

# OFF-ICE OFFICIALS AND THEIR ROLE

---

Off-ice officials are considered an extension of the on-ice officiating team. In order for the game to run smoothly, a good group of off-ice officials are necessary to assist the on-ice crew. In keeping with our role as teachers, the on-ice officials need to work effectively with the off-ice officials who, oftentimes, are volunteers who have little knowledge of the rules. This section will explain the responsibilities of the off-ice officials in an attempt to better prepare you, as an official, to have a better understanding of their role and assist them when necessary.

## Off-ice Officials

For lower levels of hockey, the minimum number of off-ice officials necessary for the game is usually all that is present. Most often, these off-ice officials are volunteer parents who possess very little knowledge of the rules or their responsibilities. Patience, understanding and awareness are all necessary traits for an on-ice official to possess when working with inexperienced off-ice officials. Taking a few extra minutes to understand their duties and answer their questions will benefit everyone involved with the game and will help future games run more efficiently.

Following is a list of off-ice officials necessary for lower level games and their responsibilities:

- **Timekeeper** – Responsible for operating the time clock and keeping track of penalty times.
- **Official Scorer** – Records all goals, assists, saves, and penalties on the official scoresheet. Secures the playing roster for both teams prior to the game. May also serve as the announcer for the game. Ensures the scoresheet is properly signed and distributed following the game.
- **Penalty Bench Attendants (one for each team)** – Opens the door for penalized players. Assists the timekeeper in monitoring penalty times. May also assist the scorer in monitoring saves.

## Do's And Don't's Of Off-ice Officials

### DO

- Remain impartial at all times
- Assist the on-ice officials in the conducting of the game, when asked
- Report any violations to the referee that occur while a player is serving a penalty
- Ask the referee questions when uncertain about penalty time expiration
- Pay attention to the game
- Respect all game participants
- Give your version of a play when asked to do so by the referee

### DON'T

- Question a judgment call by any on-ice official
- Use profane or abusive language
- Award goals or assists without the permission of the referee
- Guess on a penalty time expiration
- Openly cheer for any particular team
- Provoke or incite a player or official
- Offer a version of the play when not asked

## Improper Behavior By An Off-ice Official

Unfortunately, there may be times when an off-ice official is behaving improperly. As an on-ice official, you have the authority to have an off-ice official, who is not performing properly, replaced at anytime. When an off-ice official is behaving improperly or not performing his/her duties, the official should first remind the off-ice official of his/her responsibilities and inform him/her that particular behavior will not be tolerated. If the off-ice official continues with the unacceptable behavior, he/she should be removed from the game and the team associated with this person shall be responsible for providing a replacement.

## Off-Ice Officials and Their Role Review

The following questions highlight some of the key points you should have picked up from this chapter. Take a few minutes to review what you have learned about off-ice officials and their role. When finished, you can compare your answers to the correct answers that appear in the back of this manual.

1. Are off-ice officials considered to be part of the officiating team?
2. List the responsibilities of the Official Scorer.
3. What procedure should be followed when an off-ice official is not performing their duties properly or behaving inappropriately?