



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 08/18

Date: September 16, 2008
To: Member Minor Hockey Associations
From: Mike Olesen
Manager, Member Services

SUBJECT: Hockey Canada Playing Rule Clarification: Face-offs

The following is a clarification from Hockey Canada Referee in Chief Vernon Doyle.

The reason for this clarification is so the rule may be applied with its intended purpose in mind. This will be consistent with the applications which other Leagues use who adopted a similar rule last season.

Please contact Todd Anderson, Hockey Canada Manager of Officiating if additional clarification is required. Todd can be reached at (403) 777-4587 or via email – tanderson@hockeycanada.ca.

Rule 10.2 (g) reads as:

All face-offs in the neutral zone shall be conducted at the designated face-off spots as dictated by reason for the stoppage of play.

The face-off location will be at one of the two face-off spots nearest the offending team's blue line, thus causing a loss of territorial advantage.

When a stoppage of play occurs between the end zone face-off spots and the nearest end of the rink, the face-off shall be the nearest end zone face-off spot, unless otherwise stated in the rules.

Centre ice face-offs will be only conducted at the start of each period, following the scoring of a goal, premature substitution of the goaltender or in accordance with Rule 10.5 (f).

Any other stoppage of play in any zone not caused by either team, the ensuing face-off shall be at the nearest face-off spot excluding the centre face-off spot.

Following are criteria to help in determining face-off locations for the consistent application of this rule:

Defending Zone:

1. If the defending team causes a stoppage, the face-off will take place at the nearest end zone face-off spot, unless otherwise stated in the rules.
2. If the attacking team causes a stoppage, the face-off will take place at the nearest neutral zone face-off spot just outside the attacking zone blue line. (Unless otherwise stated in the playing rules)

Neutral Zone:

3. If a stoppage occurs in the neutral zone (example – puck is passed causing an off-side at the blue line) take the following steps:
 - a. identify the location from where the puck was passed as was the procedure in past years
 - b. from this location, move towards the nearest neutral zone face-off spot, this will be the location of the face-off to resume play.

Other:

4. If the puck deflects off an official in the endzone and goes out of play, the face-off goes to the closest dot in the endzone.
5. In situations where neither team is at fault for the stoppage of play in any zone the ensuing face-off shall be at the nearest face-off spot in that zone. (Unless otherwise stated in the playing rules)

Respectfully,



Vernon Doyle
Referee-in-Chief
Hockey Canada

Mike Olesen
Manager, Member Services