



Four-Official System

Northern Ontario Hockey Association



Four-Official System

Primarily, we are Refereeing in the two-official system and we are adding two Linesman to the ice. If you keep this in mind, it will allow you to better grasp the system.



Four-Official System

Keys to Success to this System

1. Communication
2. Teamwork
3. Positioning
4. Respect for Fellow Officials
5. Anticipation and Skating Ability



Communication And Teamwork



Linespeople, know where your partner is and be aware of their actions, eye contact, nods, verbal, covering for each other when necessary is essential.

Referees, if both calling a penalty/s on the same play, make sure you have the same player/s, the same infractions.



Communication And Teamwork

If you are on a game as a Referee or Linesperson and notice an error or incorrect call has been made, you should be discussing with the Official to correct it.

Example, a Referee assesses a minor for a head-butt, Rule-6.1 (b) states a double minor penalty shall be assessed any player who head-butts or attempts to head-butt.

There are four of you on the ice, the whole crew takes a hit if one Official is not doing their job.

Positioning

Hockey Canada positioning must be used. This includes the piston. Officials are not expected to continually switch sides during play, skate behind the net or setting up behind the goal line.

You go to these areas for a reason, avoiding the play or getting a better sightline for a play on goal.



Respect for Fellow Officials



Major fouls and impact penalties cannot go un-penalized.
The system will work best when approached as a team effort.

No Official should ever make a negative comment or allow his body language to suggest disapproval of a fellow Official's call or non-call, nor should he ever lay the blame on a call or non-call on his partner.

Positioning



DISTANCE IMPACTS JUDGEMENT



Positioning

As the back Referee, when skating up ice try and close the gap between you and the players as quickly as you can, distance impacts judgement and reaction time. The closer you are, the easier the calls will be. If opposing players are behind the play, still have to be aware of their actions.



Positioning



Whether you are the back Referee following the play out of your end zone, or the lead Referee skating to your end of the ice, should be skating in one of two lanes that depends on the position of the play. If the play is on your side of the ice, skate about half way between the boards and face-off dots, this way, less of a chance of getting caught out of position, if the play is on the opposite side of the ice, can skate in line with the dots. When the play is in your partners end on the opposite side of the ice, if necessary can move out beyond the dot for a better sightline, however, move back into position once the play moves. If you stay beyond the dots, more of an opportunity to get involved in the play.

Anticipation Skating Ability Awareness



For Bantam AAA and higher, your anticipation, skating and awareness will determine what level of hockey you can achieve.

If you are not a strong skater, you must be very good at anticipating the play.

Face-offs – Start of the Game



Referees can decide on who conducts face-off at the start of the game and each period.

Referee drops puck facing the penalty bench; other Referee is on the penalty bench side.

Referee not conducting the face-off will go in the direction of the puck and assume that end of the ice.

End Zone Face-Offs



Lead Referee is at half piston.

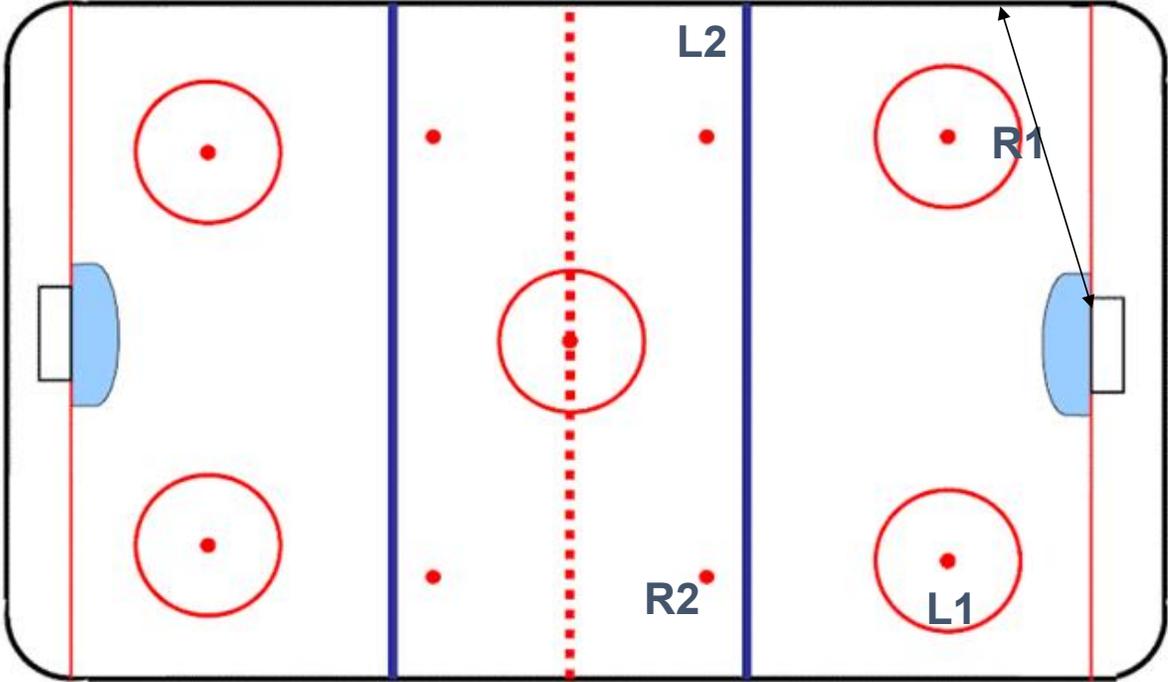
Back Referee is in neutral zone on same side of the ice as the face-off location approximately two feet before and two feet over from the dot towards the boards.

A good sightline will determine your positioning.

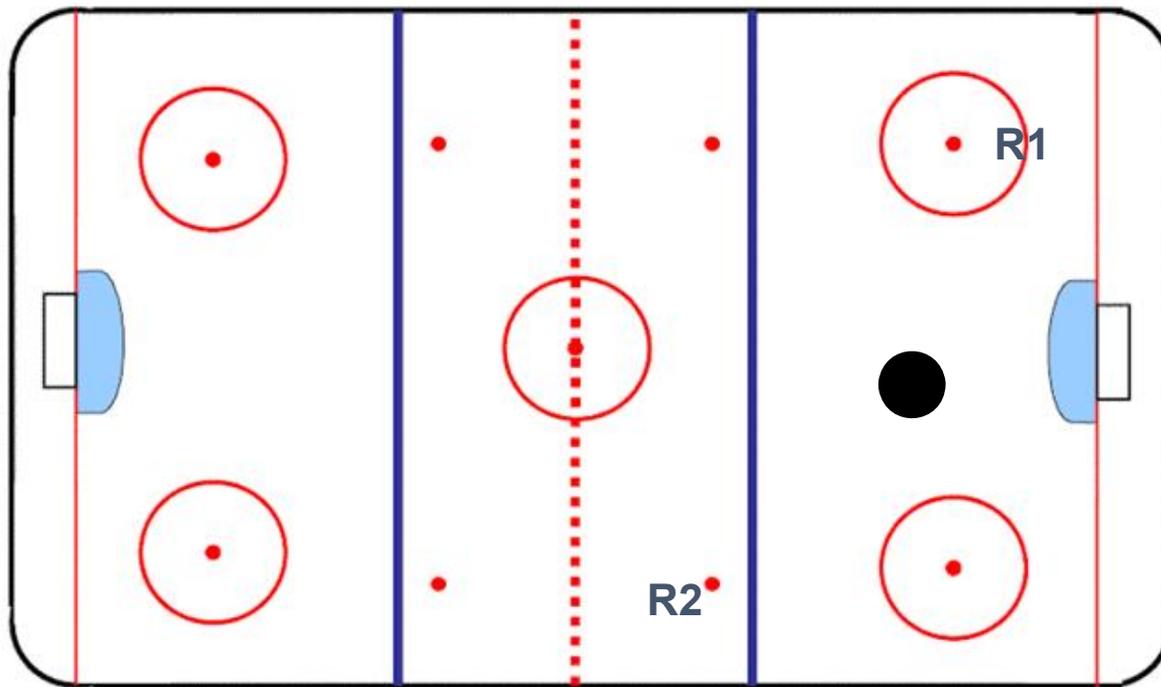
If front Referee is forced to change sides of the ice, when it is safe to do so, the back Referee can shift sides of the ice.

Both Referees can be on the same side of the ice when necessary.

End Zone Positioning



End Zone Positioning



End Zone Positioning – Sight Lines



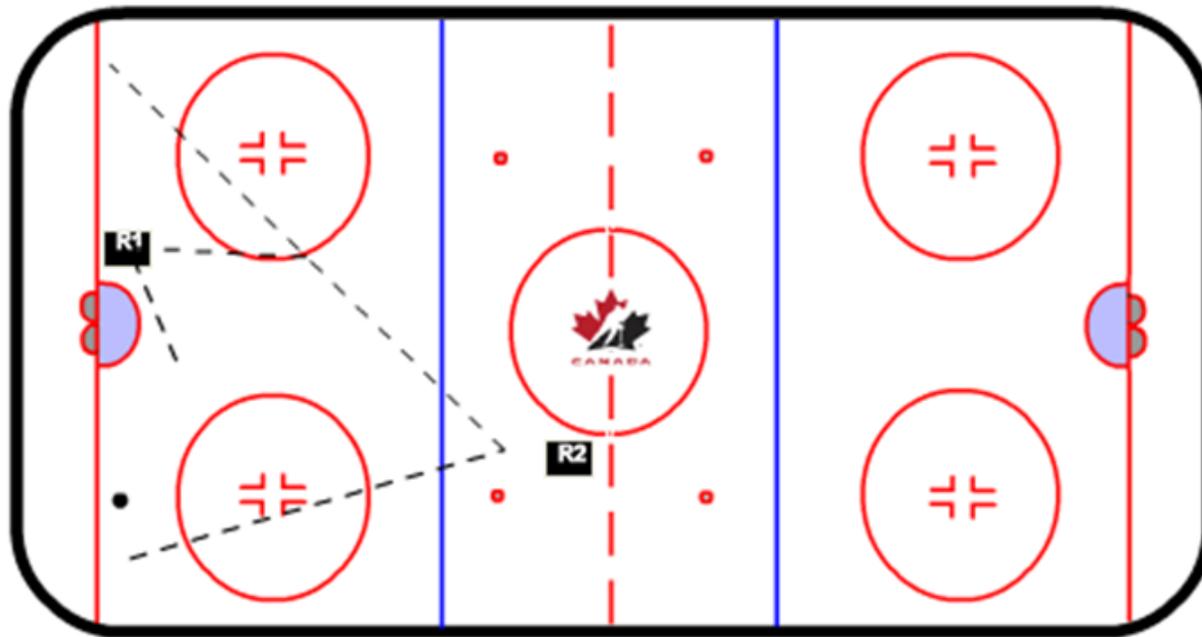
REFEREES' POSITIONING AS PLAY PROCEEDS UP THE ICE:

Lead Referee must anticipate the play leaving his partner's end, facing and staying ahead of the play. The key is to react to the change of puck possession.

Lead Referee will prepare to move into the end zone, skating backwards ahead of the play.

The trailing Referee will follow the flow of the play, being aware of all the players that are away from the action area.

Sight Lines with the Puck in Front of the Net





Positioning on Icings

Referees shall change ends following icing infractions:

Back Referee shall remain in the neutral zone facing the benches and shall conduct the line change procedure.

Lead Referee shall skate down the ice (change ends) into the zone where the ensuing face-off shall occur.



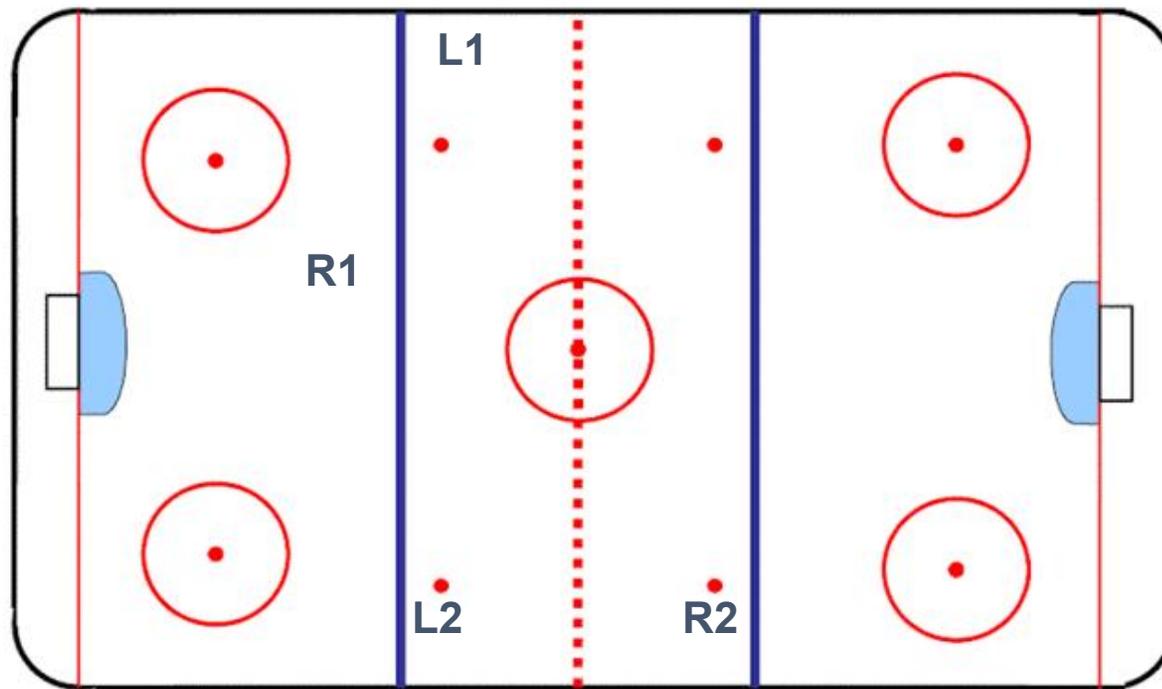
Neutral Zone Face-Offs

POSITIONING FOR NEUTRAL ZONE FACE-OFFS:

Referee responsible for the end that the face-off is being conducted will assume normal position at half piston.

Partner conducts line change procedure moving to centre ice face-off area to make himself more visible to coaches then positions himself on the same side as the face-off.

Neutral Zone Face-Offs



Line Change Procedure

The Referee conducting the line change procedure is to be positioned inside the center face-off circle. If the face-off is on the opposite side of the ice, stay around the dot, the objective is that the coaches can see you.





End Zone Responsibilities

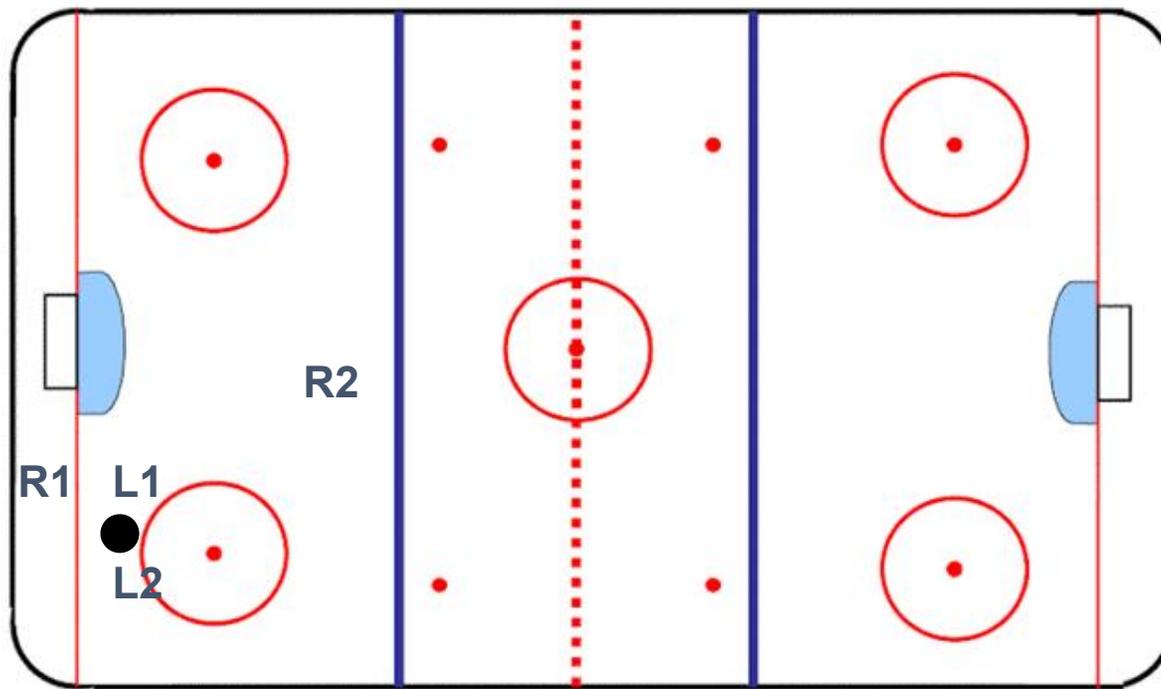
RESPONSIBILITIES AND POSITIONING - BACK REFEREE:

On end zone stoppages with a gathering, the trailing Referee should move just inside the blueline in order to observe.

Main duties, prevent defenceman from skating into the zone and prevent line changes until it is safe to do so.

Referee should not become physically involved to prevent an altercation unless necessary for safety reasons.

Referees Positioning on End Zone Gathering





Penalties

When Referee calls a penalty, he reports the penalty after which he takes his position to be the lead Referee and the other Referee shall conduct the line change procedure and then take his normal position as the trailing Referee.

Both Referees with their arm up in preparation for the calling of a penalty, never assume your partner is calling the same penalty.

When multiple penalties are called, either Referee can relay info to Timekeeper.

Linespeople should only gather with Referees when there is a need.

Penalties

When a Referee is reporting a penalty, the procedure is the same as the three-official system. You must be aware of all the players on the ice when skating to the penalty box.





Four Official System - Guidelines

Officials must work as a team and not expect the senior Official to make all the calls.

Officials must not shake their head and say no on a play that he feels is not a penalty as his partner may be making the call.

Officials must adapt to his partner assessing penalties in the end he is currently responsible for as he will have a different sight line.

Penalty Shot Procedures



The Official that made the call, on stick side of shooter approximately 10 feet from the net, responsible to talk to the player, goaltender and start the play.

Back Referee on the opposite side of his partner approximately 15 feet from the net.

Front Linesperson follows the shooter in just inside the blueline continuing to observe the shooter and the play on goal. His path is between the dot and boards.

Back Linesperson is positioned between the player's benches. If benches are on the opposite side of the ice, behind centre red line observing both benches.

Summary

As the back Referee or Linesperson, react to puck possession and start skating to your zone sooner. You are skating backwards and the players are skating forward coming out of their zone at a high speed, leaving earlier will keep you facing the play.



Summary

When play is in an end-zone on the side of the back Referee, he should be closer to the boards, this way, less of a chance of getting caught, as a guideline half way between the boards and face-off dot. Far enough that the Linesperson is not blocking your view. If the play moves over to the other side of the ice, then you can move beyond the dots for a better sightline. Skate in two lanes depending on the position of the puck.



Summary

When play is in an end-zone, the lead Referee is watching where the play is around the puck, the back Referee is watching everyone else away from the play.





Advantages

Front Referee can see the player's hands. In the three-official system, at times not sure if the player was being hooked or he was holding the stick.

Can promote younger Officials quicker and have them work with senior Officials and gain experience.

The main advantage is having two Referees. More infractions called behind the play and when the play is in the end zones, away from the play.