

WIAA HOCKEY REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENT SERIES

LINE CHANGE PROCEDURE

Note: During the WIAA tournament series, the highest seeded team will be considered the home team for last line change purposes.

WIAA 15 Second Face-Off Application

NFHS Rule 2-5-4 [Change of Players]

15-Second Face-Off Procedure

3 Official System (2 Referees – 1 Linesman)

After any stoppage of play, upon the referee marking the face-off spot, the visiting team shall promptly place a line-up on the ice ready for play. The visiting team has up to five seconds to change players.

For face-offs deep in the offensive/defensive zone, the "high" Referee will conduct all line changes. This referee is closest to the benches and is more visible to the coaches. The "high" Referee will position themselves toward the center of the ice, allow the visiting team up to 5 seconds to make their player(s) change. After the 5 seconds, the "high" Referee will raise their non-whistle hand to indicate the visiting team player change is complete, and the home team has a reasonable amount of time (maximum of 5 seconds) to complete their player(s) change.

Once the home team has made their player change or after 5 seconds have elapsed, the "high" Referee lowers their arm and the Linesman shall immediately blow their whistle (i.e., the quick whistle) and begin the face-off process.

For face-offs in the neutral zone, the "back" referee (the referee not on the attacking line) will conduct the line change in the same manner as described above.

If players are too slow to come to the faceoff, encroach, fail to properly place their sticks down, have equipment delays, are onside for the faceoff, the Linesman (or Referee) may remove their center. If there are consistent problems with a team after a warning, Referees should consider assessing a delay of game penalty. The goal is to keep the game flow quick and efficient, and to deter teams/players from trying to gain an illegal advantage or position on a faceoff.

IMPORTANT

- Do not compromise the integrity of any face-off.
- Maintain a consistent face-off standard throughout the game and utilize the proper positioning by the on-ice officials.

Your Challenge . . . To consistently apply the NFHS hockey playing rules to keep the game flow and positioning correct.¹

¹ Revised 1/22