Ask the Official - Week 4

October 5 - 11, 2012

QUESTION #1: Is there a specific rule on when a team can enter the ice surface before a game.

ANSWER #1: There are no specific playing rules in the USA Hockey Playing Rules that outline when a team may enter the ice before a game. These types of issues are typically handled by the host local hockey organization or league. However, the game officials should always enter the ice first.

QUESTION #2: In Tier I 16 & Under do you have to wear your ear pieces?

ANSWER #2: All players at all Youth Levels (18 & Under and below) must wear a HECC approved helmet that has not been modified from its original manufacturer’s specifications. Removing the ear protectors from the helmet would be considered an “alteration” and void the HECC certification. Therefore, a helmet without ear protectors is illegal at the Youth Level.

QUESTION #3: If a player is suspended one game for fighting in a US tournament, are they allowed to play in a Canadian tournament? Do they need to serve their suspension in U.S.?

ANSWER #3: Since suspensions and all other forms of discipline are handled by the team’s Local Governing Body (League, Association, Affiliate, etc.) we cannot answer this question at this forum. We recommend contacting your governing body to receive further clarification as to how a player’s suspension must be served.

QUESTION #4: My son has been an official for 8 years. He is graduating from college this fall and has no idea where he will be living so he doesn’t plan to officiate this season. Is there a method for registering him so that when he starts up again next year he won’t have to start all over? Please let me know.

ANSWER #4: The policies of the USA Hockey Officiating Program allow an amnesty year before an official is dropped in registration level. The policy allows an official to take a year off, or be incompletely registered and return the following season at the same level they were last completely registered at.

In other words, Blake can take this season off and return as a Level 3 in 2012-13. He may not go up one level, but he won’t lose any ground either.

QUESTION #5: What is official definition of a “shot on goal”? we keep stats and there are many differing opinions.

ANSWER #5: The USA Hockey Off-Ice Officials Manual (located at the Publications page at the Officials section of USAHockey.com) defines a shot-on-goal as,

“When a team directs the puck towards its opponent’s goal, causing a goal to be scored or the opposing goalkeeper to make a save, the team shall be credited with a shot on goal.”