



**NRSA Referee
Handbook -
Rink Hockey**

An important note from National Roller Sports (NRS)

The purpose of this handbook is to provide officials with important information and guidance to help them achieve the NRSA's foundational goals of skill development, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

The NRSA strives to improve each player's skill level, and enhance their enjoyment of the game, while helping them to develop both mentally and physically.

Important! This Handbook is not a replacement for the rules.

- The addition, deletion, and modification of the NRSA house rules are continuous work in progress by the league's Board of Directors.
- It's expected that all participants will become familiar with the changes outlined in the NRS Rulebook. No allowances will be made for the ignorance of the rules.
- League Managers and Directors assume no responsibility for any claims arising through the operation of the League and its functions.

INTRODUCTION:

This National Roller Sports Association (NRSA) Officiating Ethics Code ("Code") intends to provide standards of ethical conduct for referees involved with NRS and its member organizations. It provides General Principles and Ethical Standards which cover many situations encountered by officials, with its principal goals being the welfare and protection of participants with whom officials work.

In addition to the Code, the SafeSport program provides resources for the safety of all involved in the game. For more information, go to

<https://nationalrollersportsassociation.org> .

Officials will respect and protect human and civil rights and not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

Referee Eligibility Requirements: Note that all officials need to have completed these items before becoming a certified National Roller Sports Referee:

- Become an NRSA member.
- Review the NRSA Referee Manual/Rulebook
- Obtain certification of completion for NRS Referee Exam
- Obtain and maintain updated certification of SafeSport.
- Complete background check

Key Contact for Officials:

Your role as an official is to be responsible for the conduct of the teams and coaches on the floor. If at any time you witness or hear about conduct that is concerning, please contact the appropriate level of authority as dictated below.

NRS Offices. SafeSport issues, along with player wellbeing and safety concerns, must be brought to the attention of National Roller Sports.

Arriving at the Arena

We're all familiar with the timeless adages, "Image is everything" or "you have to look good to be good." While these clichés don't solely determine an official's success, they do hold some truth. How you present yourself as an official on and off the floor plays a crucial role in shaping perceptions among players, coaches, and spectators.

Embracing the appearance of an official offers several advantages. Just like in various aspects of life, making a positive first impression is paramount. Often, the initial judgment of you as an official is based on your appearance when you step onto the floor. This first impression becomes the cornerstone for establishing credibility, a vital component for effective game management.

Maintaining a polished personal appearance not only contributes to a favorable first impression but also helps define your role as an official. In lower levels of hockey, the official is seen as a teacher, while at higher levels, the official transitions into the role of a game manager. Simply being the individual on the floor without a stick in hand doesn't automatically convey these roles. Looking the part of an official, both on and off the floor, allows you to command instant respect, making your job more manageable.

Your personal appearance, both on and off the floor, is within your control as an official. Taking charge of your appearance enables you to project a positive image that garners instant respect and credibility, ultimately easing your responsibilities as an official. Remember the age-old saying, "You only have one chance to leave a good first impression," and take pride in your officiating appearance.

Being on time and prepared

As an official, you serve as both the timekeeper and rule enforcer. It is crucial that you are always present at the floor and ready to take the floor 30 minutes before the scheduled start of your first game. Additionally, you must ensure you have all the necessary equipment and items required to fulfill your officiating duties. The mandatory protective equipment includes:

- Shirt, which shall bear the official NRSA insignia on the left side of the chest

-Black pants, socks, and sneakers with a rubber sole.

In addition to these items, it's essential to have the following to ensure optimal performance and smooth game flow:

- Whistles (at least two): The Fox 40 is the official whistle of rink hockey for the NRSA. Always have a second whistle in case the first one falters.
- Official NRS Rulebook/Casebook: Can be accessed on the NRS website. Printed copies available on request.
- Equipment Bag: A black bag with sufficient space for all officiating gear and supplies.
- Two cards, one being blue and one red
- Telephone Numbers of Assignors, Supervisors, and Officials: Handy in case of emergencies such as a partner failing to show up or a severe penalty being assessed.

During the Game

Throughout the course of the game, it is the official's responsibility to ensure that gameplay adheres to the NRS Rulebook. This includes awarding goals, assessing penalties, addressing necessary stoppages, and maintaining the pace of the game.

Just as it is crucial to arrive composed, it is equally important to project a positive image and attitude on the floor. Officials will encounter challenging situations that test their patience and mental stamina. It is essential for officials to remain calm and collected at all times. Any issues with players, coaches, or spectators should be reported to the event coordinator or NRS officers.

While there are various aspects of officiating to practice, such as positioning, conducting face-offs, and communicating with scorekeepers and coaches, the primary duty of officials is to ensure the game is played in accordance with the NRS rulebook. Regularly referring to and reviewing the rulebook is crucial to maintain a thorough understanding of the rules.

Depending on the level of the game being officiated, the role of the official may vary. For games involving younger or lower-skilled players, officials should take the time to explain incorrect actions or penalties. Conversely, during high-level play, officials should maintain order while allowing players to dictate the pace of the game. Captains are allowed to ask questions during the game, but should never be allowed to yell, curse, or argue a call.

End of the Game

Even after the horn has sounded, officials must remain focused on the players. An altercation occurring post-game leaves a negative impression. Awareness remains crucial for managing post-game activities.

When the horn sounds, officials should swiftly move to the center of the floor and position themselves between opposing teams. This typically prompts teams to separate and form a handshake line. Each official should stand on one side of the handshake line, staggering themselves to cover each end. Vigilance is essential as one player's remark or unnecessary contact can escalate into action.

Watch for potential issues, such as players who had ongoing conflicts during the game meeting in the handshake line. Another concern is when a player commits a violent infraction resulting in injury, as the injured player's teammates may seek revenge during the handshake. Officials maintaining a calm presence can prevent potential altercations.

Furthermore, remember to address any deserving penalties post-game. This ensures fair enforcement of rules and maintains order.

End of your Assigned Games

As you exit the floor, it's important to maintain a professional appearance and demeanor. Move swiftly to your dressing room and avoid engaging in conversations with spectators.

While it may be tempting to respond to a spectator who has been hounding you throughout the game, refrain from doing so. This will uphold your integrity and prevent the spectator from feeling satisfied that their remarks affected you. Maintaining a professional attitude until behind closed doors demonstrates that officials are in control and take pride in their work.

The officials' dressing room after the game provides a space for relaxation and reflection. While changing, it's an opportunity to review the game with your partner, discussing any unusual situations and areas for improvement. It's important to also commend your partner(s) for their strengths during the game.

Just as before the game, respect your partners' privacy by not allowing any visitors into the dressing room. Before leaving the room, tidy up the dressing area to maintain a clean atmosphere for the next officiating team. Respecting the cleanliness of the officials' dressing room is appreciated by the arena staff, who will reciprocate the respect during future visits.

If a game is scheduled immediately following yours, ensure the next officiating team is present. If they are not, offering to fill in for missing official(s) prevents an embarrassing situation for your local group of officials and is greatly appreciated.

Remember, our goal is to contribute to the growth of the sport as a whole. Officials play a vital role in this puzzle. Approach your work with pride and confidence, but above all, enjoy the time you invest in officiating. When you're having fun, it positively reflects on the floor and enhances your performance.

Guidelines Of the Referees

Section 1 – Referees

Part 1 - Composition of the referee team

1. In the matches of competitions of rink hockey, the referee team is composed of three or four referees whose functions are as follows:
 - a. Two main referees, who are responsible for control of the match. The main referee who is appointed as referee 1 is the one who performs the functions of head of the referee team.
 - 1) For youth matches only one referee is required along with the timekeeper.
 - b. An auxiliary referee, responsible for:
 - 1) The disciplinary control of benches and players who are temporarily suspended from the match;
 - 2) The control of the timeouts granted to each team and the control of team fouls committed;
 - 3) Information to the public and use of electronic equipment to display:
 - a) The request for timeout by each team.
 - b) The number of accumulated team fouls, which will be complemented by a specific warning whenever a team is one foul away from being sanctioned with a direct free hit.
 - c. An assistant referee who is responsible for controlling the time of possession of the ball by each of the teams.
 - d. A timekeeper, who sits at the official game table.
2. The appointment of the referee teams for the different competitions is the responsibility of NRSA, which has jurisdiction over all NRSA sanctioned events.

3. All rink hockey referees have the duty to comply with and enforce the official rules of the game and other regulations issued by NRSA in which they are members, regarding the various provisions, rules, procedures, interpretations, and clarifications relating to their activity in rink hockey refereeing.

Part 2 - Functions

1. The coordination between the referees that make up the referee team is important and relevant in the performance of their duties, demanding proper mobility and placement on the rink and an adequate distribution of functions.
2. The main referees are the absolute judges on the playing rink and their decisions, regarding the game, must be made with effective competence and total responsibility, always guided by their impartiality and by scrupulous compliance with the rules of the game and other regulations in force.
3. The main referees must move on the rink so that they can follow the game closely, having the right to exercise disciplinary action on the players and other representatives of any team, before, during or at the end of the match; acting with the necessary rigor so that a correct game free of brutality is practiced. One referee should always be located at mid rink while the other should be located at the goal line area.
4. When necessary, with the match is stopped, the main referees will address the auxiliary referee to clarify any issues that occur next to the official game table. In these situations, the presence of players or representatives of the teams is not allowed, unless previously authorized.
5. The main referees may request police intervention when they verify serious problems related to the behavior of the public or when a player or other representative located on the bench or at the official game table refuses to comply with the orders of the referees.

6. In incidents or omissions that are not included in the rules of the game, the main referees must decide according to their conscience, trying to resolve all cases through the actions they deem necessary and evaluating and judging the claims that may occur, always ensuring the correction of any irregularities and / or serious errors that may be detected during the match, always favoring a rigorous application of the rules in force, in defense of ethics and sporting truth.
7. As far as their decisions in the match are concerned, there is no difference between the head of the refereeing team and the other main referee.
8. Referee 1 is entrusted with the following functions:
 - a. Verify before the start of the game the following specific issues:
 - 1) The conditions of the rink and the system used for the timing of the game.
 - 2) The identification of the players and other representatives of both teams.
 - 3) The information system that can be provided to the public about the progress of the match.
 - 4) Review of the electronic equipment that controls the ball possession time of each of the teams.
 - b. When it is necessary to choose the match ball, call the captains to their presence.
 - c. Check if all participants are ready, whistling for the start or restart of each of the periods of the match.
 - d. In the event of doubts about refereeing decisions in the match, referee 1 must consult with the other members of the refereeing team and decide any divergence, problem or difficulty that may occur in any game situation, considering:
 - 1) The correct application of the rules and regulations.
 - 2) The resolution of incidents that may arise, assuming the corrective actions they deem necessary, after evaluating the issue.
 - 3) Prepare and sign the confidential refereeing report and confirm the correct preparation of the official match report and other official documents, making any changes they deem necessary.
 - 4) Deliver to the NRSA authority organizing the competition the official match report and other control documents, including the Confidential Report.
9. The control of the official game table is the responsibility of the auxiliary referee, corresponding to:
 - a. Assure rigorous and effective control of the disciplinary behavior of the members of the bench of each team informing the main referees about the infractions that occurred off the rink.
 - b. Help the main referees in the detection and correction of irregularities and/or serious errors committed during the match.

- c. Ensure that information relating to the match is provided to the public and teams present, in particular:
 - 1) The current result of the match.
 - 2) The remaining playing time.
 - 3) The cumulative number of team fouls.
 - 4) The timeouts requested by each team.

- 5) Make all the notes and records necessary for the control of the incidents of the game, collaborating with the main referees in the preparation of the match report, in terms of:
 - a) The team fouls given out by the main referees, always indicating that a direct free hit must be signaled against the team of the offender.
 - b) Disciplinary action taken on players and representatives.
 - c) The timeouts granted to each team in each period of normal playing time.
 - d) The result of the match, with details of the goals obtained by each team in each of the periods of play.
- d. It must also control and support the action of the timekeeper, rectifying any failures and informing the main referees if necessary, taking advantage of a stoppage, regarding any problem and/or possible disciplinary infraction attributable to the timekeeper.

10. In the official events recognized by NRSA an electronic scoreboard will be used that shows the decreasing game time remaining.

11. At each game stop the timer on the scoreboard stops, allowing the public and team representatives to have correct and transparent information on game time. Manual stopwatches can be used, but the official game table must have a clearly visible way of displaying the remaining time to the public.

12. The timekeeper is responsible for controlling the time of each period of play, considering that:
 - a. The timer begins to count from the referees' whistle at the start of the game.
 - b. When the end of the game time is reached, an audible signal is made to indicate that the match is over.
 - c. The game begins with the whistle of the referees and ends with the sound signal of the scoreboard.
 - d. The control of the duration of the interval, making an audible warning signal when there are 2 minutes left.
 - e. The control of the timeout granted in each period of play, informing the public which team has requested it.
 - f. The control of sanctions to players such as periods of inferiority.

Part - 3 Absence or replacement of appointed referees – procedures

1. A match is held, even in the absence of the referee team that had been officially chosen and appointed. If they are absent, a tolerance of thirty minutes will be granted, after which the procedures set out below will be adopted.
 - a. In the absence of the two designated main referees the match will be directed by the auxiliary referee.
 - b. In the absence of one of the designated main referees the match will be directed by:
 - 1) The other main referee, who will be the head of the referee team.
 - 2) The auxiliary referee.
 - 3) If after the start of the match the absent main referee arrives, they will not be able to participate in the match.
 - c. If all designated referees are absent, the delegates of each team will designate one person, according to the following procedures and criteria:
 - 1) If there are one or more referees who are active, the match will be directed by the one who holds the highest category, and in the case of equality, by the oldest.
 - 2) If there are no referees who are active, but if one or more referees are retired, the match will be directed by the one who holds the highest category at the time of their retirement, and in the case of equality, by the one with more experience.
 - 3) In the absence of the above, the match will be directed by an unofficial referee who has the consensus of the delegates of both teams.
 - 4) If there is no agreement between the delegates of each team, the match will be directed, in each half, by a coach or delegate of each team, considering that the referee appointed by the home team will be the referee during the first period of the match, following the same criteria in case of playing an extra time.
2. When due to injury or physical incapacity one of the main referees must leave the match, the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. When the match is being directed by two main referees the substitution is not made and the match will continue to be directed only by the other main referee.
 - b. When the match was being directed by a single referee, their substitution will be made by the auxiliary referee or, if he is also absent, the substitution will be decided by common agreement between the delegates of each team as explained in the previous point.
 - c. When one or both referees who have started the match decide to interrupt it and terminate it after suffering an assault or for any other reason related to their safety, no other referee can replace them to give continuity to the match.

3. When, simultaneously, the absence of one of the teams occurs and the absence of all the designated members of the referee team, the official delegate of the team who is present must provide the following procedures and diligences:
 - a. Try to find among the public any referee who is active or retired.
 - b. If this is not possible, the same delegate must request the intervention of one of the following elements:
 - 1) A leading member of the entity that has jurisdiction over the competition.
 - 2) A leading member of the national federation of affiliation of the club in question.

- 3) Two suitable people who are in the audience, preferably who have some connection with the discipline of rink hockey.
 - c. The chosen person prepares and signs the documents presented by the official delegate of the team present:
 - 1) The Form relating to the control of the licenses of the team that serves as certification and identification of the relationship presented in the official match report.
 - 2) In the official match report, in addition to identifying the representatives present, will record the events that occurred.
 - d. All these documents of the match will be sent to the institution responsible for the organization of the competition related to the match.

Part 4 - Evaluation of referees - functions of technical delegates

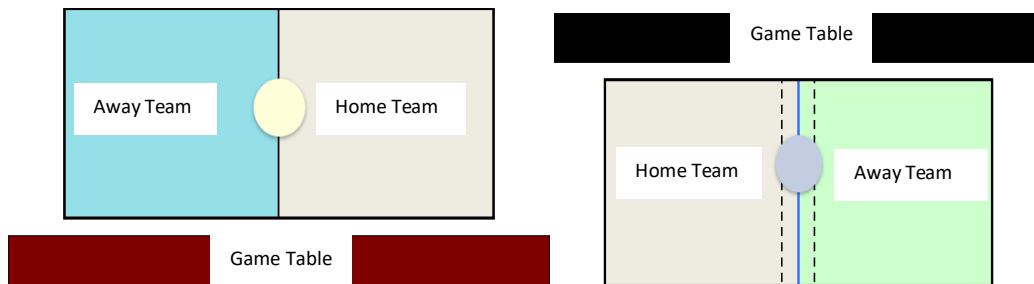
1. With the objective of encouraging the development, in technical terms, it is the aim of NRSA to:
 - a. Develop and institutionalize a system of observation and evaluation of rink hockey officials.
 - b. Recruit, train, select and appoint technical delegates who observe and evaluate the performance of referees in major NRSA competitions.
 - c. Develop and disseminate a "Performance Manual" for rink hockey referees, systematizing processes and procedures and promoting the interpretation of the rules of the game and the unification of criteria.

2. Under the coordination of NRSA, the technical delegates are responsible for:
 - a. The observation and evaluation of the actions of referees.
 - b. The preparation of the "Technical Evaluation Report" corresponding to each observation made, where all anomalies, errors and/or infractions committed by the referees will be reported and described.

3. The Technical Delegate is not authorized to occupy a place at the official game table, having to observe the game in the stands or in a place reserved by the organizing entity.

Part 5 - Acts and procedures preliminary to the match

1. All members of the referee team designated for each match will arrive at the match venue 60 minutes before the start time of the match.
 - a. They shall be duly equipped and shall ensure compliance with all the acts and procedures defined in the following points.
 - b. Before starting the warm-up of the teams and the main referees on the rink, the auxiliary referee, or in their absence, one of the main referees, must contact the delegates of each team, ensuring:
 - 1) The list and licenses of the representatives of each team that will be registered in the official match report, including the identification of the players' shirt numbers.
 - 2) The colors of the uniform of the players and goalkeepers of each team.
2. The home team occupies the half rink located to the right of the official game table both in the warm-up before the start of the game and in the first half of play or extra time. The visiting team oversees the execution of the center of the first period of the match or extra time.



3. The organizing entity of the competitions, of nations or clubs, will guarantee on the day before the start and if it is not possible, on the morning of the opening day, the availability of the sports facilities of the event so that the participating teams can carry out a training session on the rink for a minimum period of thirty minutes.
4. The space reserved for the warm-up session of the main referees shall be delimited by means of cones, occupying the central strip on each side of the rink, at approximately 3 feet from the central dividing line.

5. Under normal conditions, the warm-up sessions of the teams will be completed 15 minutes before the official start time of the match.

6. The referee team must enter the rink 15 minutes before the official start time of the match, ensuring:

- a. The immediate withdrawal from the rink of the players of the teams that were warming up.
- b. Verification of the status of the two goals.

7. The entity that has the jurisdiction of the competition can provide the balls that will be used in the match. However, the home team is obliged to provide the balls that are necessary for each match. The visiting team also has the right to provide balls to use for the match.

8. The captains of each team must take advantage of the warm-up period to reach an agreement regarding the ball with which the match is played, delivering it to the main referees after its entry into the rink. In any case, the choice of the ball for the match is always the responsibility of the main referees of the match, if the two captains do not reach an agreement.

9. Presentation of players and referees, greeting the authorities and the public.

- a. Before the start of the game, the referees line up together with the players of each team in the central part of the rink, ensuring:
 - 1) The presence of all players from each team who will participate in the game.
 - 2) The use of the equipment used during the match, except goalkeepers who do not need to put on helmets or gloves, not allowing the shirt outside of shorts or socks dropped. Players who are on the rink at the time of starting any period must wear the shirt inside the shorts.
- b. First, the main referee appointed as referee 1 ensures a formal greeting to the authorities and the public present, which must be carried out with reference to the official game table, and for both sides of the rink except when there is only one stand for spectators.
- c. Then, the names of the players, the head coach of each team and of the referee team of the match are presented.
- d. After the presentation, the players of each team greet the referees and all the representatives of the opposing team.
- e. Finally, the main referees carry out the additional diligence they consider necessary to ensure that the match starts in accordance with the established official schedule.

Part 6 - Match reports - necessary procedures

1. The main referees must record all major incidents that occurred in the match using the following official forms:
 - a. Official match report.
 - b. Confidential report.

2. In each official match the referees must record in the official match report:
 - a. Place, date, start and end times of the game.
 - b. Result, as well as the goals scored by each team in each of the periods of the match.
 - c. The list of the players of each team, with the number of their license or identification document that was used to confirm their identification, as well as the number of the shirt of each player, the function of the players, indicating specifically the goalkeepers and the captain and the vice-captain.
 - d. Which player scored each goal.
 - e. The role of the other team representatives registered in the game, with their license number or identity document that was used to confirm their identification, as well as their function.
 - f. Disciplinary measures applied by the main referees during matches to players and team representatives, specifying the cards displayed.
 - g. The number of team fouls committed by each team.
 - h. The timeouts requested by each team in each of the playing periods.
 - i. Information on any statement of protest that is presented to the main referees by any of the teams and signed by the team captain.

3. It is also necessary to identify:
 - a. The refereeing team designated for the match.
 - b. The people present at the official game table specifying their functions.
 - c. The Technical Delegate appointed for the evaluation of the referees.

4. Immediately after the end of the game, the official match report must be signed by the team captains.
 - a. If the team captain and/or substitute captain refuse to sign the official match report, the main referees will make a confidential report detailing what happened.
 - b. If the team captain and substitute captain were sent off, the official match report will be signed by the player designated to act as captain.

5. Both members of the main refereeing team designated for the game will sign the official match report after verifying what has been recorded.

6. Confidential report.

a. This document is made in situations where it is necessary to send additional information to ensure an accurate, objective, and precise description of relevant events that occurred in the game.

b. It will always be sent:

1) When a red card is shown, explaining the offences, circumstances, and motives, specifically detailing the acts committed and/or the insults given. As well as in cases of rude or violent behavior, such as aggressions and / or reactions to aggressions, and the details of the behaviors and blows produced by the offenders, punches, kicks, blows with the stick, etc., and which part of the body was hit.

2) When a match was not played or situations related to non-conclusion or early termination, clearly indicating what reasons and circumstances determined the decision of the referees.

3) When a delay occurs, explaining the reasons and/or anomalies that have caused it.

4) When there are any deficiencies or irregularities detected by the referees in the protections used by any player and / or goalkeeper, reporting on proceedings taken to rectify the situation and the result of these:

a) If the situation was rectified and the player or goalkeeper was authorized to play the match.

b) If the situation was not rectified and the player or goalkeeper was not allowed to play the match.

5) Any other relevant matter, such as:

a) Delays occurred at the beginning or during the game, and their reasons, including when they are attributable to the main referees.

b) Deficiencies of the rink and / or the playing area, problems with the number of police present or possible problems related to the undue presence of people near the changing rooms of the referees, the official game table, or the benches of substitutes of any of the teams.

Section 2 - Signals

The lead referees shall use the following signals:

1. Time of possession. When a team has possession of the ball in its defensive zone, the referees must count the corresponding time with one of the arms placed at waist height. When there are possession displays, no signal will be made.

2. Timeout.

To indicate that a timeout was granted, the referees place their hands in a T shape at head height.



3. Faceoff.

To signal faceoff the referees must raise one arm, with the palm of the hand turned forward and with two fingers wide open, in a V signal, and with the other arm pointing to the place where the faceoff will be taken.



4. Advantage.

To signal the decision to continue the game, the referee places the two arms in a parallel position at an approximate angle of sixty degrees with the body, keeping the palms of the hands up.



5. Warning of passive play.

To warn a team that their possession of the ball time is about to end in 5 seconds, the referees will raise both arms, holding them upright until the ball is shot striking the front of the goal cage or goalie, or until the end of the time allotted to make the shot.



6. Violation in one of the corners.

To signal that the ball should be put into play on a corner of the penalty area, the referee will place the arms above the head, with the hands joined by the tips of the fingers, so that they form a corner.



7. Indirect free hit.

To signal an indirect free hit the referee must keep the two arms in a horizontal position forming an angle of 90 degrees:

- a. One of the arms points towards the place where the hit must be executed.
- b. The other arm is stretched out, indicating which is the offending team.



8. Team foul. The referee who gives the foul lifts one of the arms straight up and points with the other arm in the direction of the defensive zone of the offending team, so that this team foul is recorded by the official game table.



9. Cards.

- a. The referee stands at around 6 feet from the offender. They then show the corresponding card with the arm raised in an upright position.



- b. After the display of the card, the referees indicate to the official game table the number of the offending player, and if he is not a player, their function in the team.



- c. Finally, the referee indicates to the official game table to which team the offender belongs, pointing to the side of the rink on which the team plays.



10. Indication to the official table of the player who scores a goal.

To signal a goal, the referee must blow their whistle twice in a short and sharp way, and then goes to the center of the rink, clearly indicating to the official game table

the number of the player who scored.



11. Penalties and direct free hits.

a. To signal the penalty or direct free hit the referee goes to the penalty spot or direct free hit spot.



b. Except for the player who is taking the penalty or direct free hit and the goalkeeper of the offending team, all other players are positioned inside the penalty area of the team in charge of executing it, are under the control of one of the referees who will give the signal to the other referee to start the execution of the penalty or direct free.

