Ask the Official - Week 13

December 14 - 20, 2012

QUESTION #1: I believe there is a rule that states there must be at least twelve hours in between games for a team who has played in the evening (eg. they could not have a game that ends at 10:30pm and be scheduled to play again early the next morning). If so, how is it managed?

ANSWER #1: USA Hockey does not have formal rules regarding what time a game may start other than what is listed in the National Tournament guidelines in the USA Hockey Annual Guidebook. Furthermore, we encourage you to contact your USA Hockey Affiliate Body (the governing body of all amateur hockey in your area) to find out what rules apply for regular season games with your Affiliate area. Contact information for Affiliates can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guidebook which is located under the AboutUSAH link at USAHockey.com.

QUESTION #2: I was watching a game the other night and Team A had control of the puck and scored while Team B had a player laying on the ice apparently injured. There were no whistles blown until after Team A had scored, but to everyone's amazement the goal was disallowed. Could you please shed some light on this? I have been through my son's rule book and I could not find anything to this scenario.

ANSWER #2: Rule 206(a) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“When a player is injured and is unable to continue play or go to his bench, play shall be stopped immediately unless the opposing team is in possession of the puck, in which case play shall not be stopped until a change of possession has occurred. In the case where it is obvious that a player has sustained a serious injury, the Referee and/or Linesman may stop the play immediately.”

We cannot offer any insight as to why the goal was disallowed.

QUESTION #3: My son has a mohawk glued to the top of his Goalie Mask, is this illegal? I've looked at the rules and they seem a little vague unless I missed something. We've had some referees say he cannot play with it and some have said it's not a problem. Could you please tell me the rules about this.

ANSWER #3: All participants at the youth level must wear a HECC approved helmet that has not been altered in any fashion. While a goalkeeper may have his face-mask professionally painted, he may not use glue or some other form of epoxy to attach decorations. The epoxy may compromise the integrity of the material of the face-mask. Therefore, this type of alteration would nullify the HECC approval of the face-mask.

QUESTION #4: In a game today one of our players was called for a a major for hitting from behind with nineteen seconds left in the third period. On the score sheet the penalty it is not properly recorded either. It is listed as "Roughing". Is the game misconduct enforceable if it is not recorded properly? Two can the penalty be appealed as our next two games are in Canada and would not like to lose a player for one of those?

ANSWER #4: All game misconduct penalties are enforceable even if not recorded properly on the game sheet (we wouldn’t ignore a Major+GM for slashing just because a twelve year-old kid in the scorekeeper’s booth wrote it down incorrectly). Since all suspensions and other forms of discipline are handled by the Local Governing Body (association, league, affiliate, etc.) for the player, coach, or team we encourage you to contact them to get more insight as to how this situation must be handled.

QUESTION #5: What is the rule for a player coming late to a game? Are they allowed to join at any time?

ANSWER #5: Rule 203(a) in the USA Hockey Playing Rules states,

“Once the game has started, an eligible player or goalkeeper may be added to the score sheet during a stoppage of play provided no players are deleted from the game roster and maximum roster size has not been exceeded. The offending team shall be assessed a bench minor”