

Initiation Program



Cross-Ice Hockey Officiating Guide



INTRODUCTION

Inspired by the commitment to ensure that the foundation of a hockey player's experience is rewarding, BC Hockey has mandated that cross ice be used for all levels below Atom. Cross ice has been proven to be a more effective, efficient and fun way to learn the game. With this in mind, the BC Hockey coaching and officiating programs have joined forces to produce this document which will introduce officials to hockey in a fun and non-threatening environment.

BC Hockey recommends the inclusion of officials within the Initiation Program (IP) starting at the Novice level (ages 7 – 8 years old). At this level a one (1) official system will be employed. While this guide is not an official Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) system, this document is meant as an outline to assist local officiating programs with integrating officials into this developmental stage of the game. The one (1) official system provides officials with an opportunity to experience several aspects of officiating, while keeping the operating costs at a manageable level for the teams and Associations.

BENEFITS OF INVOLVING OFFICIALS IN CROSS ICE HOCKEY

For officials, there are numerous benefits when considering the aspects of building foundational officiating skills. This is a valuable opportunity for newer officials to put on their uniform, get on the ice in live action and learn some basic aspects of being an official in a less formal and positive atmosphere. Basic skills include: dropping pucks, skating skills, foundational positioning / spatial awareness, establishing good sightlines, making decisions such as goals and minor infractions. This allows officials to apply newly acquired information they received in their clinic in a spontaneously live environment. This format also provides an excellent opportunity for senior officials to mentor new comers by shadowing them on the ice or evaluating them from the stands. The ability to mentor officials at ice level in this structure provides instantaneous feedback and assists in preparing these officials for full ice games in a two (2) or three (3) official system.

For players, having an official on the ice for the cross ice games provides them with more structure than at the 5 – 6 year old levels. It also presents a more realistic game environment, while allowing the coaches to focus more on the players rather than also focussing on making sure the game flows from an operational standpoint.

OFFICIATING PROCEDURES

Flexibility is an important component to operating in a one (1) official system within the IP structure. There is no absolute correct way to handle every possible scenario. However, flow and establishing a basic structure to the game is the primary focus. Officials will NOT be required to call infractions for icing or off-side as the appropriate rink dimensions are not available. Should an Initiation game be played on a mini-rink with full rink dimensions it will be up to the Minor Hockey Association's (MHA) discretion as to whether off-side or icing will be called.



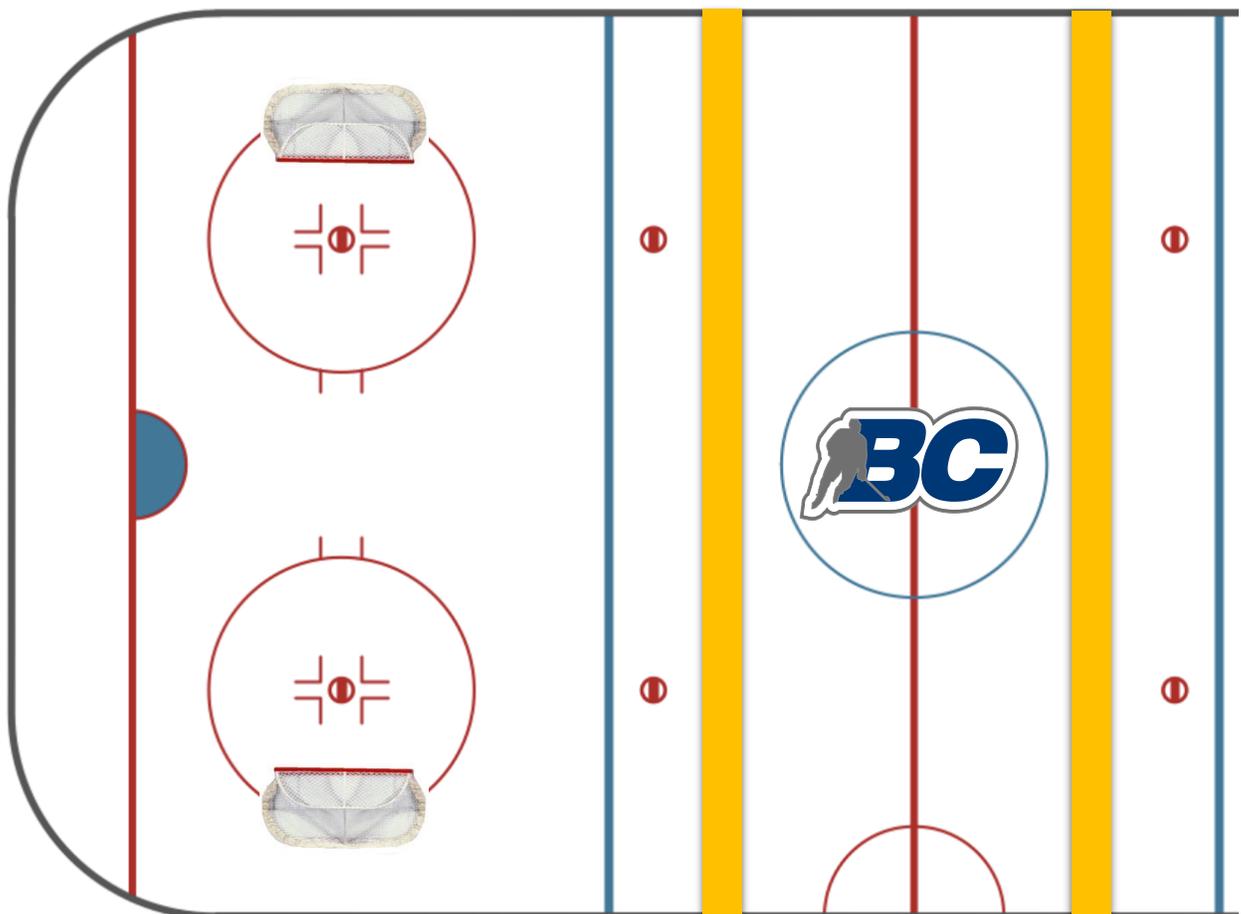
TEAMS

Individual MHA's will have the ability to choose how many players will be playing at a time, with a minimum of three (3) players per team and a maximum of five (5) players per team during play (e.g. 3 on 3, 4 on 4 or 5 on 5).

FACE-OFFS

There will be five (5) basic face-off locations. This will include the two (2) end-zone dots and the two (2) neutral zone dots. Should one (1) of the face-off dots be located in an awkward position in regards to its proximity to the net, then an alternate face-off dot shall be used. The fifth location will be at an approximate centre point between the two (2) goals and in-line with the full rink's centre ice face-off spot (see diagram).

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FROZEN PUCKS, STOPPAGES & GAME FLOW

The line change procedure is not required on stoppages of play. Associations will have the choice of employing a stop time, run time or one (1) – minute buzzer game clock. When play needs to be stopped for:

- a goalkeeper freezing the puck
- for a player falling on the puck
- the puck is frozen along the boards
- the puck leaves the playing area

The official should stop play with their whistle and conduct the face-off at the nearest face-off location.

GOALS

When the puck enters the goal, the official can simply signal a goal and stop play in the regular manner. The ensuing face-off shall be conducted at the centre / neutral face-off location. Goals DO NOT need to be reported or recorded with a time/score keeper.

PENALTIES

The standard delayed penalty procedure will be used for infractions of the rules. Officials will stop play and complete the penalty calling procedure (e.g. stop, plant, point etc.). However, no penalty will be recorded and the player will not be sent to the penalty box. Rather, the player will simply be sent to his team's bench and be replaced by another player. The teams will never play short-handed.

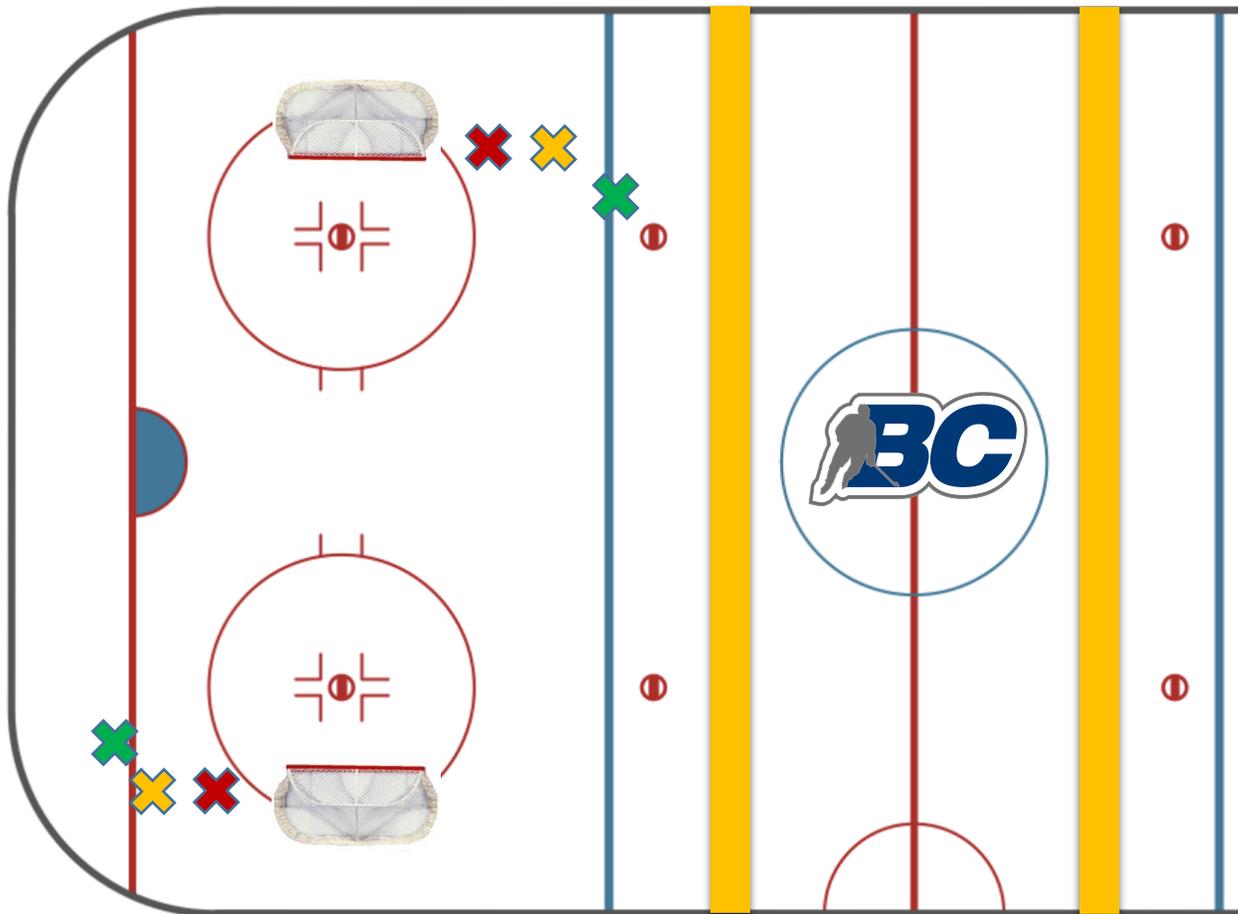
Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (e.g. Game Misconduct, Match or Gross Misconduct), then the player will be removed from the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances teams will not play short-handed.

POSITIONING

Fundamental positioning principles will be used. Officials should follow the play approximately 10-15 feet behind the puck carrier. They should remain about 5-10 feet from the boards or playing area perimeters. The examples on the diagram below show guidelines for establishing recommended end-zone positions.



Cross - Ice Hockey – Positioning



-  At the net
-  Half Piston
-  Home Base