Ask the Official - Week 12

December 7 - 13, 2012

QUESTION #1: In the Penalty Shot case studies it appears that if the non-offending team scores after the infraction there is no penalty shot option, even though the "fouled" player has been deprived of a reasonable scoring opportunity. The Fouled-from-Behind case studies seem to be very specific that a penalty shot should be awarded if all five conditions are met; the last one being that the "fouled player (as opposed to the non-offending team) has been deprived a reasonable scoring opportunity even if the non-offending team maintains possession and scores on the play.

ANSWER #1: Generally speaking a penalty shot is awarded to replace a reasonable scoring opportunity that was taken away from a team through an illegal infraction. The five criteria must be met in all cases in order for the referee to award one. For instance, if the attacking player was “fouled from behind” while in possession and control of the puck and his/her teammate picks up the loose puck and scores a goal, the infraction would result in a “recorded but not served” minor penalty due to the fact that the non-offending team’s lost scoring opportunity was immediately replaced and successful (the goal washes out the minor penalty).

QUESTION #2: When are referees instructed to blow the whistle when there is an injured player laying on the ice?

ANSWER #2: Rule 206(a) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“When a player is injured and is unable to continue play or go to his bench, play shall be stopped immediately unless the opposing team is in possession of the puck, in which case play shall not be stopped until a change of possession has occurred. In the case where it is obvious that a player has sustained a serious injury, the Referee and/or Linesman may stop the play immediately.”

QUESTION #3: If a player receives a misconduct penalty, does it also become a game misconduct automatically and is there any suspension time pending?

ANSWER #3: Generally a Misconduct penalty results in a player entering the penalty box for ten minutes, for which the team may immediately substitute for him on the ice. After ten minutes, he may return to the game. A Game Misconduct would require removing the player for the balance of the game and assessing a one game suspension.

QUESTION #4: Can the rule book be on the bench and used to clarify a rule during a game? I was advised by a referee that if I brought it out, he would give me a bench minor penalty.

ANSWER #4: There are no rules within USA Hockey that prevent a coach from bringing a rule book onto the bench during a game. However, using it to point out flaws in the officials’ performance is unlikely to help build rapport and respect with the officials. This would be very similar to an official walking behind the bench and using a marker board to diagram to the players why their power-play that the coach designed is not working.

QUESTION #5: A defenseman is in pursuit of an attacking player in his zone. He dives to disrupt the play, makes no contact with the attacking player but does slide into his goaltender, and in the process dislodges the net. The attacking player shoots the puck into the dislodged net. Does the goal count?

ANSWER #5: Rule 610(e) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“Play shall be stopped immediately when the goal frame has been displaced from its normal position. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player (including a goalkeeper) who deliberately displaces the goal frame.”

Therefore, unless the official can determine that the net was dislodged on purpose he cannot assess a penalty. Additionally, a goal cannot be awarded when the net is dislodged from its normal position.