Ask the Official - Week 3

September 23 - 28, 2011

The USA Hockey Rulebook and Playing Rules Casebook can be found on the Officials page atwww.usahockey.com.

Answers to other questions may be found at the Officials page atwww.usahockey.com.

Thank you for all your submissions.If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us atasktheofficial@usahockey.org.

QUESTION: Now that Body Checking has been removed at the 12&Under (Pee-Wee) Level, do the players still have to wear mouthpieces?

ANSWER: Yes, while the Body Checking rule was changed during the rule change process this past summer. Rule 304(f) has not been changed in any way. While Body Checking has been eliminated at the Pee Wee Level, the speed and size of the players still presents a threat to player safety.

QUESTION: If the puck is shot on goal with attacking players in the Attacking Zone, does this create a Delayed Off-side situation?

ANSWER: No, in any case where a puck is shot "on goal" with attacking players in the Attacking Zone, this would call for an immediate whistle and the face-off would be located at the point-of-origin of the shot (unless its determined that the play was made to create an intentional stoppage).

QUESTION: The puck is shot on goal with attacking players in the Attacking Zone. The puck enters the goal, but the attacking players are all clear of the Attacking Zone prior to the puck entering the net (nullifying the off-sides). Is the goal allowed?

ANSWER: No, in any case where a puck is shot "on goal" with attacking players in the Attacking Zone, this would call for an immediate whistle and the face-off would be located at the point-of-origin of the shot (unless its determined that the play was made to create an intentional stoppage). The fact that the attacking players cleared the zone prior to the puck entering the goal has no bearing on whether the goal is legal.

QUESTION: Has the rule allowing a player to be added to a game roster (with Bench Minor) changed?

ANSWER: The "spirit and intent" of Rule 203(a) has not changed. The wording was changed to remove the onnus of determining the intnet of the ommission (deliberate or not). The process in this situation is much more simple now. A player may always be added to a game roster if there is room (less than 18 players) and the team is willing to accept a Bench Minor penalty.