

WIAA GUIDE FOR OFF-ICE OFFICIALS



This guide is designed to assist school administration, coaches, and minor officials with conducting WIAA hockey contests in accordance with the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations, including Wisconsin State Adaptations.

ROLE OF OFF-ICE OFFICIALS

As part of the game officiating team, it is important for the off-ice officials to remain impartial at all times. This is difficult to do, especially since a family member or close friend may be participating in the game. However, impartiality must be maintained at all times in order to dispel any notions of favoritism and to create the positive playing environment. If you have difficulty in accomplishing this, you may wish to review your involvement as an off-ice official. We certainly expect the on-ice officials to remain impartial and teams should expect the same standard from off-ice officials.

Another important role of the off-ice official is to monitor behavior in and around the area known as the penalty benches and scorer's bench. Players, who have been penalized, may behave in an unsportsmanlike manner by trying to incite an opponent, use obscene or vulgar language or be disrespectful to the off-ice officials. Penalized players must keep the helmets on and secured while serving their penalty and are not allowed to return to their player's benches during time-outs. In addition, these penalized players may be harassed by spectators leaning over the glass. In many instances, this action may be unobserved by the on-ice officials. It is the responsibility of the off-ice officials to report these incidents to the on-ice officials during the next stoppage of play. The on-ice officials are then charged to take the appropriate action, including possible assessment of additional penalties.

Although the frequency of having to remove an off-ice official from his/her duties is minimal, the on-ice officials do have the authority to do so, when necessary. Most often, this occurs when the off-ice official becomes emotionally involved with the game, which affects his/her ability to perform the duties expected of him/her. In this case, the off-ice official has become a distraction to the officiating team and the players. When this occurs, the on-ice officials are instructed to politely ask the off-ice official to relinquish his/her position. This position must then be filled by a representative from the team who is responsible for appointing the removed individual. The game cannot commence until this has been accomplished.

I. RINK PERSONNEL

Rule 1-3-1-A requires goal posts to be anchored properly.

[Rink Requirements](#) - Rule 1, sections 1-12, govern how the rink shall be compromised in accordance with NFHS rules.

II. SCOREKEEPER

[Game Roster](#) - Rule 2-3-2 requires each team to provide a roster to the official scorekeeper. Coaches are required to certify the score sheet prior to the commencement of any game. State Association regulations supersede NFHS rules for roster limits and penalties.

[Referee Certification](#) - Pursuant to WIAA adaptation, referees are required to review and certify the score sheet at the completion of the game, and make any corrections deemed necessary. Scorekeepers shall provide the completed score sheet at the end of any contest.

[Significant Penalties](#) - Rule 4-6-5 requires officials to report any game disqualification penalties to the WIAA office. It is recommended the scorekeeper provide a copy of the score sheet to the reporting official at the completion of a contest if a game misconduct or game disqualification penalty has been called.

[Timeout](#) - Rule 9-12-4 allows each team one (1), one-minute timeout. It is recommended the scorekeeper note that when a team calls its timeout and the period and time when it does so on the score sheet.

[Rule Book](#) - Rule 5-7-3 requires the scorekeeper to keep an official NFHS rulebook at the scorer's table during each game.

III. TIMEKEEPER

[Backup Timing Device](#) - Rule 1-11-2-b requires the timekeeper to have a backup timing device available during any contest.

[Intermission Notification](#) - Rule 5-8-3 requires the timekeeper to notify each team and the referees three (3) minutes prior to the start of any period.

[Time of Game](#) - Rule 9-12-1 requires a 12-minute warm-up and a 12-minute intermission between each period. Rule 9-12-2 requires each period to be 17 minutes, by state adaptation.

[Mercy Rule](#) - Rule 9-12-3, and state adaptation, requires running time any time after the first period, so long as the prevailing team continues a lead of six (6) goals or greater. Pursuant to WIAA adaptation, time shall only be stopped in running-time situations when the following occurs: A goal is scored, a penalty is being assessed by the referee, an injured player was stopped for an injured player, a timeout is called by either team, an emergency situation for rink repair or the like occurs, or unless otherwise instructed by the referee.

[Timeout](#) - Rule 9-12-4 allows each team one (1), one-minute timeout during the contest, which includes any overtimes.

[Overtime Game](#) - NFHS Adaptations allows for a three-minute intermission after the third period within an eight-minute, sudden-victory, overtime period. If a team does not score during the overtime period, a three-minute intermission rest period should be allowed, followed by a five-minute three (3) on three (3) sudden victory period. If the game is not ended by declaring a winner, it shall remain a tie unless it is a WIAA tournament series. In that instance, the tournament rules apply.

IV. PENALTY BOX OFFICIALS

[Authorized Persons](#) - Pursuant to Rule 1-10-1, the penalty bench area is exclusively occupied by the timekeeper, the penalty timekeeper, the scorer, and penalized players. No other persons shall be allowed in this area.

[Helmets Required](#) - Rule 3-4-8 requires all players on the penalty bench to wear helmets and facemasks.

[Timeout Situations](#) - NFHS rules do not allow players to return to their team benches during timeouts.

V. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Uniforms. Rule 2-1-2-b provides the visiting team to wear dark jerseys and the home team to wear white jerseys. WIAA tournament rules apply for any tournament games. During the WIAA tournament series, the first team alphabetically (during even number years 2020, 2022) shall wear light-colored jerseys.

Captains Meeting. Rule 2-2-5 requires the captain and the coaches to meet with the officials prior to the game. During that meeting, pursuant to Rule 3-6, the head coach of each team is required to verify to the referee that all of his or her players are properly equipped according to NFHS rules. The game cannot commence until all players playing are in compliance with the rule.

Puck Availability. Rule 3-7-2 requires chilled pucks to be available.

Game Reports. Rule 4-6-5 requires any game disqualifications to be reported to the WIAA office.

Removed Players. Rule 4-11-1 requires any removed players to be under the supervision of a coach or authorized school personnel to supervise the player.

Contracted Officials. Rule 5-2-1 requires that all hockey contests commence with three licensed officials. High school-aged students are prohibited from working WIAA contests, either as a varsity or JV game official.

Ice Supervision. Rule 2-4-2 requires game management to allow the referees on the ice before any players. The game manager shall hold all players from entering the ice surface until the officials have taken the ice. The players shall take the ice once the officials instruct them to do so. At the commencement of the first period, players shall remain on their half of the ice surface. At the commencement of any subsequent period, only the team starting lineups shall take the ice. All other players shall go directly to their team bench.

Game Interference. Rule 6-2-3 prohibits any other whistles or mechanical devices to be allowed by coaches or benches. Pursuant to Rule 8-4-1, no spectator shall be allowed to throw any debris on the ice.

Warm-ups. Rule 9-10-1 requires a coach from each team to be on the bench during warm-ups to supervise players.

Reminder: All game managers shall remind off-ice officials about remaining neutral and impartial to the contest. Off-ice officials are subject to the supervision of the referees.

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