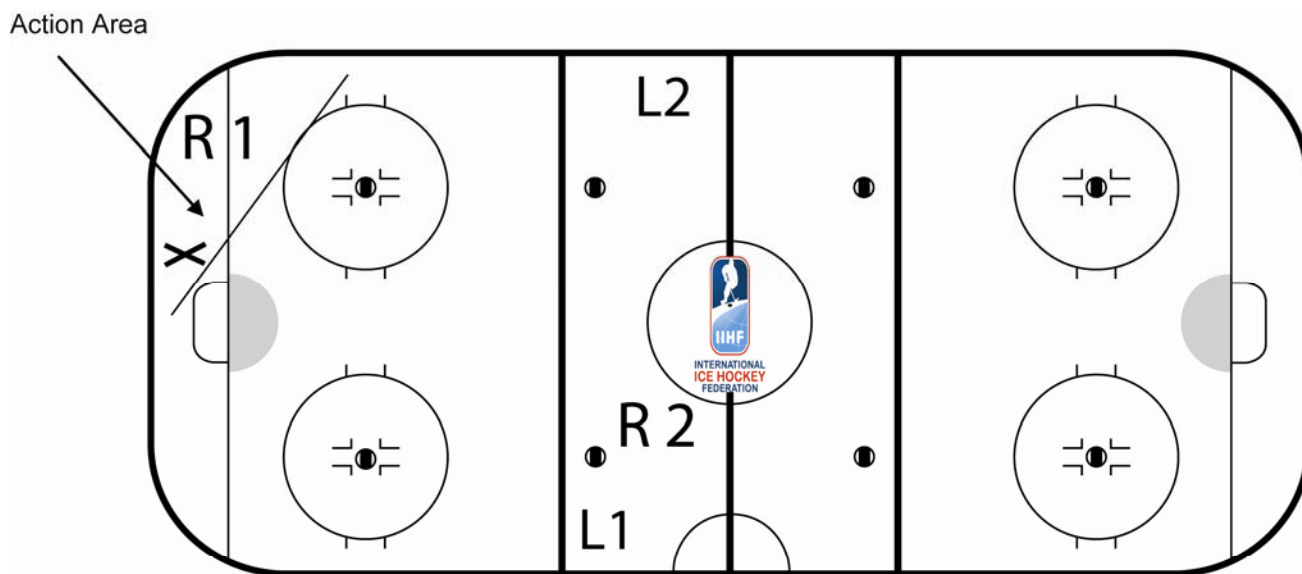


Figure 14

R1 = Lead Referee
 R2 = Trailing Referee
 L1 = Front Linesman
 L2 = Back Linesman
 X = Puck location

NOTE 1: The peripheral area and all other areas are covered by R2
 NOTE 2: Action area varies from moment to moment depending on the location of the puck

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- There is no designated end zone for the two referees for the length of the game. The Referees will be changing ends throughout the game.
- Where one Referee is in the same end zone for long periods of time, it is possible to change position between the two Referees during a stoppage of play. Referees may discuss this in pre-game discussions.
- ***It is also the responsibility of the Trailing Referee to be fully aware of the action area in the end zone.***
- ***The Trailing Referee (R2) in the neutral zone shall be aware of the area that the Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone is concentrating on***
- Following a stoppage in play the Trailing Referee should move into the area between center ice face-off circle and the blue line in order to observe and/or go deeper into the end zone to observe (if necessary) and assist in penalty calls (Figure 15).

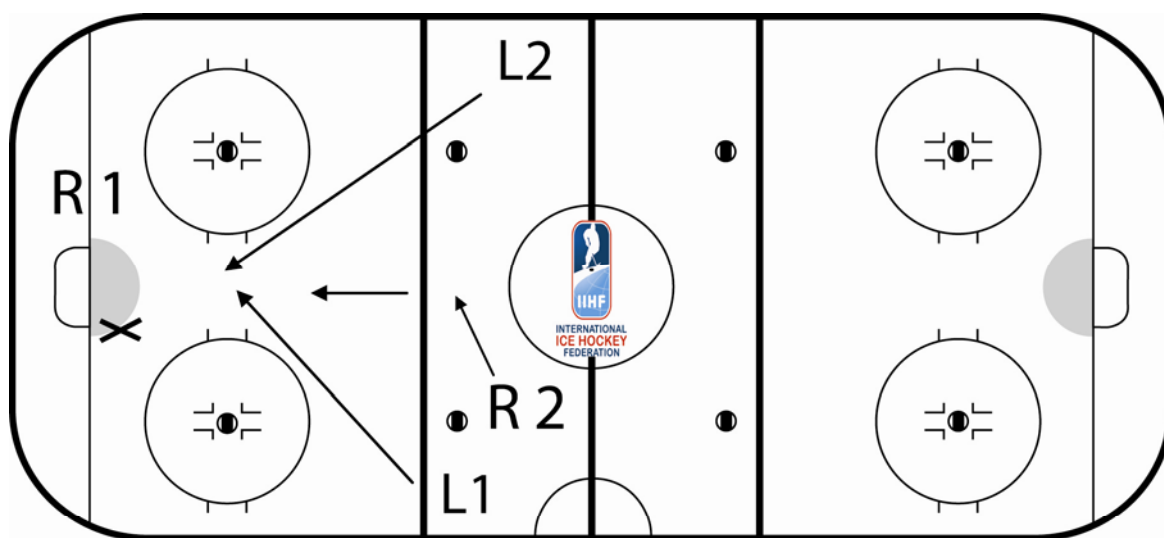


Figure 15

R1 = Lead Referee
R2 = Trailing Referee
L1 = Front Linesman
L2 = Back Linesman

X = puck location

- Where the Trailing Referee (R2) calls a penalty in the end zone, but the Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone stops play as the Trailing Referee (R2) does not see who touched the puck, it is recommended that the Trailing Referee (R2) shall also blow the whistle (to focus on him) to indicate that he is calling the penalty.

- Where the goalkeeper leaves his stick or glove or other object in front of the net as he goes to the benches and his team goes up the ice, the Trailing Referee (R2) shall stop play and assess the penalty.
- It is the responsibility of the Trailing Referee (R2), as a goalkeeper goes to the player's bench, to control it.
- Similarly, if the goalkeeper knocks the net off but takes his stick with him, the Trailing Referee (R2) is to stop play and assess the penalty.
- The Lead Referee (R1) in the end zone is the Referee who shall make decisions as to whether or not to stop play when the puck has contacted the helmet/face mask of the goalkeeper.
- Both Referees may discuss awarding assists as the Lead Referee (R1) reports the goal. Linesmen may also provide assistance. In all situations the discussions must be BRIEF.

2. REFEREE'S JUDGMENT

- A Referee's judgment is affected by many things, namely:
 - His positioning
 - His sight lines
 - The flow of the game
 - Infraction of the rules
- The bottom line is that Referees must trust their judgment and their instincts. If a Referee is 100% sure and can see that an infringement of the rules has occurred, he must make the call. If in any way a Referee is not 100% sure that a foul has occurred, or he is confident that his partner has seen and judged the play, then he should not make a call

Note 1 - "To making the call": If one Referee is not able to make the appropriate call which is witnessed by the other Referee, both Referees have the authority to make any appropriate call. This is applicable to action all over the ice surface.

Note 2 - "To making the call": The areas of judgment between game officials will be challenged, e.g. the Lead Referee says it is "no penalty" and the back Referee says "penalty". The judgment of the Referee and between the Referees must not be challenged on the ice. Both Referees have the right to stop the play and assess the penalty at the time and immediately after the foul.

Note 3 – “To making the call”. Following an end zone face-off it may be easier and more efficient for the Trailing Referee to call an infraction on players coming in his direction (towards the blue line) even though they may or may not be in the “action area”.

Note 4 - "To making the call": It is acknowledged that both Referees may have their arms in the air in order to assess the same penalty or different penalties.

- The system will work best when approached as a team effort.
- ***No official should ever make negative comment or allow his body language to suggest disapproval of a fellow official's call or non-call. Nor should he ever lay the blame on a call or non - call on his partner.***
- ***Where one Referee calls a penalty and the other Referee is questioned by players/coaches, a good comment to make in replay is: “He had a better angle to call it”. Referees shall refrain from saying “Good call” or “I’m support his call”.***
- Even though there are two Referees on the ice, involve the Linesmen if necessary as they may have a better angle of the incident
- Every attempt shall be made to keep conferences of the four game officials to a minimum at the Referee’s Crease area. If four game officials are required then they should participate in the discussion at the Referee’s Crease.

3. CALLING OF PENALTIES

- The Lead Referee or the Trailing Referee may call a penalty at ANY time in ANY zone of the ice, regardless of the position of his partner. This will be dictated by the Referee who has the best viewing position or angle of the play.
- The Judgement of the Referees and between Referees must not be challenged on the ice.
- It is acknowledged that both Referees may have their arms up to assess the same penalty or different penalties to the same or different players. Where two penalties are to be assessed to separate players, both signals must be given by the official(s) who call the penalty indicating this by pointing to the player.



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- Both Referees with their arms up in preparation for the calling of a penalty, whether to the same player or different penalties (same or different teams), shall have clear communications in order to ensure that the appropriate call has been made. In this case the Referee responsible of that zone will signal the penalty first and the other Referee thereafter if necessary. The object of this procedure is to call a penalty only if deserving. It is important that both Referees know the penalties assessed and if it needs have a briefly talk on the stoppage of the play to clarify if the penalty assessed to the same player or different players.
- In cases where two penalties are being assessed, the Lead Referee shall assess his penalty and make his signal first, followed by the Trailing Referee.
- Where there are multiple penalties to be called on any play, the two Referees should consult to ensure all appropriate penalties are assessed. Either Referee may relay all the penalties to the Penalty Timekeeper.
- The Referee who signals a penalty reports the penalty to the Scorekeeper.
- When both Referees signal at the same time for a penalty and play stops in the neutral zone, the Referee in the neutral zone will report the penalty.
- Where play stops in the end zone, and both Referees signal for the penalty, the Referee in the end zone reports the penalty to the Scorekeeper.
- Where both Referees signal for penalties to different players, each Referee will report his own penalty and return to the zone he was in at the time of the stoppage of play.

Note 1: Both Referees should be watching the play and not each other. They should call what they see and have the authority to make any appropriate call as it applies to all over the ice surface.

Note 2: Every effort should be made to keep official's conferences to a minimum at the Referee's Crease or anywhere on the ice. Only when all four officials are required will they participate in a discussion at the Referee's Crease.

- In case of major penalty or multiple penalties it is recommended that the two Referees shall have a very brief consultation to ensure all appropriate penalties are assessed. The Lead Referee shall relay this information to the Scorekeeper.
- If there is a situation of calling more than one penalty, the Referee must signal the second penalty according to the OPM, and it is very important that correct signals are conducted to avoid any type of confusion.

- Every effort shall be made to have one Referee signal one foul only, even though both may have their arms up to signal a penalty. However, when two penalties are to be assessed to two separate players both signals must be given. It is imperative that both Referees communicate to ensure the proper penalty and subsequent signal(s) be given.
- If one of the Referee puts his arm up to signal the penalty and then the other Referee puts his arm up to signal the penalty, both Referees shall keep their arm up until the stoppage of play.
- The need to call penalties after the play has stopped - if either Referee or Linesman has the need to make a call after the play has stopped, he is limited to making such calls as are permitted in the duties of the Referee or Linesman - See IIHF Rules,
- The two Referees and two Linesmen have the rights and responsibilities to assess penalties according to the Rule Book,
- To show good team work between the two Referees, it is important to be aware of the danger of giving the “wash out” signal in case of non penalty calls. **Referees shall not use the “washout” signal to indicate no penalty.**
- **Referees must be aware of when/where their partner is issuing a warning to players and not calling a penalty. Referees may continue to use their voice to communicate with the players or to indicate their presence. “No penalty yet” or “No more or a penalty” slogans the two Referees shall be very careful with, when the play is in progress.**
- It is recommended that the Referees shall not use any verbal or signals for non penalty calls. Verbal abuse penalties from the playing surface or bench areas can be called by any game official (Referee or Linesman) in the area who can confirm the accuracy of such a call,
- Linesman should report the incident to the referee without rising up his arm.

4. POSITIONING OF THE REFEREE FOLLOWING THE ASSESSMENT OF A PENALTY

- When the Referee in the neutral zone calls a penalty in the end zone, he reports the penalty, and then takes up a position as the end zone Referee. The Referee in the end zone now moves up into the neutral zone and takes over the responsibility of the change of player procedure.
- When the Referee in the end zone calls a penalty, he shall report the penalty and then return to the end zone. The neutral zone Referee will remain in the neutral zone and assume the responsibility of the change of player procedure.



SECTION 11

- If possible when selecting the face-off spot dot in the end zone after a penalty call, have it on the side opposite to the player's bench. In this manner the Referee assessing the penalty will stay also opposite to the player's bench.
- Only when there has been a confrontation after a penalty has been called the Referee reporting the penalty shall take up his position on the side away from the benches.

PART III –DIFFERENT PROCEDURES and GUIDELINES

1. SIGNALLING TECHNIQUES – CHANGE OF PLAYERS' PROCEDURE DURING STOPPAGE OF PLAY

- In the end zone face-offs it is the responsibility of the Trailing Referee to give the signal for line-up change, no matter on which side of the ice surface he is on.
- When the Referee gives the signal for the line-up change he should be off the boards, making himself more visible to the coaches, especially when he is on the side of the players' benches.
- For face-offs in the neutral zone, the Trailing Referee (R2) who may or may not be positioned on the players' bench side shall control player changes. He is encouraged to be visible - moving to the center ice face-off spot to make himself more visible to the Coaches. Changes shall be done in accordance with IIHF Rule Book - Rule 412. (This is applicable following commercial time outs also.) (Figure 16)

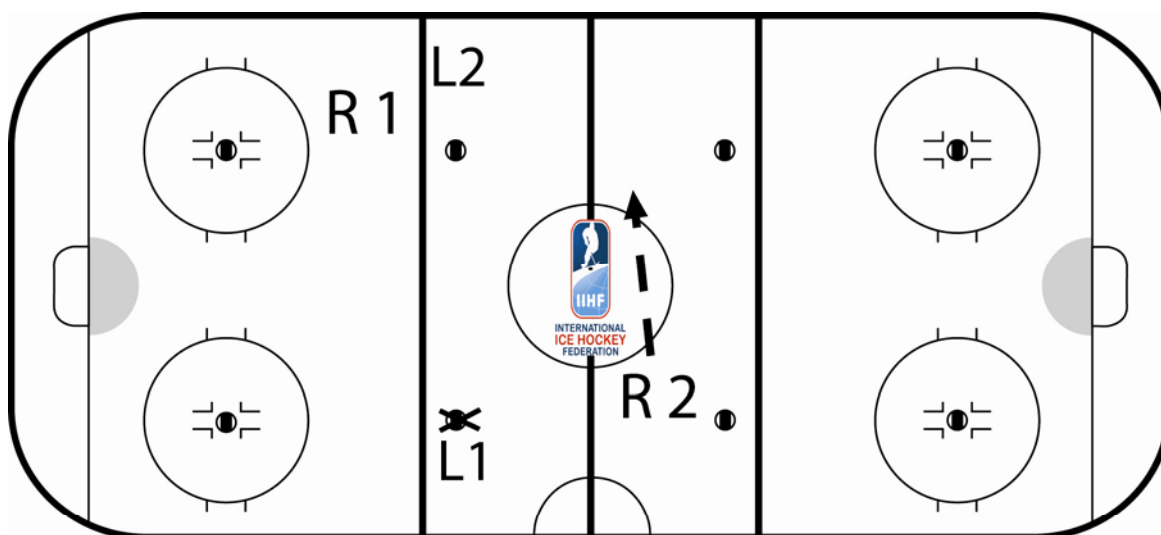


Figure 16

R1 = Lead Referee

R2 = Trailing Referee - moves out to control line change

L1 = Front Linesman - conducting the face-off

L2 = Back Linesman

X = puck

- The Referee in the neutral zone is responsible for controlling the line up changes, in all situations.

2. REFEREES' RESPONSIBILITIES DURING VIDEO REVIEW

- When one of the Referees calls for a video review of a play, that Referee should call up to Video Goal Judge (V.G.J.) and discuss the situation with him, however, both Referees may consult with each other.
- During the time period when one Referee is in discussion with the V.G.J. the other Referee should observe all the players, and ensure that the Referee dealing with the V.G.J. is not affected by the players. The Referee may step off the ice onto the Scorekeeper's bench to use the phone. Following his discussion with the V.G.J., he shall announce and give the signal for the final ruling.
- The Referee, not in discussion with the V.G.J., should make NO comment to any player on the situation being reviewed. He should only explain what situations may be reviewed by the rules.
- Where a video review is called for by the V.G.J., the Referee in the zone where the situation occurred should be the Referee to be in contact with the V.G.J. and to give the final result of the ruling.
- Where a video review is to be called, both Referees shall discuss the situation briefly before calling Video Goal Judge (VGJ), to save time if the VGJ give a reply of "Inconclusive".
- When the V.G.J. gives his reply (for a request from a Referee for a review) that the review from his position is "inconclusive" then the two Referees (with the possible consultation with the two Linesmen) shall discuss the situation, make the decision.
- The Referee who called for the review shall announce and give the signal for the final ruling.
- Where a player requests either Referee to call up for a review, the comments of either or both Referees should be that a team cannot request the review of a play".

3. REFEREES' RESPONSIBILITIES DURING OVERTIME

Where there is to be an overtime period, each Referee will follow the same procedure and positioning as for the start of each of the regular periods.

4. REFEREES' RESPONSIBILITIES DURING GAME WINNING SHOTS

- During this procedure one Referee may check the goal crease areas for the best end at which to take the shots and notify the arena staff where and how to clean the middle of the ice.
- The same Referee may take the responsibility of explaining the situation to each of the coaches.
- The other Referee will meet with the Captains, conduct the coin flip, and find out which team will shoot first.
- One Referee and a Linesman shall take up a position on the goal line and one linesman at the benches as in the 3 Man Systems.
- The Referee in the neutral zone shall instruct the player(s) taking the shot and checking that the correct player(s) is shooting and the correct order of teams shooting and waits until the end zone Referee blows the whistle.
- The Referee on the goal line shall instruct the goalkeepers and at the appropriate time blow the whistle for the player to begin his shot and signal goal or no goal after each shot.
- As the player starts to take the shot, the Referee in the neutral zone, starts to move crossing center ice follow the player 2 – 3 m inside the blue line along the mid line of ice and shall obtain a good sight view from behind on actions of the player and goalkeeper.

5. REPORTING TO THE BENCHES

- When there is a decision to go to the benches (coaches) it is recommended that the Referee who has made the decision or judgment is the one who should make the explanation.
- However, at appropriate times both Referees may go to a bench or one Referee may go to each bench.

- In case of difficulties with one or both teams for one of the 2 Referees, the other Referee should take more charge of the needs to communicate with the teams. It also may reflect to their positioning; the one with no conflict will stay more on the side of the teams.

6. WRITING OUT A REPORT

- Where a situation or a penalty has occurred during the course of a game that dictates that a report shall be filed to the Proper Authorities, both Referees shall write a report.
- When a Referee Game Report Form is required, all four officials should sign unless one of the officials has a different version of the incident. He then shall write down separate report.
- Correct procedures shall be followed in that Linesmen may also be requested to write such a report as in any other system of officiating.
- It is the responsibility of both Referees to ensure that their reports are presented to the Proper Authorities.
- Both Referees may also be required to attend a meeting related to the incident where the situation is being reviewed by the Proper Authorities.

7. PROCEDURE FOR SCRUMS AND ALTERCATIONS

- **Referees, at no time, should become physically involved in an effort to prevent an altercation**
- In any altercation the Referee will assume an observer role, while the Linesmen will follow the altercation process they have in the past. They will make an attempt to stop an altercation if able, at the Referee's discretion,
- The Referee, responsible for that zone, will be in charge of assessing the appropriate penalties, as the other Referee may assist if requested. In any situation the consultation must be very brief,
- During an altercation in the end zone the Trailing Referee shall have the responsibility of observing and controlling the players' benches and the point players moving in and he shall take the position close to the blue line. It is not recommended that he enter deep into the end zone.

- During an altercation where multiple players are involved the Trailing Referee has the responsibilities as mentioned above and now he may move closer to have the best available view to the altercation in case of the Lead Referee needing his opinion of the altercation. **Moving in** means that the Trailing Referee is allowed to move in slightly across the blue line, but he is not allowed to get involved with the altercation.
- When there is a scrum or roughing situation in the end zone and a goalkeeper may be assessed a penalty(s) the Trailing Referee (R2) in the neutral zone shall:
 - Record the numbers of the players on the ice
 - Stop all players from leaving the benches
- Where there is a scrum in the end zone, on the stoppage of play, the Trailing Referee (R2) in the neutral zone may move in to the top of the circles while at the same time checking if the point players have moved in.

The following is a brief summary of procedure for altercations:

REFEREES

- 1 Lead Referee is in charge
- 2 Trailing Referee will control the players away from the fight or altercation
- 3 After the altercation may be a brief consultation - to make sure that both Referees know all the penalties being assessed
- 4 Lead Referee shall announce and assess the penalties
- 5 It is also the responsibility of the Lead Referee to inform the two Captains of the penalties being assessed
- 6 At the same time the Trailing Referee is in charge of controlling the other players
- 7 Both Referees must know the penalties which will be assessed
- 8 Finally, check where the next face-off will take place

LINESMEN

- 1 Normal fight procedure - see OPM
- 2 Escort the players taking part in the altercation to the penalty bench or off the ice surface
- 3 When the two Referees are having a brief consultation in the Referee's Crease, it is the responsibility of the Linesmen to control the players
- 4 If requested be ready to give your opinion to the Referee

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1 □ The goal is to ensure that the correct penalties will be assessed

8. OTHER PROCEDURES

- Both Referees will have the responsibility of making such calls as "Hand Pass", "High Sticking of the Puck", "Puck out Bounds" etc. The Linesmen may assist in such calls if the Referee has not observed that call according to the rules.
- The Referee must be given the opportunity to make the call initially and if he shall not observe it, then the Linesman will make the appropriate call. The Linesman will have the same authority that he had in the past.
- Where a player contacts the puck with a high stick in any zone and one Referee makes the original signal:
 - Wait to see what happens
 - Same team touches the puck → stop play
 - When opposing team play the puck → use washout signal

The Referee (R1/R2), who initially signals the infraction, is the Referee who must complete it → stop play or a washout signal.

- When the situation is not a high sticking the puck action NO washout signal should be given.
- When appropriate the Trailing Referee shall be in charge of either or both benches in order to speed up the resumption of play.
- If both Referees go to the benches they better be sure that same instructions are given to both coaches
- In the event of a Linesman unable to make a call at the blue line, the Referee would first check to see if the other Linesman is prepared to make the call, and if not able, the Referee would then stop the play,
- Referees should not focus only on their responsibilities based on action area & location of it.
- On occasion due to movement of the play both Referees may be on the same side of the ice surface, but should adjust their position at the first opportunity.

9. INJURED REFEREE AND LINESMAN PROCEDURE

9.1. INJURED REFEREE

- In case one of the Referees becomes incapacitated and unable to continue, the game officials shall continue working the game using the 3 Man Officiating System.

9.2. INJURED LINESMAN

- In case one of the Linesmen becomes incapacitated and unable to continue, the game officials shall continue working the game using the following procedures and guidelines.

9.2.1 Face-Off Procedure

- The Linesman to conduct all face-offs, excluding the center ice face-off spot
- In the end zone face-offs the R2 to control the blue line until the Linesman returns to the blue line or the far blue line, if there is a quick transition of the direction of the play
- In neutral zone face-offs the Referee closest to the blue line shall cover the line until the Linesman is able to cover the line

9.2.2 Offside Situations and Calls

- If the Linesman is not in position to cover the line, the Referee closest to this line, shall control it, and stop the play if needed
- In the delayed offside situation the Referee shall use verbal communication to indicate the offside situation. The Referee shall never raise his arm to indicate delayed offside. When the Linesman arrives at the blue line (the delayed off-side is still in effect), he then will raise his arm and control the line.

9.2.3 Icing Situations

- The Linesman shall control and call all Icing

PART IV – LINESMEN PROCEDURES and GUIDELINES

1. PENALTY CALLS THAT THE LINESMAN MAY MAKE

- There are no changes in the standard of rule enforcement that the Linesmen have been authorized to call.
- The Linesmen will have the same authority as specified in the Rule Book.

2. LINESMAN POSITIONING FOR ALL FACE OFFS AT CENTER ICE

- Linesman positioning has exactly the same procedures as utilised in the three-man system, so Linesman positioning will remain the same as it has been in the past.

Note: Any positioning referred to shall be a guideline only. This will allow for flexibility to be able to move to any position that will not interfere with the flow of the game.

3. LINESMEN COVERAGE FOR A TRAPPED REFEREE

- In order to be ensured of proper coverage "to the net" the Linesman will have the same authority to cover the play to the net in the event of the Referee being "trapped" and unable to make it to the goal line.
- There must be one of the four at the net always when there is a scoring opportunity,
- If the Lead Referee is out of position (falls) the Linesman is to check to see if the Trailing Referee is able to cover, if so, let him go deep in zone. If the Trailing Referee is not able to cover for the trapped Referee, the Linesmen are requested to check and go deep into the end zone, if required.

Summary

FOUR MAN SYSTEM - KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Respects for Fellow Officials
- Integrity of the Game