



The Referee's Crease

A Newsletter for ALLIANCE Hockey Officials

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WANDERING GOALIES

Every Coach and Supervisor will hear, at some point of their career, a Referee order a goalie to "get back in the crease". Are wandering goalies something Officials should concern themselves with, and if so, when?

While play is in progress, nobody gives a second thought to a goalie who goes behind the net to play a shoot in or who comes out well beyond the crease to cut down an angle. Goalies frequently get pulled for an extra attacker in delayed penalty situations or in the dying minutes of a close game. Goalies can even be changed on the fly (R 2.5, Sit 4).

The only restriction on goalies while play is in progress is that they can't "intentionally participate in play... beyond the centre red line" (R 4.11(e)). In other words, goalies are entitled to go beyond the centre red line while play is in progress - they just cannot deliberately involve themselves in the play. The result is that a goalie, in theory, could skate around the entire rink during play and the ref would ignore it unless that goalie involved himself in the play beyond centre.

During a fight situation, goalies are restricted to their creases. If a goalie leaves the crease for any reason (other than being ordered to do so by the ref) during a fight, the goalie is assessed a 2 + any other penalties earned (R 4.11 (c)). If the goalie leaves the crease during a fight and intervenes in that fight, the goalie gets the 2 for leaving the crease + a GM for 3rd man in + any other penalties earned (R 4.11, Sit 3). But remember - if there is no 5 + GM for fighting to somebody, there is no fight situation.

During stoppages in play, goalies are not restricted to their crease, but they are restricted from going to their bench. "Going to their bench" means going within 10 feet (3.05 m) of the bench (R 2.5 (b) and R 3.1 Sit 5 Rule (1)). (For ease of visualizing that distance, the shaft of most adult hockey sticks is about 5 feet long (App. A, p 133), meaning 10 feet is ~ 2 adult stick lengths).

If a goalie goes to the bench during any stoppage of play and is not replaced by a substitute, a Minor penalty for Delay of Game shall be assessed (R 3.1 (c) Note). Water bottles, towels and a replacement stick are to be brought to the goalie (R 3.2 (e)). Equipment adjustments are to be done in the goal area (R 3.1 (c)). Injured goalies are treated in the crease (R 3.1 Sit 2 & 3).

If it can be done without violating the above rules, goalies are entitled to receive instructions from the bench during stoppages. If they don't delay the game, goalies can go part way to the bench (ie. staying more than 10 feet from the bench) to hear shouted instructions. Remind the goalie to mind his distance (R 3.1, Sit 5 Rule (2)).

The bottom line is that as long as goalies don't take part in play beyond centre, stay in their crease during fights and stay away from the bench during stoppages, there is little reason to worry about their wanderings.

Review Board:

Lorne Campbell, Rick Mophew, Marshall Copp, Don Vale, Sean Reid, David Beech & Geoff Gamble

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