



Escorting Players

Northern Ontario Hockey Association

Objective

To gain a clear understanding on how Officials are to separate players and escort them from the playing area.

Most seasons the NOHA receives complaints from parents that Officials are too physical with the players.



Escorting Players

When escorting a player off the playing area or to the penalty box, if he/she is making no attempt to get involved with anyone, absolutely no need for any contact with the player, if the player stops to make comments, do not push him/her toward or into the doorway, there is no reason for this to occur.



Escorting Players

When a player is attempting to skate around you towards an opponent or the Referee, a Linesmen may have to use physical force, however, the objective is to use body positioning staying between him and who he trying to reach.



Escorting Players

React quickly by spreading your arms, like performing a wave off signal moving as the player moves keeping in front of him/her, only if the player persists to go around you, control him, put your hands outstretched so that he is skating into you, then hold onto the lower part of their jersey pulling down, a method they use in the NHL.



Separating Players

Separating players may require physical contact, however, once the players are separated, it is hands off, unless the player is attempting to go around you to reach an opposing player or Referee, good judgement is important, you cannot be over physical.



Separating Players

In the two-official system, once players are separated and penalties being assessed, each referee escorts a player until he/she is completely off the ice using body positioning and communicating, not using physical force unless necessary.



Separating Players

A Referee in the three or four official system shall not get involved separating players or escorting them from the playing area unless there is potential of an injury. If they enter, they are no longer aware of other player's actions and one player could receive an advantage.



Linespeople

The most difficult player to deal with is not the biggest, toughest, or meanest, but the one who is most upset and trying to pay back someone.

Verbal communication is very helpful and may avoid using physical force, examples, It's over. You won. Let's go to the box, I need to get back and help your teammate.



Linespeople

To control a player the objective is to control his arms and hands, grabbing a player around the neck or throwing him down on the ice with force is not acceptable.



Linespeople

When escorting a player, do not leave him/her until they are off the ice to attend another altercation.





Summary

Once players are separated, unless they are attempting to continue the altercation, keep your hands off them.

At times, Officials use unnecessary force or hold on to a player too long for no reason making them more frustrated.

Linespeople must always go in as a team and never grab a player from behind or around the neck.