

Cross-Ice Hockey Officiating Manual





INTRODUCTION

Inspired by a commitment to ensure that the foundation of a hockey player's experience is rewarding, BC Hockey has mandated that cross-ice or half-ice (small area games) be used for all levels below Atom. Small area games has been proven to be a more effective, efficient and fun way to learn the game. With this in mind, BC Hockey's coaching and officiating programs have collaborated to produce this document.

BC Hockey highly recommends the inclusion of officials at the minor and major novice divisions (ages 7 – 8 years old). At these levels, a one (1) official system will be used as outlined in this manual. While this manual is not an official Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) recourse, it is meant to provide guidelines to assist officiating programs with the integration of officials into small area games. The one (1) official system is not meant to be utilized at levels beyond these small area games.

We hope that these small area games will provide new and young officials with an opportunity to experience several aspects of officiating in a less intimidating and structured environment. The goal is to provide an experience that will better prepare them for full-ice games at the atom level and above.

BENEFITS OF INVOLVING OFFICIALS IN SMALL AREA GAMES

For officials, there are numerous benefits when considering the aspects of building foundational officiating skills. This is a valuable opportunity for newer officials to put on their uniform, get on the ice in live play and learn introductory aspects of being an official, in a positive atmosphere.

Basic skills include: dropping pucks, skating, foundational positioning / spatial awareness, establishing good sightlines, making decisions such as goals and infractions. This allows officials to apply newly acquired information they received in their clinic within a spontaneously live environment. This format also provides an excellent opportunity for senior officials to mentor new comers by shadowing them on the ice or evaluating them from the stands. The ability to mentor officials at ice-level in this structure provides instantaneous feedback and assists in preparing these officials for full-ice games in a two (2) or three (3) official system.

For players, having an official on the ice for the cross-ice and half-ice games provides them with more structure than at the pre-novice (5 – 6 year-old) level. It provides a more realistic game environment, while allowing coaches to focus on the player development and feedback, rather than game operations.

OFFICIATING PROCEDURES

Flexibility is an important component to operating in a one (1) official system within the Novice structure. There is no absolute correct way to handle every possible scenario. However, flow and establishing a basic structure to the game is the primary focus. Officials will NOT be required to call infractions for icing or off-side, as the appropriate rink dimensions are not available. Should a Novice game be played on a mini-rink with full-rink markings, it will be at the Minor Hockey Association's (MHA) discretion as to whether off-side or icing will be called. Under these circumstances, it is encouraged for associations to begin integrating the two (2) official system.





TEAMS

Individual MHA's will have the ability to choose how many players will be playing at a time, with a minimum of three (3) players per team and a maximum of five (5) players per team during play (e.g. 3 on 3, 4 on 4 or 5 on 5).

FROZEN PUCKS, STOPPAGES & GAME FLOW

The line change procedure is not required on stoppages of play. Associations will have the choice of employing a stop time, run time or 1-2 minute buzzer, by way of the game clock. The official shall stop play with their whistle and conduct a face-off under the following situations:

- 1) A goaltender freezes the puck
- 2) A player falls on the puck and it becomes unplayable
- 3) The puck is frozen along the boards or becomes unplayable
- 4) The puck leaves the playing area
- 5) An injury has occurred
- 6) A goal has been scored, penalty is to be assessed or the net has been significantly displaced
- 7) Should a hand-pass or puck being struck by a high-stick violation occur.

GOALS

When the puck enters the goal, the official can simply signal a goal and stop play in the regular manner. The ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the centre face-off location. Goals DO NOT need to be reported or recorded with a time/score keeper.

PENALTIES

Penalties shall be called in accordance with the instructed Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) standard of play. Officials at this level will be new to officiating. Therefore, this environment will be where they learn the application of the rules.

The HCOP delayed / penalty procedure will be used for all penalty infractions. Officials will stop play and complete the penalty calling procedure (e.g. stop, plant, point etc.) as instructed at the BC Hockey officiating clinics. However, no penalty or penalty time will be recorded and the player will not be sent to the penalty box. Rather, the player will be sent to his team's bench / staging area and be subsequently replaced by another player. The teams will never play short-handed.

Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be removed from the game (e.g. Misconduct, Game Misconduct, Match penalty or Gross Misconduct), then this will be enforced. Even under these circumstances teams will not play short-handed. However, the official will be required to submit a game incident report, using the online process.



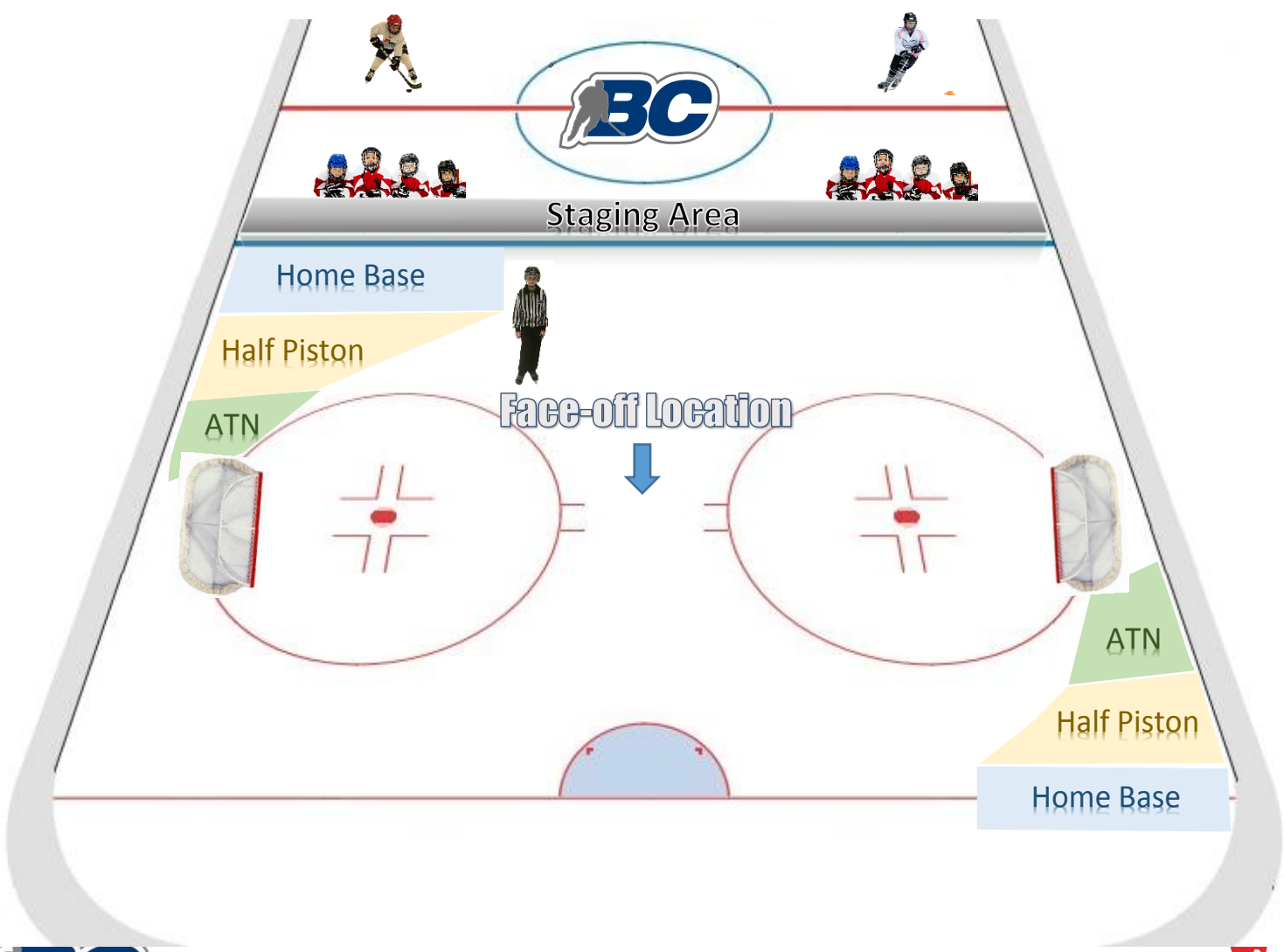


FACE-OFFS, POSITIONING & RINK CONFIGURATION

There will be one (1) face-off location used in small area games. This will be located approximately half way between the goals (see diagrams). Coaches and arena staff may mark the centre face-off location with a temporary marking. For specific rink dimensions, please see BC Hockey Policy 9.04.

Foundational positioning principles will be used. The concept of the “cone” should be reserved for when full ice play begins. Under the cross ice structure, approximate “home base, half piston and at the net” positions should be used to get officials comfortable with their proximity to the goal. Officials should follow the play approximately 10-15 feet behind the puck carrier. They should remain about 5-10 feet from the boards or playing area perimeters. The examples on the diagram below show guidelines for establishing recommended end-zone positions.

Cross - Ice





Half - Ice

