



# The Referee's Crease



A Newsletter for ALLIANCE Hockey Officials

November 2008

## CHECKING FROM BEHIND

If you are thinking that a hit might have been a check from behind, it was a check from behind. Have the courage to make the call.

CFBs are defined in the rulebook's glossary (pg. 11) as "Any action where a player is intentionally pushed, body checked, high sticked, cross checked or hit in any manner from behind". As you see, they are much more than just body checks.

CFBs (Rule 6.4) are to be "strictly enforced". Referees are instructed not to substitute other penalties when a player is checked from behind in any manner. (Rule 6.4 (b) Note).

Cross checks from behind are CFBs unless (1) the player doing the hitting is stationary, and (2) the player being hit is not hit into the boards or the net (R. 6.4, Clarification 5).

Hitting a player who spins at the last moment to take the check in the back is a CFB (R. 6.4, Clarification 2). Whether you agree with the policy or not, the onus is entirely on the checker to be in control. It is not up to you to change Hockey Canada's policy (see para 2, pg. 5 of the rulebook).

Too often, some refs look for excuses to not make a CFB call, and supervisors have heard them all - "He was backing into the hit", "He put himself in a vulnerable position", "He got the back of his shoulder", "Nobody calls it that way", "He didn't hit the numbers".

Strict enforcement of the CFB rule means that you don't get to make excuses for not making the call. Stationary cross checks aside, the

only reason to not make a CFB call on any type of a hit from behind is if it was accidental contact. This is safety issue, so it is important to be realistic about what is and is not accidental.

Take the time to watch the DVD clip on CFBs posted on HC's website (the link is below). Look at the points of contact, the pre-hit motion of the player being hit and that player's positioning. CFBs cast a very wide net. Do not restrict it.

## COACHES & GM20s vs. GM21s

Progressive discipline is the key. Always start with a bench minor if a coach has crossed the line in disputing a call. Only if the 2 has not calmed the waters can you move to a GM 20 or 21. A GM21 is only used when the dispute includes swearing. Include the words used in your report.

## USEFUL LINKS:

HC videos on the proper standards for calling fouls (left hand column, near the bottom of the page):

<http://www.hockeycanada.ca/2/2/3/8/8/index1.shtml>

ALLIANCE Hockey Referee Development page:

<http://www.alliancehockey.com/page.asp?id=60>

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