

Working the Penalty Box

In ice hockey an amount of time in the box occurs for all penalties, unless circumstances call for an ejection or a penalty shot. If three or more players are serving penalties at once, the team will continue playing with three on the ice but will not be allowed to use the players in the box until their penalties expire.

Most leagues specify that a team cannot replace on the ice a member serving a minor (2-minute) penalty. This results in situations such as the power play, in which the opposing team outnumbers the penalized (shorthanded) team, and (in the event of coincidental minor penalties) situations in which both teams must skate with one less player on the ice.

If a team scores a goal while one or more of the opposing team is serving a non-coincidental minor penalty, the penalty with the least time remaining is canceled, and the player serving that penalty may return to the ice. In the case of a double-minor (4-minute) penalty, the penalty is treated as two consecutive 2-minute penalties. If the opposing team scores, only the penalty currently being served is canceled; if at least one penalty interval remains, the penalty clock is reset to reflect this (two minutes if one interval remains, four minutes if two intervals remain) and the player must remain in the box; if less than two minutes remain, the remaining penalty is canceled and the player is released. A major (5-minute) or misconduct (10-minute) penalty must be served in full, regardless of the number of goals scored by the opposition. To keep play fair, coincidental minor penalties ("matching minor" penalties assessed to both teams simultaneously) are also served in full regardless of scoring.

Goaltenders never go to the penalty box even though they are assessed penalty minutes (but they can be ejected and replaced with a substitute). Any penalties enforced against goaltenders or the bench are served by a teammate, with many leagues requiring that teammate to have been on the ice when the penalty occurred.

Your Job

- Open the door for the start and release of the penalty(s)
- Have the player(s) sit for majority of the penalty. You may allow them, to stand the last few seconds to get back on the ice in a timely manner.
- Do not allow them to talk with coaches or other players
- Keep track of "Shots on Goal" and "Saves" for the goaltender closest to your side. (This will change if you are watching the home team or away team each period)
- Give goaltender stats at the end of each period to the scorebook recorder

***** What is a Shot on Goal? *****

In ice hockey, a shot on goal, **is a shot that will enter the goal if it is not stopped by the goaltender. A shot on goal must result in either a goal or a save. Every goal and every save count as shots on goal.**

If the shot hits the goal post or crossbars it is not considered to be a shot on goal. This leads to an exception to the definition of a shot on goal. If the puck hits the goal post or crossbar, ricochets off the goaltender or player, and into the net, it is a goal, and therefore a shot on goal.

A shot that is deflected wide or blocked before it reaches the goaltender by a player is not counted as a shot on goal.

If a goaltender blocks a shot that would have missed the net or hit the post, it is not considered a shot on goal. It is the judgment of the statistician which shots are counted as shots on goal.

As an on-ice official, you are NOT allowed to cheer for your team or players. This includes, scorekeeper, scoresheet person and penalty box workers.