



SECTION 6

Positioning



An Understanding of the Two Official and Three Official Systems of Positioning

Upon completion of this section you will be better prepared to:

- Work within the Two Official System;
- Understand the differences between the Two Official System and working as a linesman in the Three Official System;
- Understand and explain proper referee positioning in the Three Official System.

Positioning

Good positioning enables the referee to be in the right position to make the proper call when required. Further to positioning, the referee must have a complete knowledge of the playing rules, be a good skater, in good physical condition and be able to display good judgement.

End Zone Positioning

Good end zone positioning gives the referee in all different officiating systems:

- A better overall view of the play.
- A better view of the goal and goal line.
- Less chance of being caught behind the play on a fast break, thereby reducing unnecessary hard skating.
- Safer positioning from deflections of shots on goal.
- Players are more aware of the presence of the referee. This acts as a deterrent to any unnecessary activity.

Important points:

- Be at the net when needed.
- Stay out of the play.
- Keep all of the players in your field of vision, and not to turn back to the mid ice.

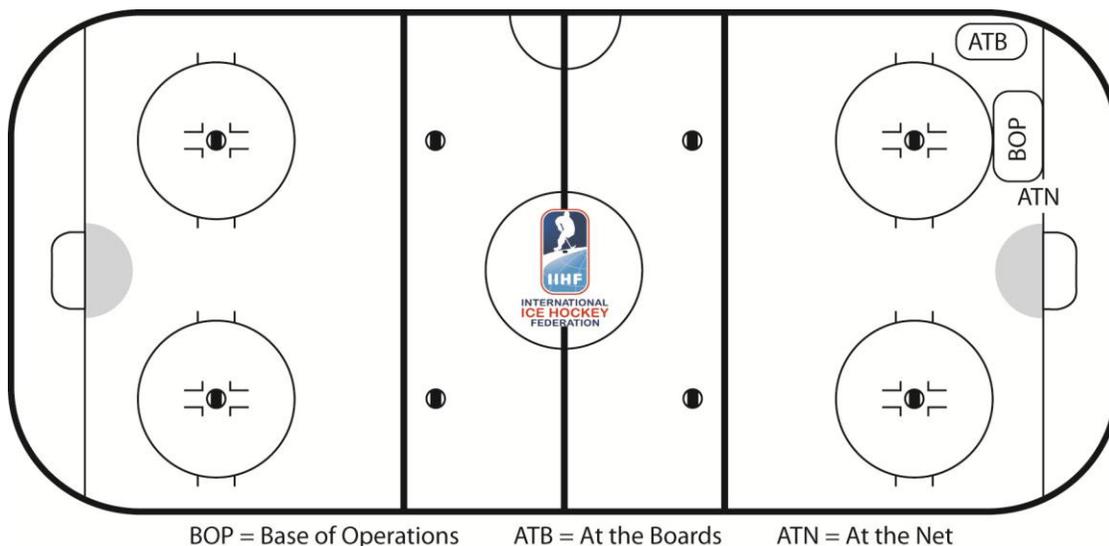


Figure 1

End zone positioning consists of three positions (Figure 1) and two manoeuvres (Figure 2) to help you to be in the best possible location.

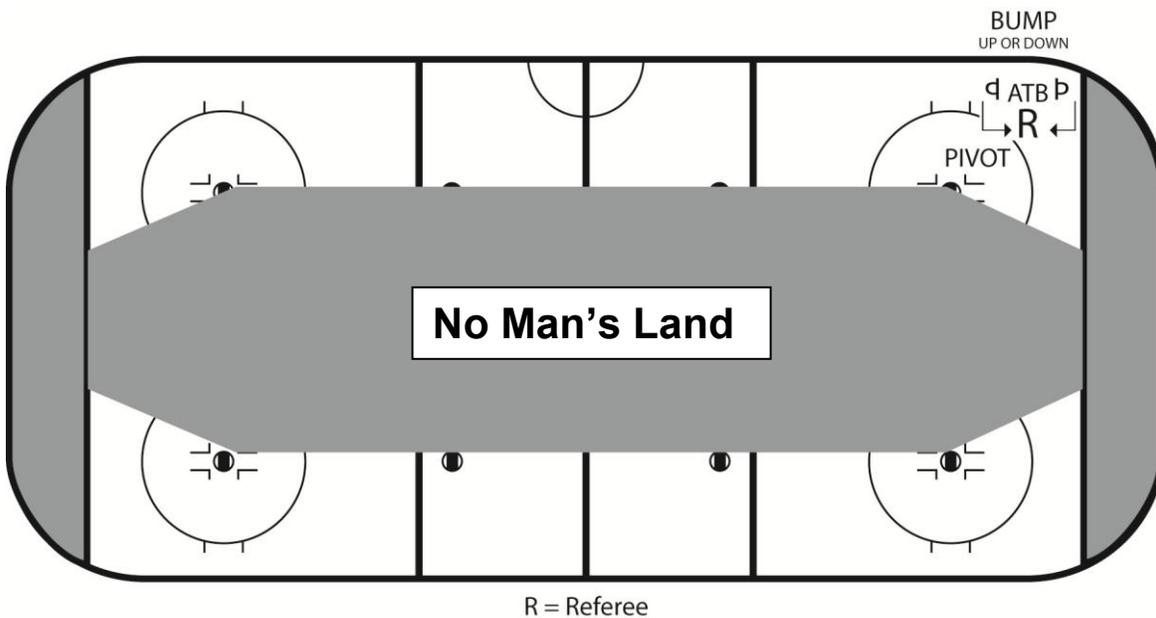
The three positions are:

- **Base of Operations (BOP)**
- **At the Boards (ATB)**
- **At the Net (ATN)**

Base of Operations is the area located between the goal line and the face-off circle and between the **At The Boards** position and the nearest goal post. The objective of the referee is to be in the **Base of Operations** position as much as possible when the play is in the end zone.

At the Boards is a position 15 to 20 centimetres from the boards, halfway between the goal line and the face-off circle hash marks.

At the Net is the position anywhere around the net that gives the referee the best view to see if the puck has crossed the line, but ideally, at the corner of the net, 0.6 to 1 meter from the goal line. This gives the referee the best possible position to view the activity on and around the goal line and goal crease area.



R = Referee

Figure 2

The two important manoeuvres are:

- **The Bump**
- **The Pivot** (Figure 2)

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The Bump is used when the play comes around the boards and in the direction of the referee standing at the **At the Boards** position. The referee will **Bump** away from the play (either up or down the boards) until he reaches either the hash marks or the goal line. At this point he will use the second manoeuvre, called **The Pivot**.

The Pivot consists of taking a stride out away from the boards, crossing under and skating backwards to the **At the Boards** position after the play has passed behind the referee. At this point the referee can follow the play either up the ice or watch as it continues in the end zone.

Note:

For experienced referees it is allowed to use the cross over move behind the net, to gain better position at the net and to stay away from the play. This is an exceptional procedure, and may take place only when the play dictates and it is safe.

When play is in progress and as it enters the end zone on the referee's side of the ice, the referee will enter the zone along the boards towards the **At the Boards** position. If the puck remains on his side of the ice, the referee will stay in or near the **At the Boards** position (Figure 3). The referee will stay in the **At the Boards** position until the play dictates that he moves.

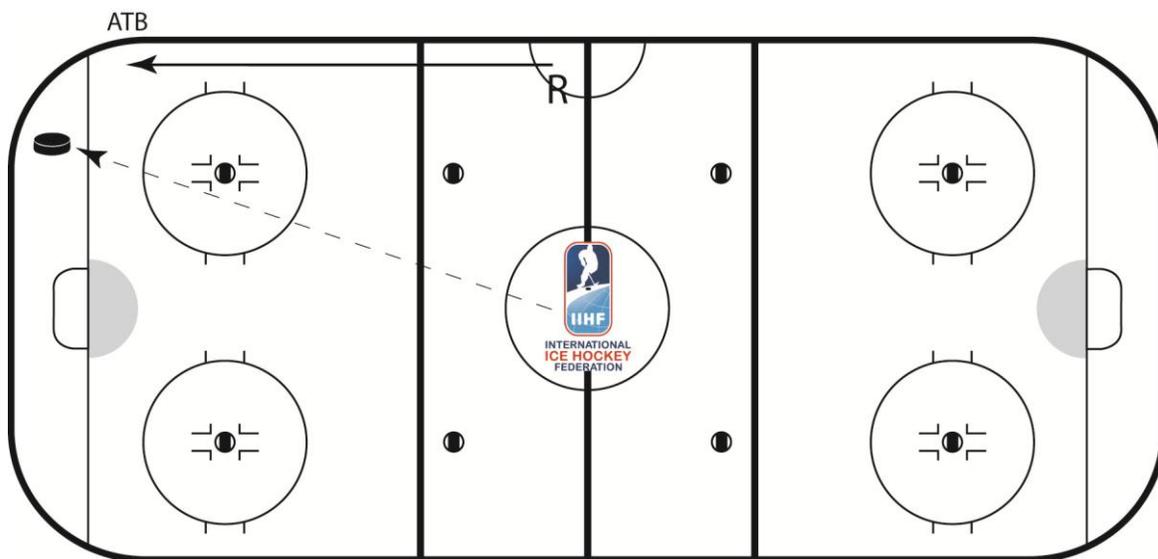


Figure 3

If the puck enters the zone on the opposite side of the referee, the referee will enter the zone along the boards and proceed from the **At the Boards** position to the **Base of Operations** position (Figure 4). If the net blocks the view of the puck in the far corner while in the **Base of Operations** position, it is advisable to take one step towards the face-off spot to improve the viewing angle. This can be done without entering into **No Man's Land** (Figure 2).

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The shaded area in Figure 2 is called **No Man's Land**. A good official never enters this area to avoid becoming involved in the play and becoming a factor in the eventual outcome of the play.

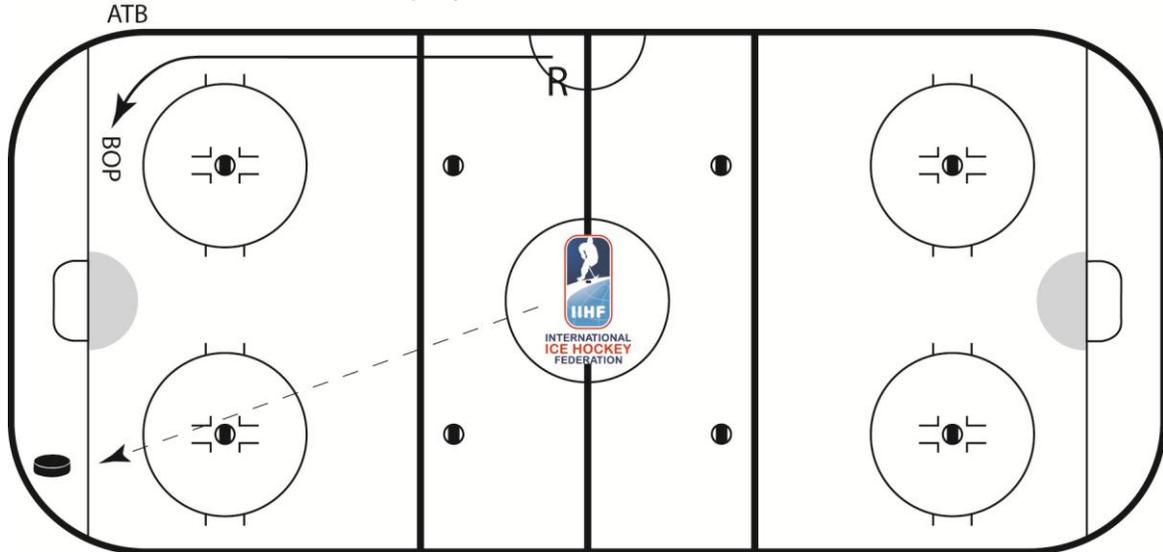


Figure 4

If the puck goes to the net area, the referee will also move into the **At the Net** position, to be in an excellent position to make the appropriate call.

Good referees never find themselves behind the goal line, unless they are at the **At the Net** position and it is the best angle to view the play. Try to avoid this situation by using the **Bump** and **Pivot** effectively.

End Zone positioning for a referee in the Three Official System is the same as in the Two Official System. Once the official enters the end zone, the use of the three positions (**Base of Operations**, **At the Boards** and **At the Net**) and the two manoeuvres (**Bump** and **Pivot**) are the same.

The ability to anticipate the play is very important to an official. This will allow the official to easily keep up with fast breaks and to quickly move to the **Base of Operations** position, out of the way of the play. Relax, anticipate the play and move only when the play warrants it. This will allow officials to be in a better position and also let them enjoy the game more.

Two Official System - Referee

In this system, both of the officials will cover the entire ice surface at some point during the game.

The referee taking the face-off will retrieve the puck, skate back and take the face-off.

General Guidelines

- Each referee covers the total ice surface. The coverage and position of the referee is dictated by what happens in the game.
- The referee in the end zone is in charge of the situations close to the puck carrier. The other referee covers situations close to the net and also away from the puck.
- As the play comes up the ice, the referee at the first blue line covers the red line and then the blue line before entering the opposite end zone. At the same time, the referee coming out of the other end zone takes up position at the blue line of the opposite end zone.
- When there is a stoppage of play in the end zone, the referee taking the face-off in the end zone can be either of the two referees. After taking the face-off, the referee will stay in that end zone.
- The responsibilities of the referees are flexible according to positioning. This way both referees will cover the entire ice surface.
- The referee at the blue line should try to never let the puck pass him in the neutral zone. If there is a situation where you are in the path of the players and the puck in the neutral zone, and then always move towards your blue line. In this procedure you should never be out of position. If the puck comes in your direction, you are in correct position. If the puck goes in the opposite direction, simply stop and follow play again, you are in position.
- Officials should **never climb the boards**. If you do, the puck will pass you, leaving you out of position and not able to call an offside at your blue line. Also, being on the boards puts you in a vulnerable position and the potential for personal injury is much greater.
- Officials should always be at, or just inside, their blue line prior to the puck and players. They cannot accurately call offsides if they are 3 to 6 metres from the line.
- The front official must be at the centre red line as the puck approaches in order to effectively call potential icings.

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- When the puck is in the end zone, the back official must watch for fouls in front of the net. If the deep official is watching the play in the corner or along the boards, that official may not be able to watch the front of the net as well.
- **R1** and **R2** should never be on the same side of the ice.

Positioning While the Play is in Progress

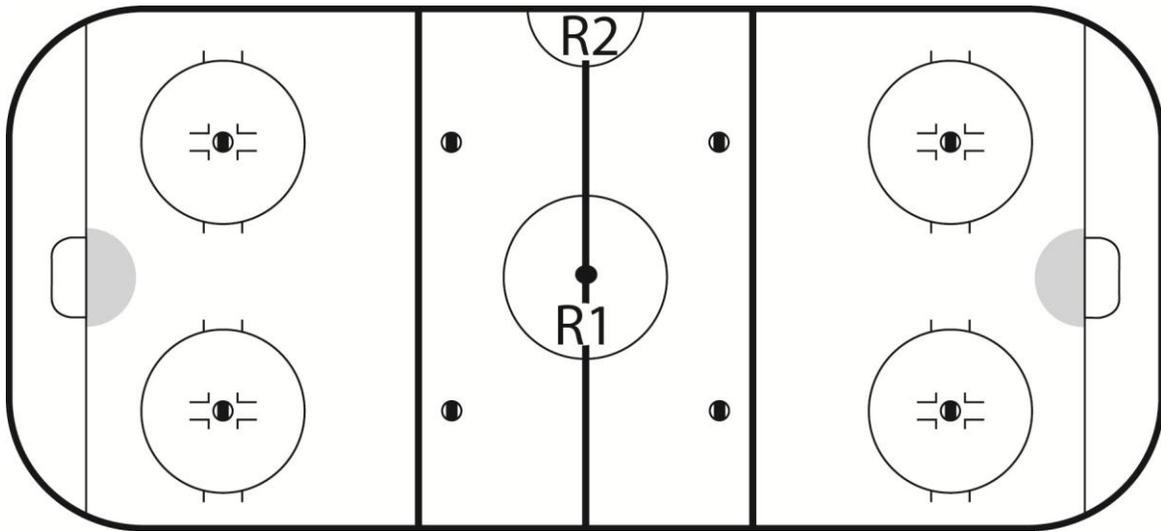


Figure 5

- To start the game or take a face-off at centre ice, the two officials should be positioned along the centre red line facing each other. The official taking the face-off **R1** should be facing the Scorekeeper's bench so that the timekeeper can start the clock when the puck is dropped (Figure 5).
- When the puck is dropped, **R2** must go with the puck, whether to the left or right. This will allow **R2** to be at the blue line as the puck crosses. In either case, note that **R1** has skated backwards to the boards after dropping the puck (Figure 6).

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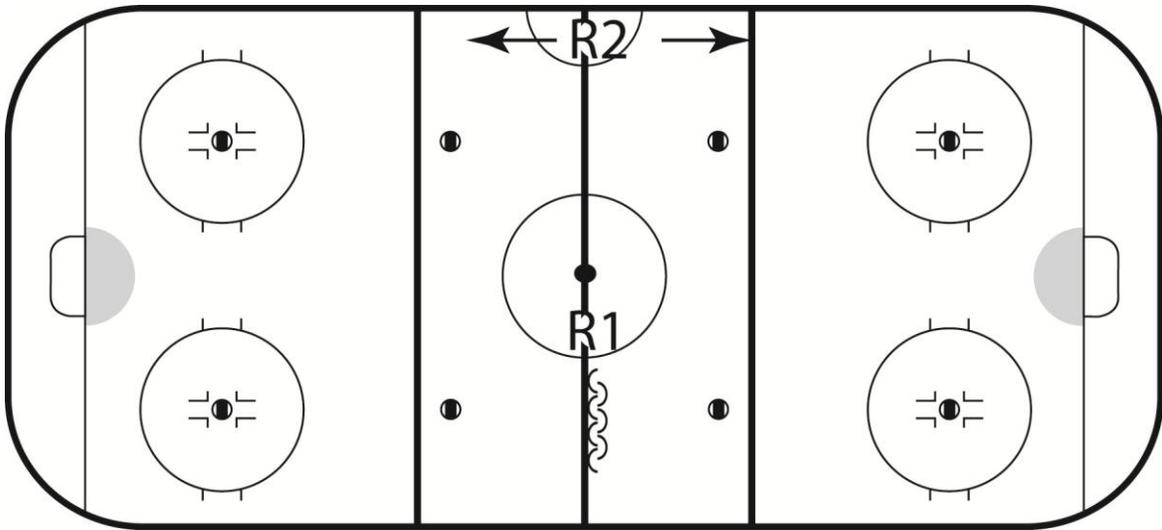


Figure 6

- As the puck moves into the end zone, **R2** must follow the play and take a position at the **Base of Operations** position. Meanwhile, **R1** will move up the boards and take a position one stride outside the blue line, at an appropriate angle to face the play. In these positions, **R2** can watch the play in the entire end zone and **R1** can watch for any offsides at the blue line and also watch the entire end zone play. **R1** will watch the play that is away from the puck. For example: a shot from the blue line, **R1** will continue to watch that player and any checking player while **R2** follows the puck and players as they go towards the net (Figure 7).

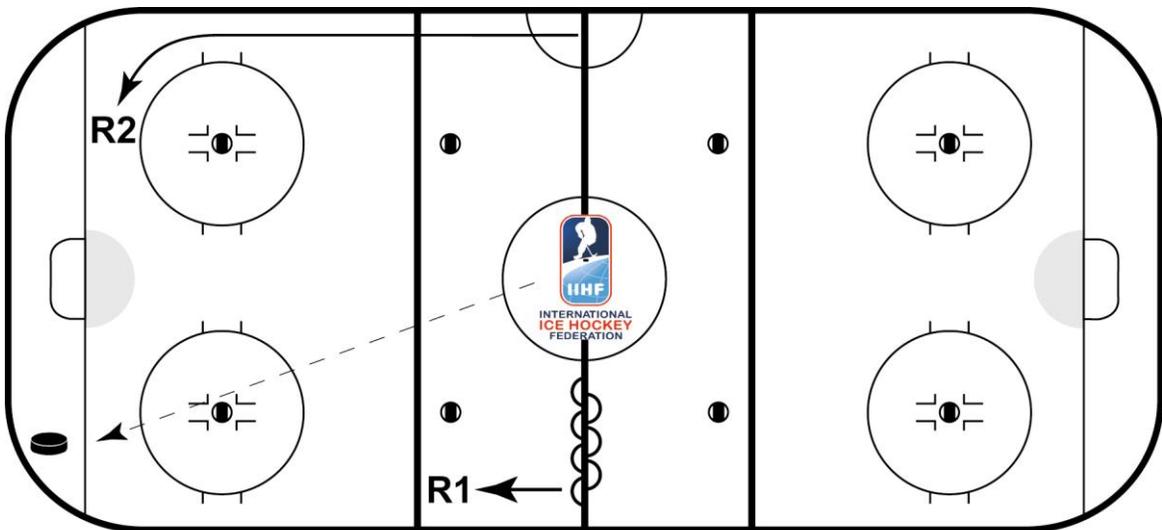


Figure 7

As the play moves towards **R2**, the official should anticipate the play and, if necessary, skate backwards to the **At the Boards** position (Figure 8).

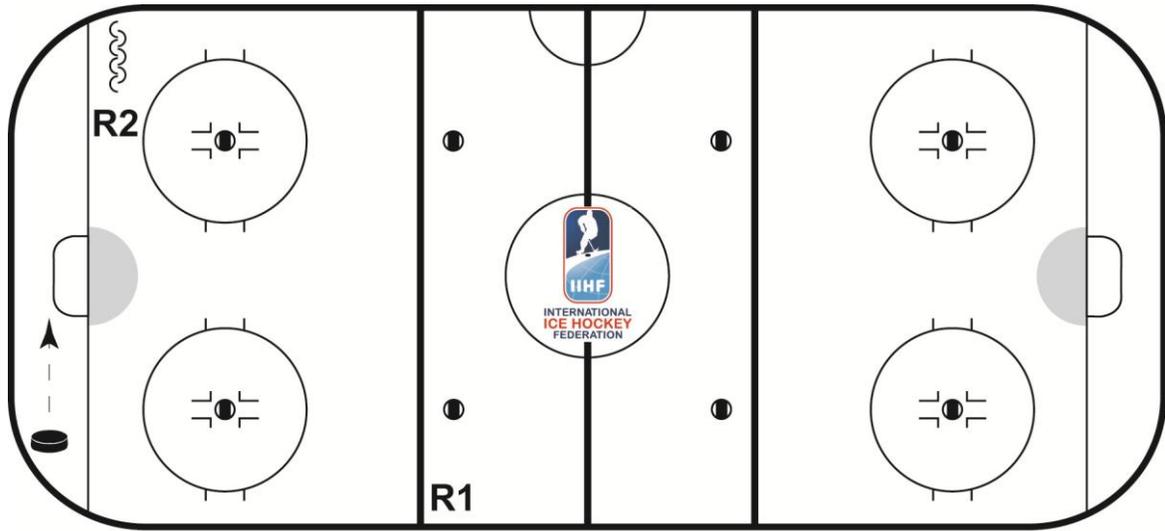


Figure 8

- The official positioned in the **At the Boards** position should keep all players in front and avoid player congestion that may develop in the corner.
- If the defending team gains control of the puck and starts to move out, **R1** must leave the blue line and be at the red line by the time the puck enters the neutral zone. At the same time, **R2** should be as close to the blue line as possible as the puck crosses into the neutral zone (Figure 9).

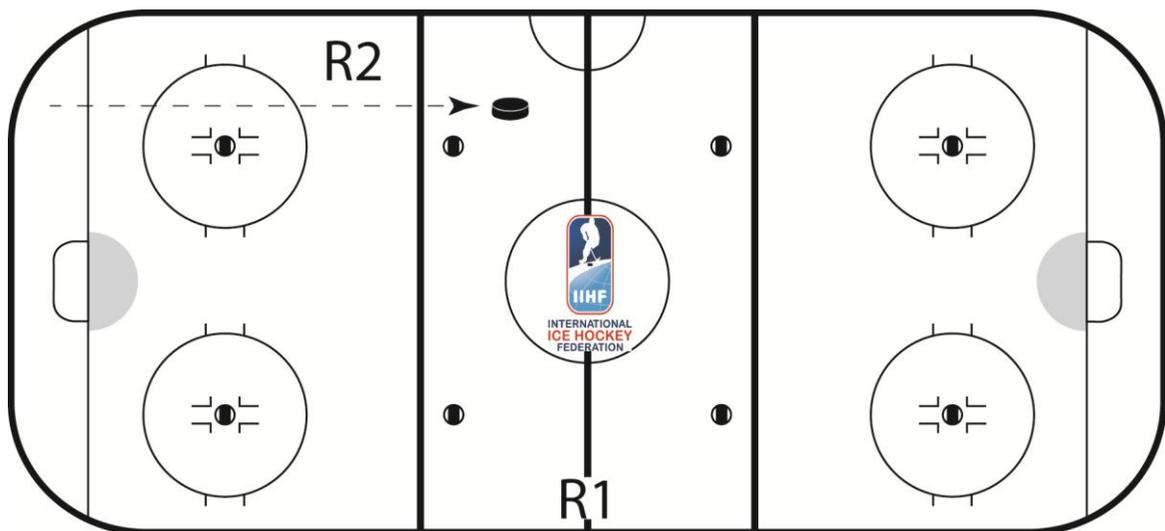


Figure 9

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- When the puck is in the neutral zone in the vicinity of the centre red line, both **R1** and **R2** should be within 1.5 to 2 metres of their respective blue lines which will place them in a position to call any offsides that may occur at either blue line (Figure 10).

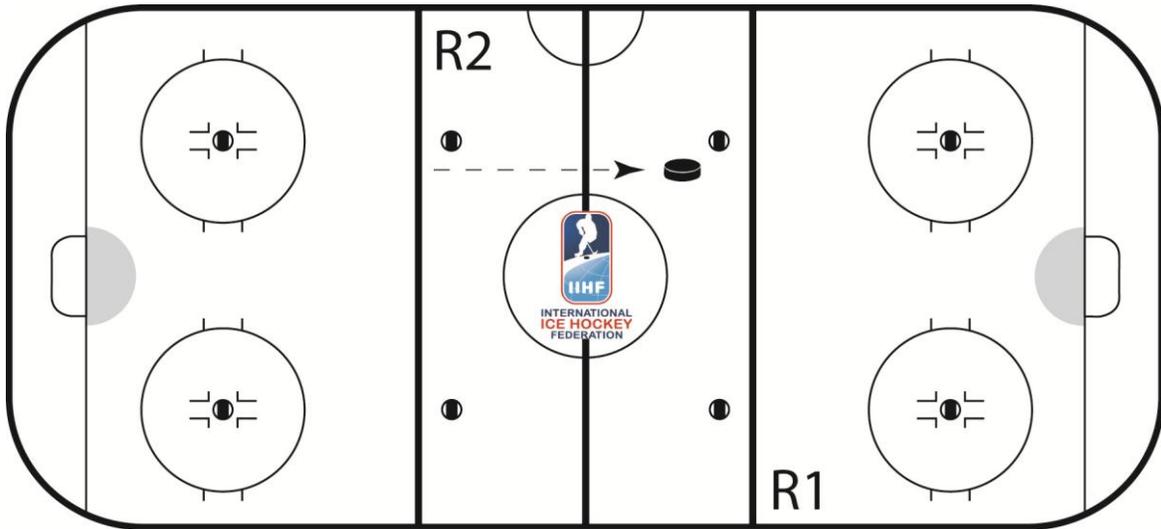


Figure 10

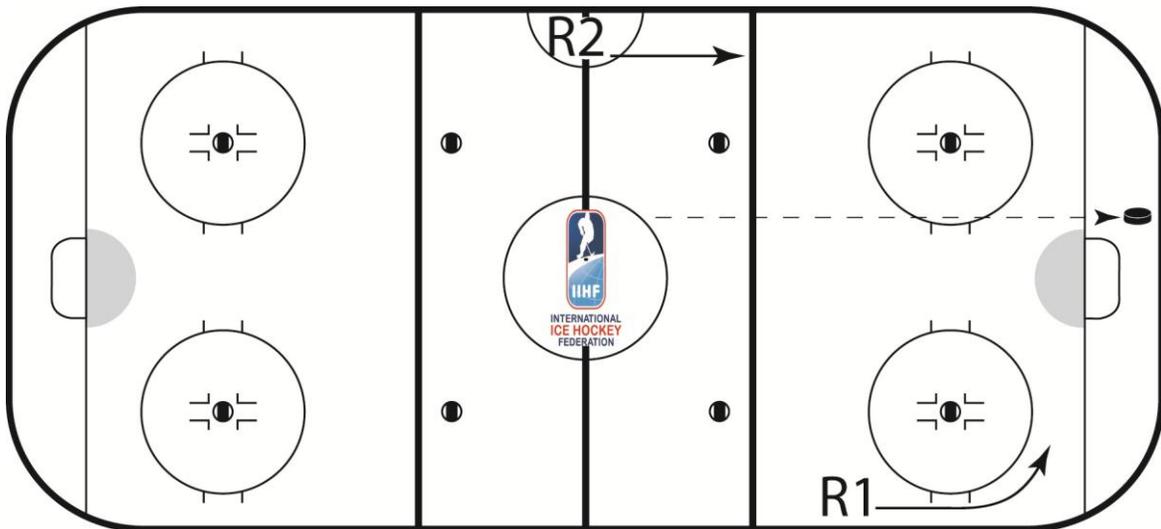


Figure 11

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- If the play continues to the right, **R1** must move up to the blue line to call offside, and then move in deep with the play. At the same time, **R2** must be at the red line by the time the puck crosses over the blue line and then move up to within one stride of the outer edge of the blue line as play goes deep into the end zone (Figure 11).

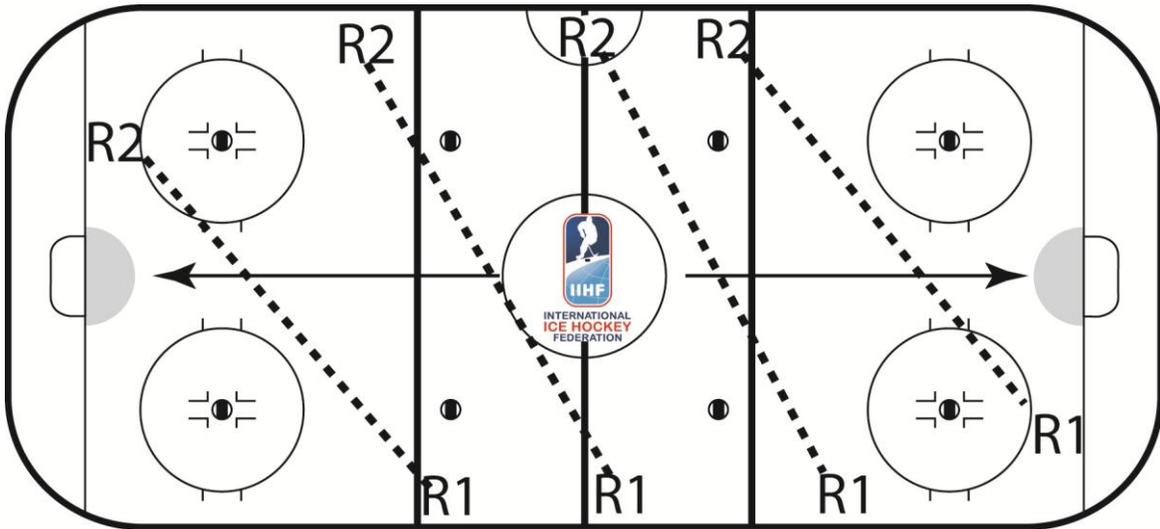


Figure 12

- If we summarize the movements of the two officials while play is in progress, it is easy to see that the officials are in a diagonal position relative to one another, **no further than one line apart** at all times. In this way they are in position to call offside plays, etc., regardless of where they occur on the ice surface (Figure 12).

Positioning for Face-Offs

- All face-offs shall be conducted at the nine designated face-off spots, as indicated by the reason for the stoppage of play (Figure 13).
- All face-offs are taken by the official retrieving the puck, regardless of what side of the ice they are on.

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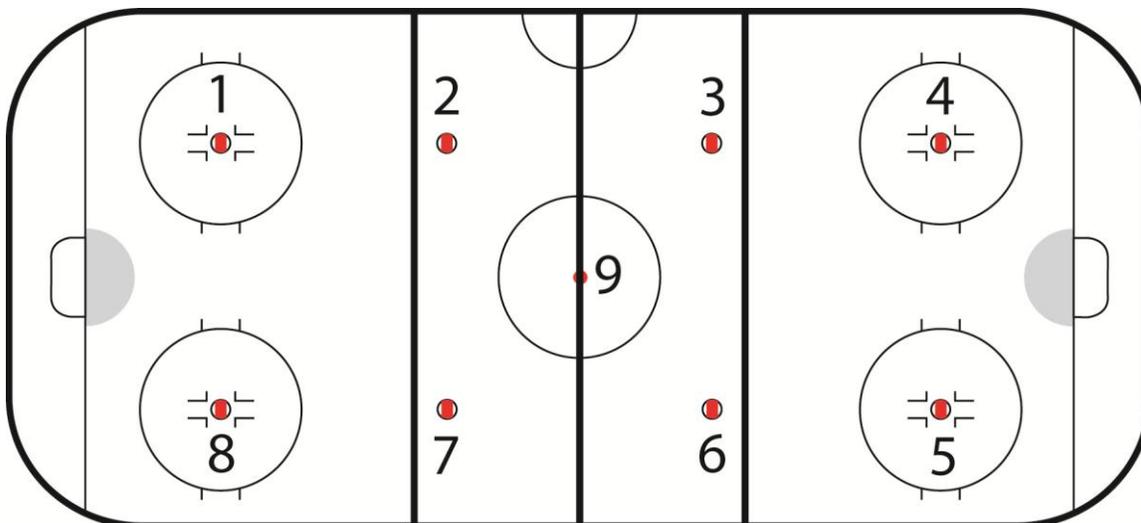


Figure 13

- For a face-off at centre ice face off spot, the two officials should be positioned along the centre red line facing each other. The official taking the face-off **R1** should be facing the Scorekeeper's bench so that the timekeeper can start the clock when the puck is dropped (Figure 14).

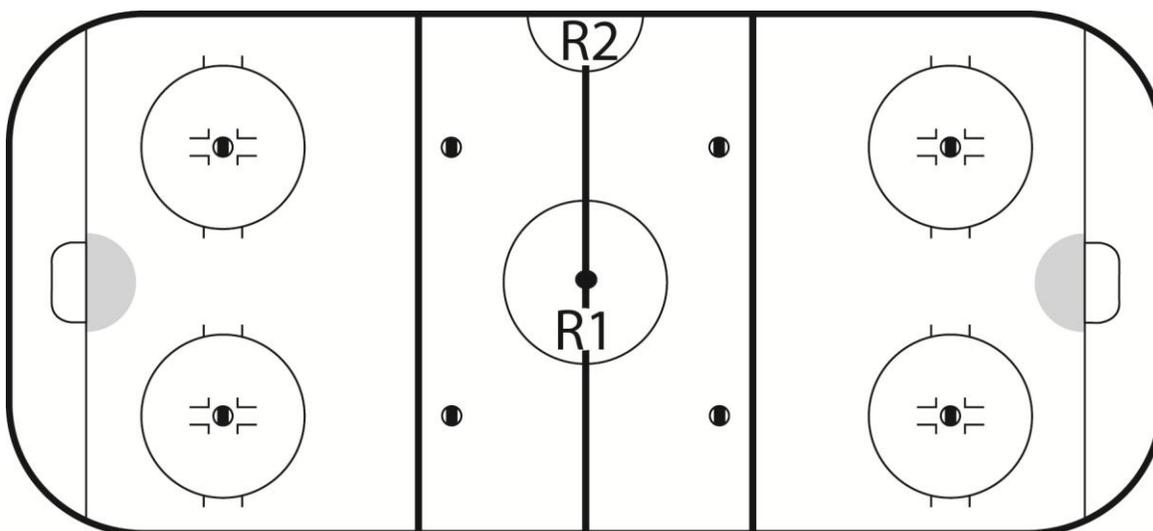


Figure 14

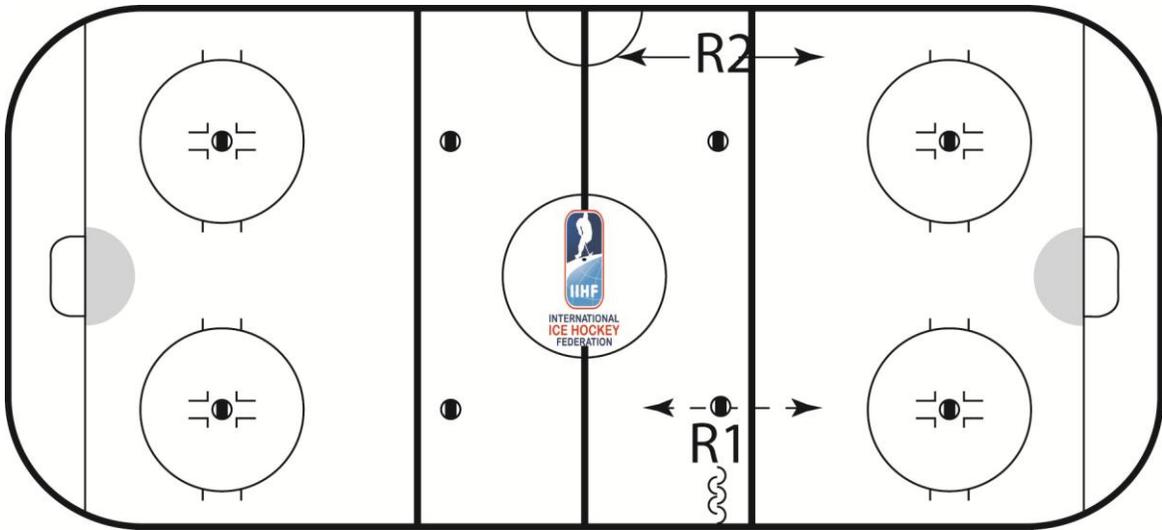


Figure 15

- When a face-off is at one of the four spots in the neutral zone, the official taking the face-off (in this case **R1**), should skate backwards to the boards, and immediately cover the near blue line. **R2** should be positioned directly opposite **R1** and must cover one stride outside the near blue line and follow the puck to the end zone, if necessary (Figure 15).

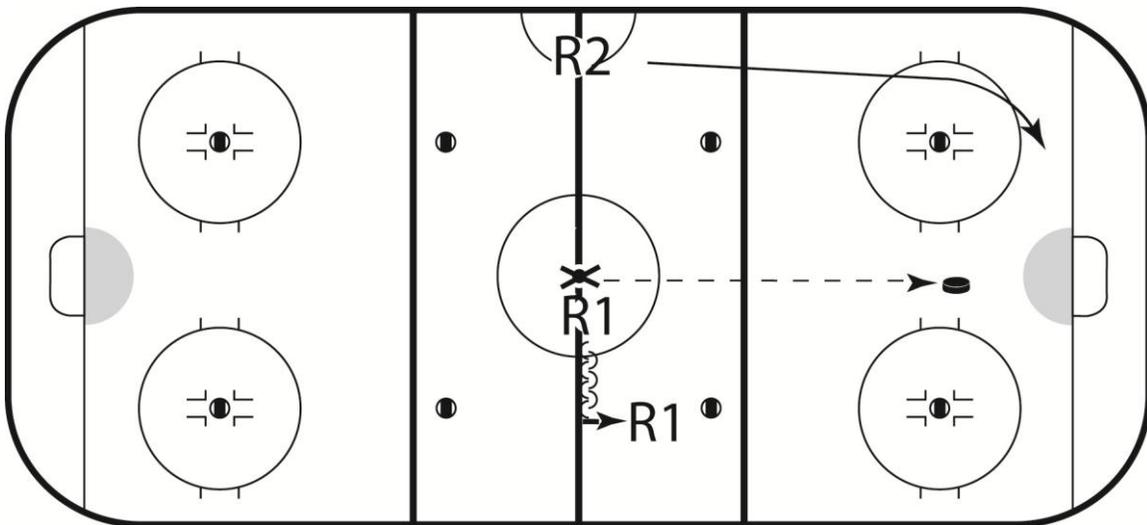


Figure 16

- For face-offs at the center ice face off spot in the neutral zone, when **R1** is taking the face-off, **R2** must be positioned opposite **R1** and move in either direction in order to cover the blue lines. If the puck goes into the end zone, **R2** must follow the puck to the end zone to the **BOP** position while **R1** covers the blue line (Figure 16).

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- When a face-off takes place at one of the end zone face-off spots, **R1** drops the puck and backs to the **At the Boards** position. If the puck stays deep, **R2** must remain in this area. **R2** is positioned at the blue line. Before the puck is dropped, **R2** will be positioned at the blue line two meters from the boards. If **R2** is screened from seeing the players positioned behind **R1**, who is dropping the puck, then **R2** may move further from the boards an appropriate distance to get a clear view (Figure 17). If **R2** observes a face-off violation, **R2** will blow the whistle and point in the direction of the team that committed the violation.

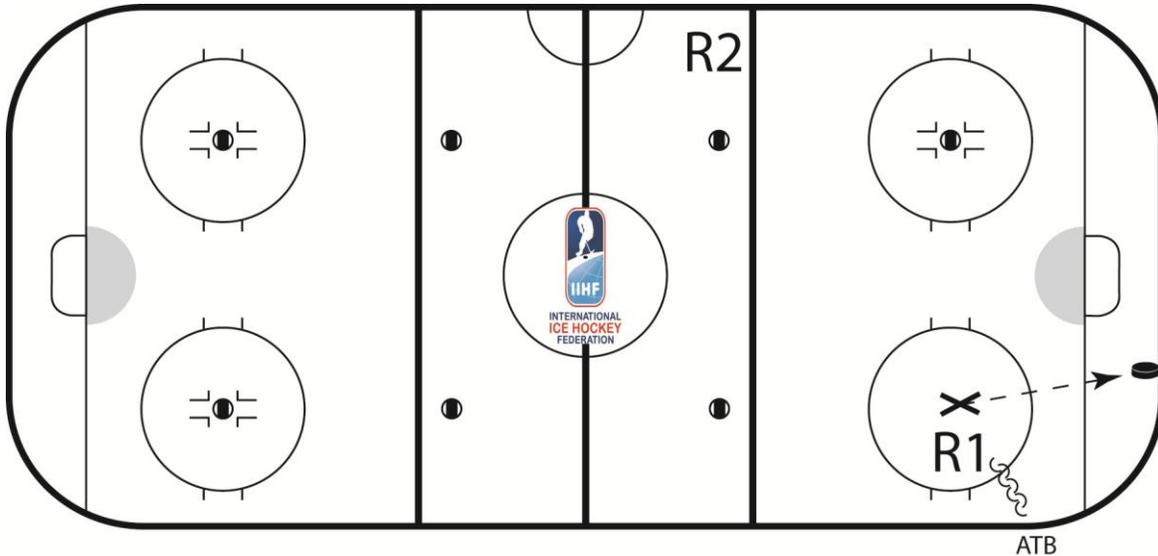


Figure 17

- If the play begins to move out of the end zone, **R1** must move quickly up the side boards to call plays at the blue line as the puck enters the neutral zone. **R2** must hold the blue line until **R1** is in the proper position to call an offside in the event that the puck is played back into the zone. When certain that the play is continuing to move forward, **R2** must move quickly to the centre red line in order to call a potential icing (Figure 18).

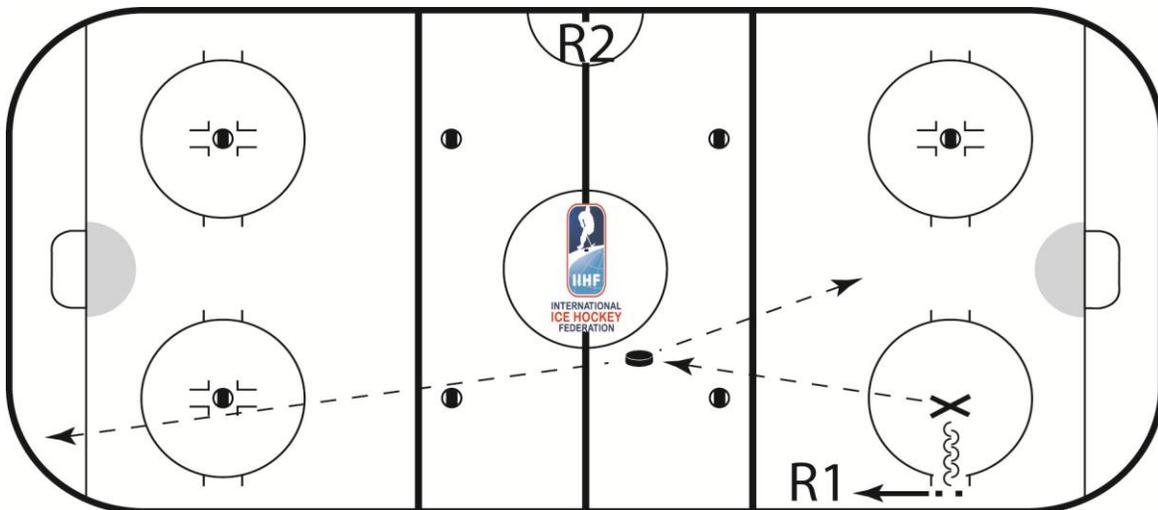


Figure 18

Face-Offs Zone Changes

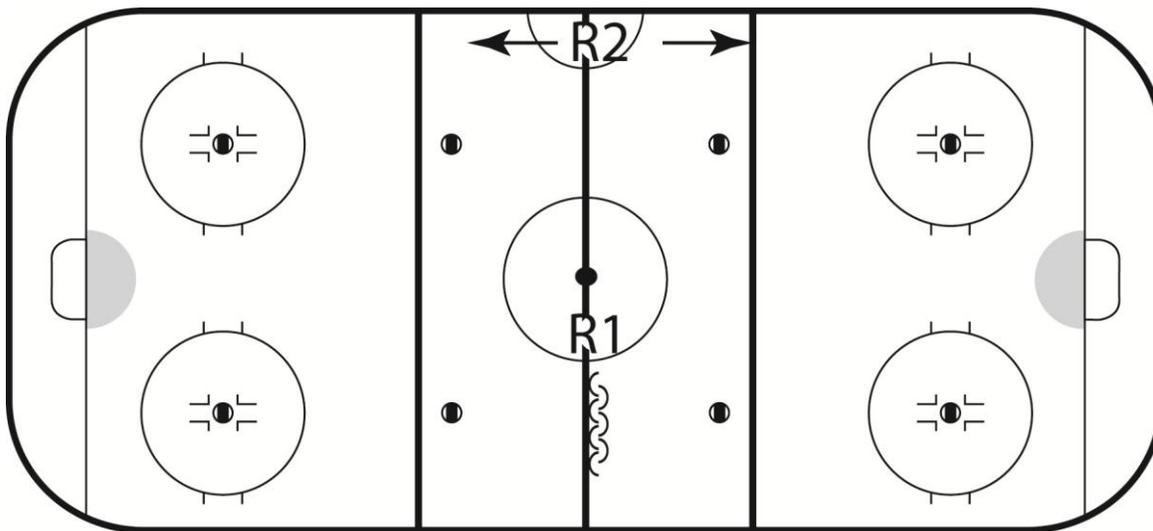


Figure 21

- To start the game or take a face-off at center ice, the two officials should be positioned along the centre red line facing each other. The official taking the face-off should be facing the Scorekeeper's bench so that the timekeeper can start the clock when the puck is dropped.
- When the puck is dropped, **R2** must go with the puck, whether to the right or left. This will allow **R2** to be at either blue line as the puck crosses the line (Figure 21).
- The officials will maintain their responsibilities for positioning until one of four things happens:
 - a stoppage of play,
 - a goal is scored,
 - a penalty is assessed,
 - the start of the next period.

When a Goal is Scored

- When a goal is scored in **R1's** end, he will signal the goal and report it to the scorekeeper. **R2** will retrieve the puck and go to centre ice for the ensuing face-off. **R1** will take up position on the centre red line facing **R2**. Positioning and procedures are now the same as for the start of the game (Figure 22).

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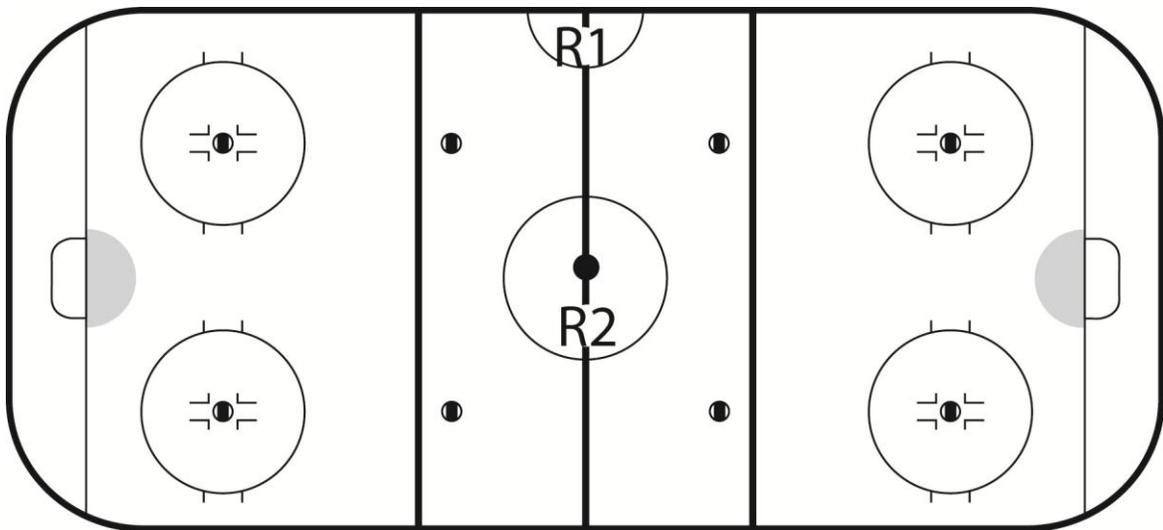


Figure 22

When a Penalty is Assessed

- When a penalty is assessed, the official **R1** will assess the penalty and report it to the scorekeeper. **R2** will retrieve the puck and proceed to the face-off spot and take the face-off. The official who assessed and reported the penalty **R1** will take up a position outside the blue line or across from **R2** in the neutral zone, depending on where the face-off is to take place (Figure 23).

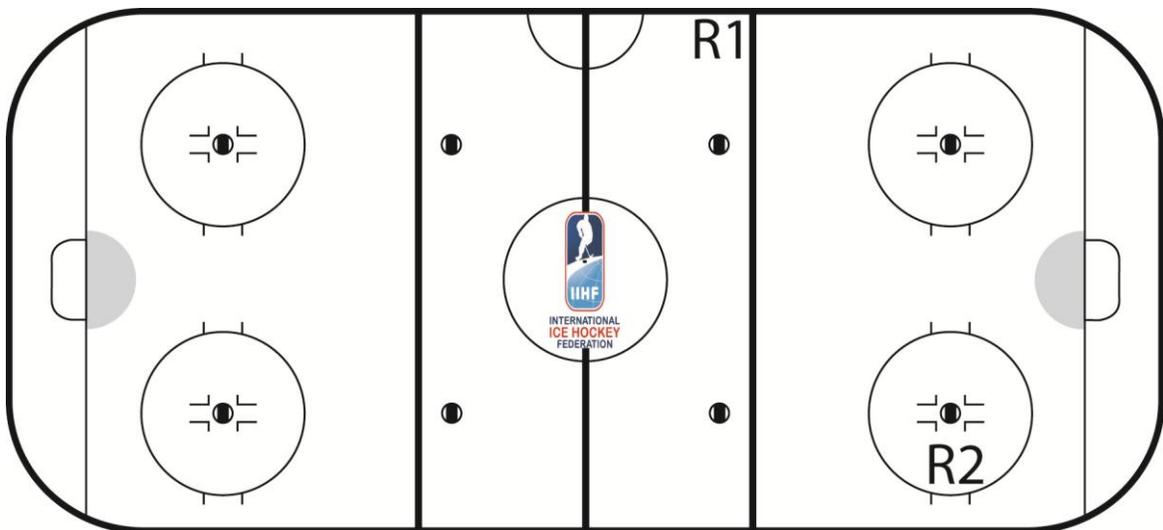


Figure 23

Common Faults and Tips

- A common fault is the failure of the official responsible for the attacking zone to leave the zone quickly in pursuit of the play. A quick turnover in the neutral zone could result in a close offside call at this official's blue line and the official must be in position to make the call.
- When there is a stoppage of play at the net, to reduce the conflict between players, a tip for the official in the attacking zone is to move to the **At the Net** position immediately, but keep all players in full view. His presence and verbal communication will act as a deterrent to altercations after the whistle.
- How does the official in the end zone know when to retreat from the **Base of Operations** to the **At the Boards** position as the play moves towards him?
If the puck carrier is an attacking player, you can hold your position a little longer as they will normally go to the net, and you can follow. If the puck carrier is a defending player, retreat to the **At the Boards** position immediately as this play generally goes up the boards.
- Upon a stoppage of play, the two officials' first priority should be to watch the players on the ice. If two players are standing talking and challenging each other, immediately be aware of potential trouble, move in quickly and move the players out before any serious problems occurs. If there is no potential trouble, one referee will proceed to the face-off position and the other referee will retrieve the puck, skate back and take the face-off.

Three Official System - Referee

In the Three Official System, the referee is the person in charge of the entire hockey game and has the final decision in all situations.

The two linesmen come under the referee's jurisdiction and these three officials form the "on ice team". It is important that the referee give the linesmen as much support and backup as possible and that they work as a team both on and off the ice.

A good knowledge of proper positioning enables the referee to carry out his duties without interfering with the duties of the linesmen. It also enables the referee to avoid interfering with the flow of the play and the players, and in a position to make any necessary calls.

Position of the Referee for Face-Offs

- The referee should take all face-offs at centre ice at the start of the game, at the start of each period, and after a goal has been scored. The linesmen should take all other face-offs during the course of the game.

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- For a face-off at any of the four spots in the neutral zone, the referee should be positioned on the opposite side of the ice, about 1.5 metres inside the blue line and 1.5 to 3 metres out from the boards. From this position, if the play goes directly into the end zone, the referee is able to follow it quickly, and implement his “end zone positioning”. If, however, the play breaks out up the ice, the referee is far enough out from the boards to avoid collision with the linesman (Figure 24).

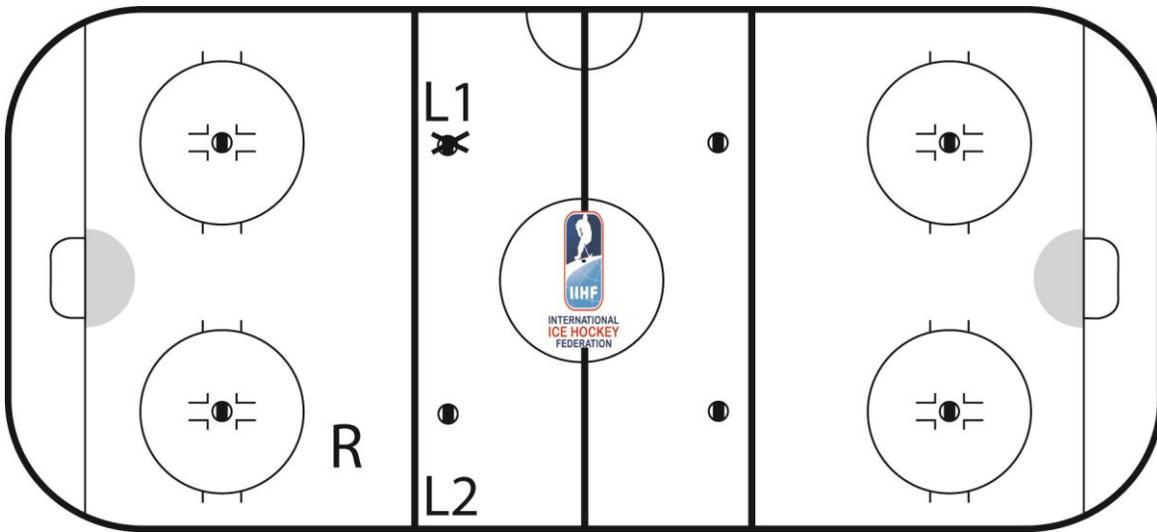


Figure 24

- For face-off at center face off spot in the neutral zone, the referee should be positioned on the side of the Scorekeeper's bench about three metres from the boards, and 1.5 meters metres from either side of the red line in order not to block the view for linesman. This will enable the referee to be on top of the play or to move in quickly in both directions while following the play up the ice. (Figure 25).

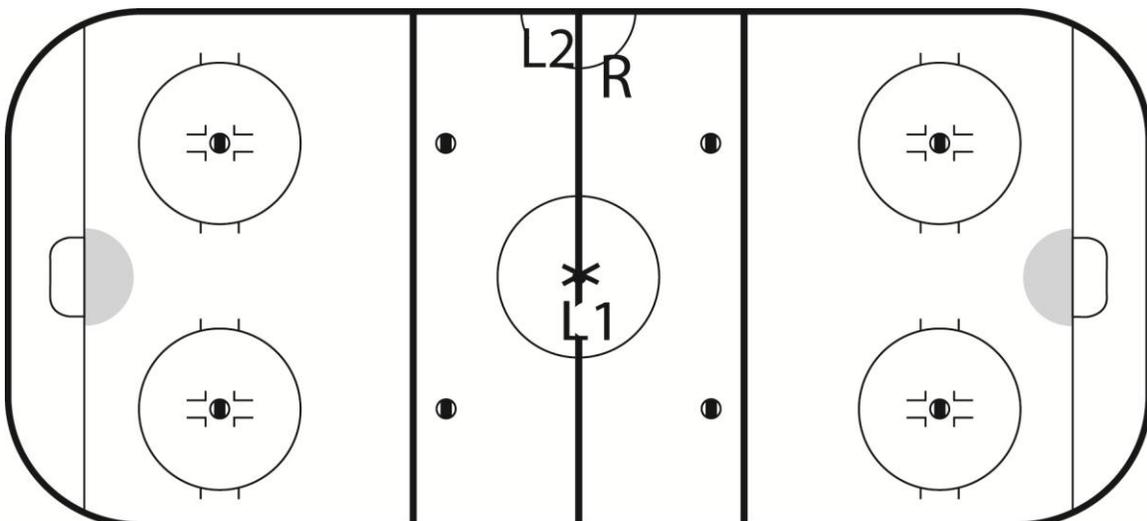


Figure 25

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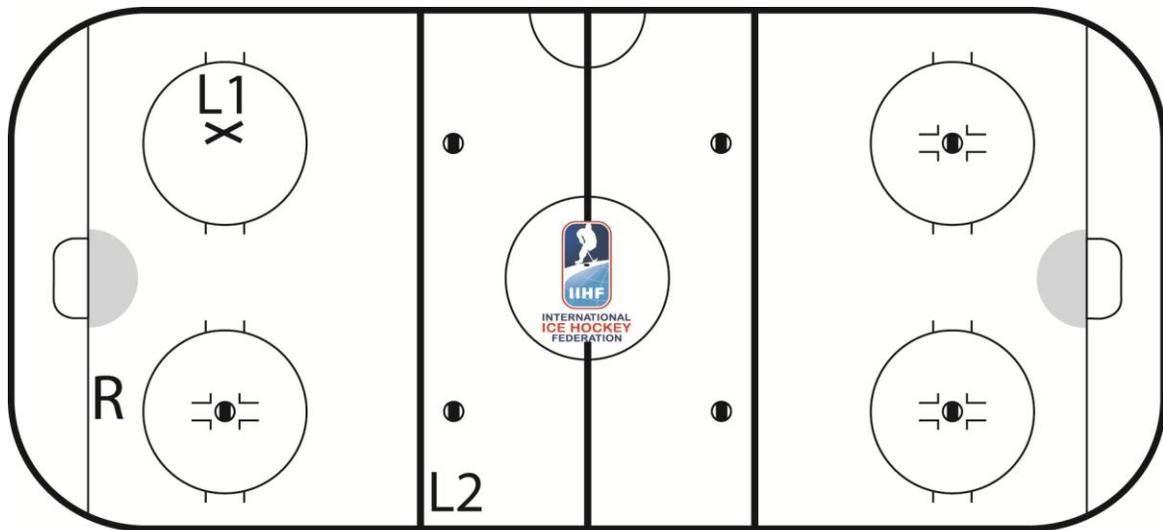


Figure 26

- When the face-off takes place at one of the end face-off spots, the referee should be at the **Base of Operations** position. From this position the referee will be ready for a close play at the net and have an excellent view of the goal line. Also, in this position the referee will not be in the way if a quick shot is taken at the net (Figure 26). The referee should avoid the area behind the goal line and the corners. If caught in these areas, the referee will lose mobility due to player congestion, will be screened by the net and too far behind the play should it break out of the zone quickly.
- If the center is removed from the face-off, the referee does not move over to the other side of the face-off. However the referee should warn the offending team that a second violation will result in a penalty being assessed. The linesman taking the face-off should give the referee time to issue the warning and get back to his proper position again.

Positioning While Play is in Progress

Positioning for the referee in the Three Official System is basically the same as for the Two Official System, with a few variations.

The referee in this system has the responsibility of calling penalties for infractions anywhere on the ice. The referee will not call offsides or icings; these are the responsibility of the linesmen. If a call is very obvious and the linesmen have been blocked out, then the referee may stop the play. This type of call would only be the odd exception.

- After conducting the face-off at centre ice, it is imperative that the referee get back towards the boards as quickly as possible, because while the referee is in the middle of the ice, part of the ice and some of the players will be behind the referee's back. Good positioning means keeping all of the players in front of you (Figure 27).

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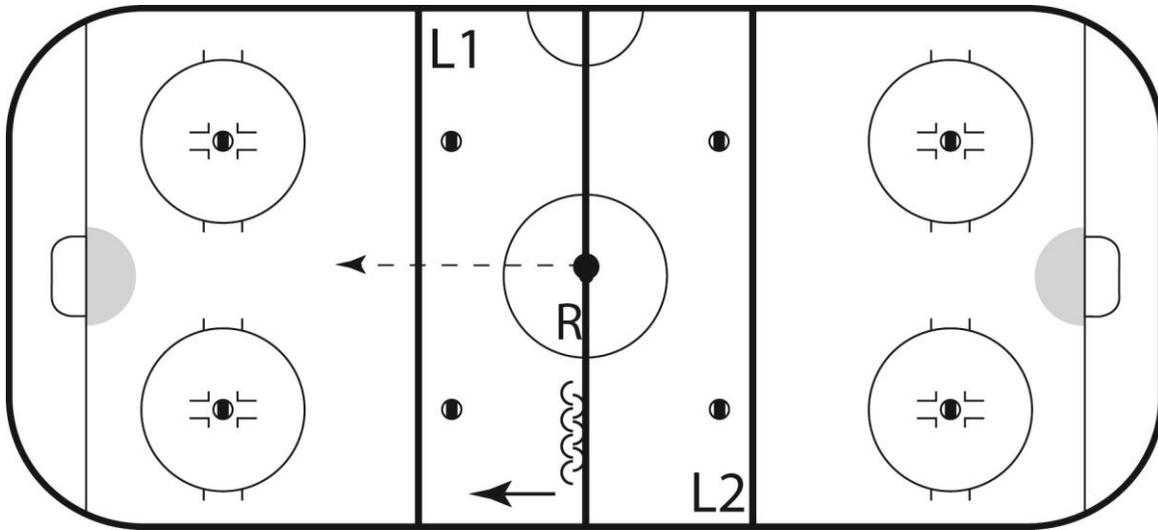


Figure 27

- How does the referee get back to the boards after a face-off? Does the referee skate backwards along the centre red line to the boards? The answer to both of those questions will vary depending upon the direction of the puck after the face-off. If the puck remains in the centre ice area, the answer to the second question is yes, providing the puck is in front of the referee. Common sense dictates that the referee will not skate to the boards when the puck is behind him. If the puck goes into the end zone, the answer is no, as the referee must follow the play. This means that the referee should angle towards the end and side boards and remain within proper range of the play.

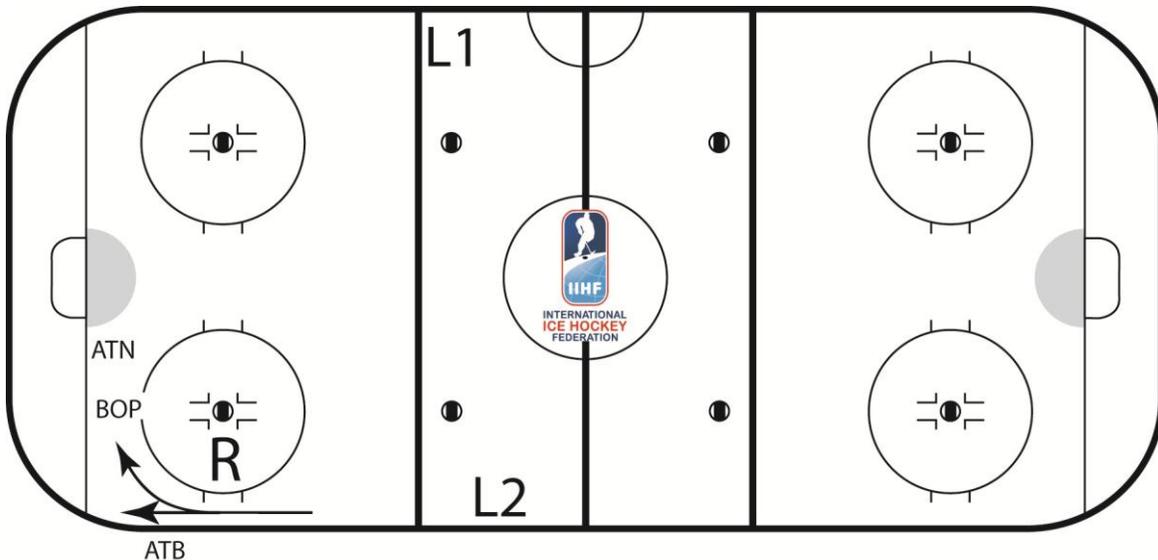


Figure 28

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Note:

For experienced referees it is allowed to use the Cross over move behind the net, to gain better position at the net and to stay away from the play. This is an exceptional procedure, and may take place only when the play dictates and it is safe.

- As the play moves into the end zone, the referee should follow the play at these distances: 6 to 8 metres behind the play if the puck is on the opposite side of the ice, and 8 to 10 metres behind the play if the puck is on the same side of the ice. This will provide the referee with a good perspective of all the players. Also, if the puck suddenly changes possession and the play start out in the opposite direction, the referee will have sufficient room to avoid interfering with the play. If the play does go deep into the end zone, the referee should assume the “end zone positioning” as described earlier in this section (Figure 28).

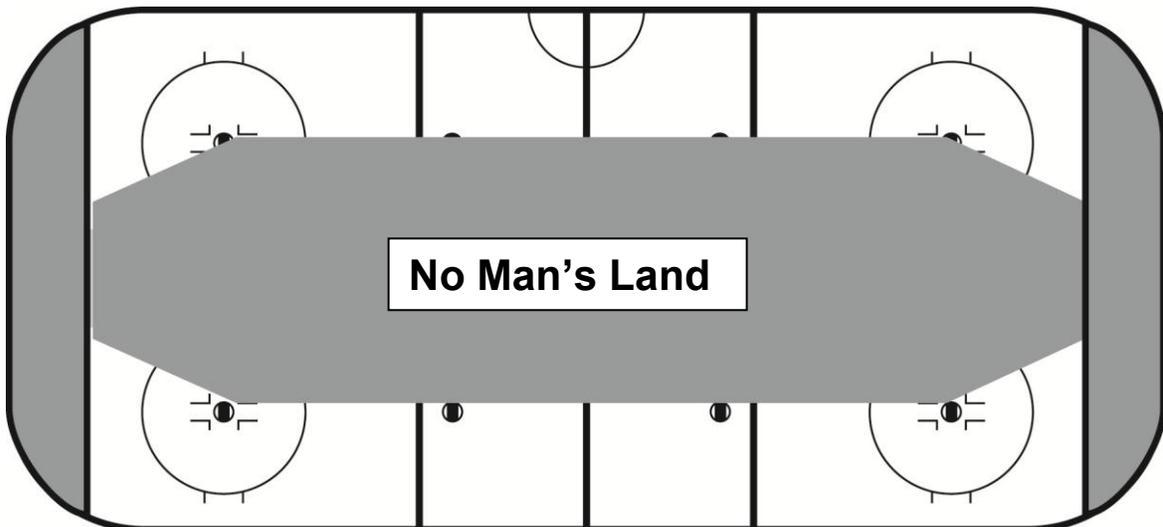


Figure 29

- The referee skating up the ice should be in the white area only. The shaded area is **No Man's Land** and should not be used by the officials, nor should they cross over from one side of the ice to the other side while play is in progress (Figure 29). They can move over at a stoppage of play, depending on the location of the face-off, and for a face-off at centre ice.

Note:

For experienced referees it is allowed to move behind the goal line when the play dictates, using the No Man's Lands space. Immediately when the play does not demand this move, the referee should move back to the normal procedure.

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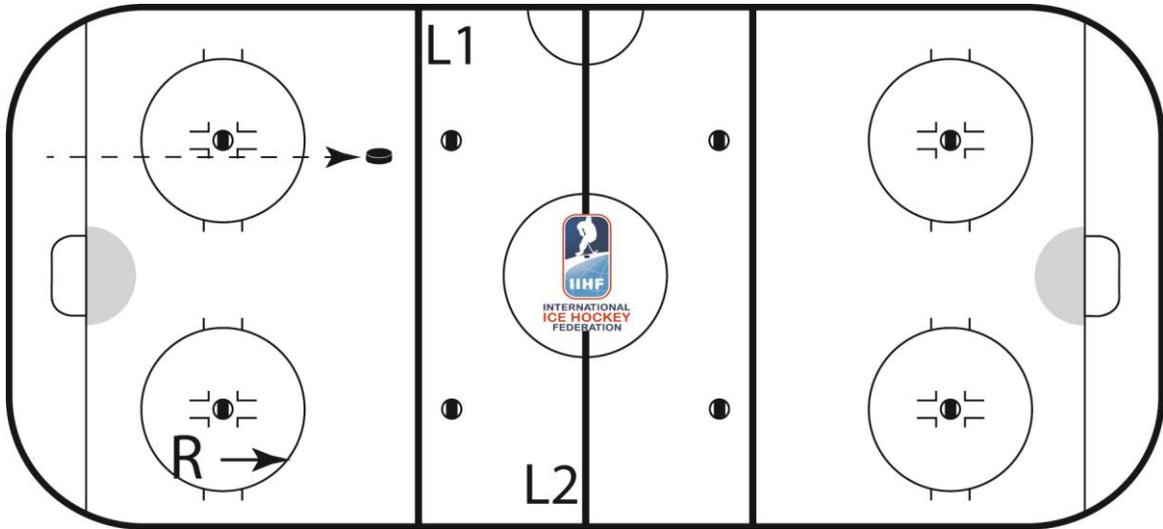


Figure 30

- If the defending team gains possession of the puck, the referee must be prepared to move out of the end zone with the play. When the puck is on the opposite side of the ice, the referee should be 2 to 4 metres from the boards and 6 to 8 metres behind the play (Figure 30). If the puck is on the same side of the ice, the referee should be 1 to 1.5 metres from the boards and follow 8 to 10 metres behind the play (Figure 31).

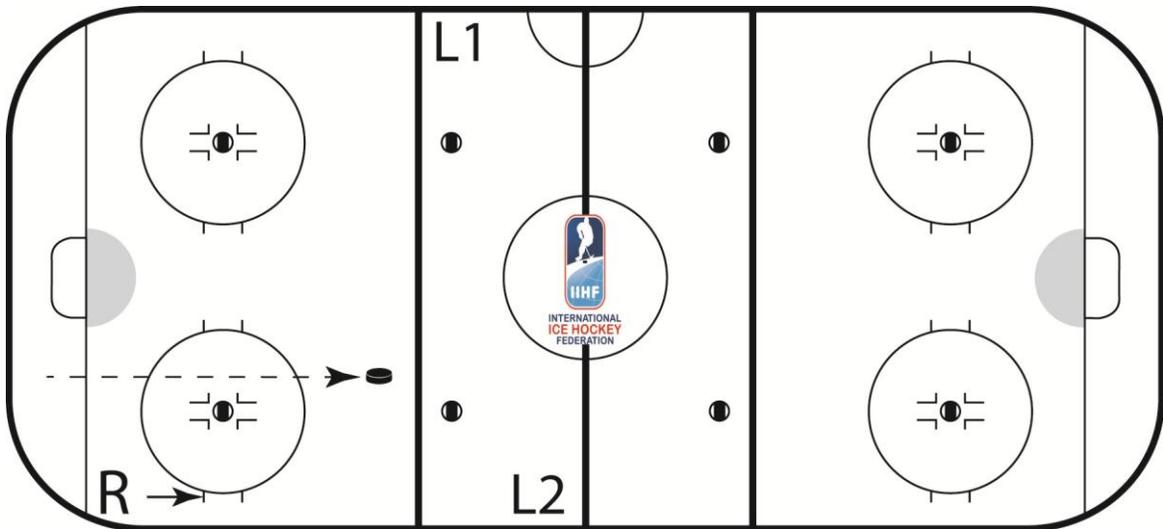


Figure 31

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- When the puck is on the same side of the ice, the referee must stay near the boards to ensure the following:
 - no player gets behind the referee,
 - the referee does not interfere with the play,
 - if the referee is going to get hit by a player, contact should be against the boards for protection.
- When play is in the end zone, the referee will utilize the “end zone positioning” as described earlier in this section.
- As play moves into the neutral zone and approaches the far blue line, the referee should remain close to the side boards if the puck is on the same side of the ice and roughly 8 to 10 metres behind the play. This will enable the referee to keep all players in view. If the puck changes direction and starts coming back, the referee will be able to get out of the way of the players. However, if the play is on the other side of the ice, the referee should move out 6 to 8 metres behind the play. In this position the referee will have sufficient time to move back if the play comes back. As the play moves into the end zone, the referee can establish his “end zone positioning” based on the location of the play.

Common Faults and Tips

- A common fault for referees is their failure to move out of the attacking zone in pursuit of the play if there are opposing players straggling behind. Follow the play, glance back several times and rely on your linesmen to communicate with those players and to keep you informed of any problems that may occur.

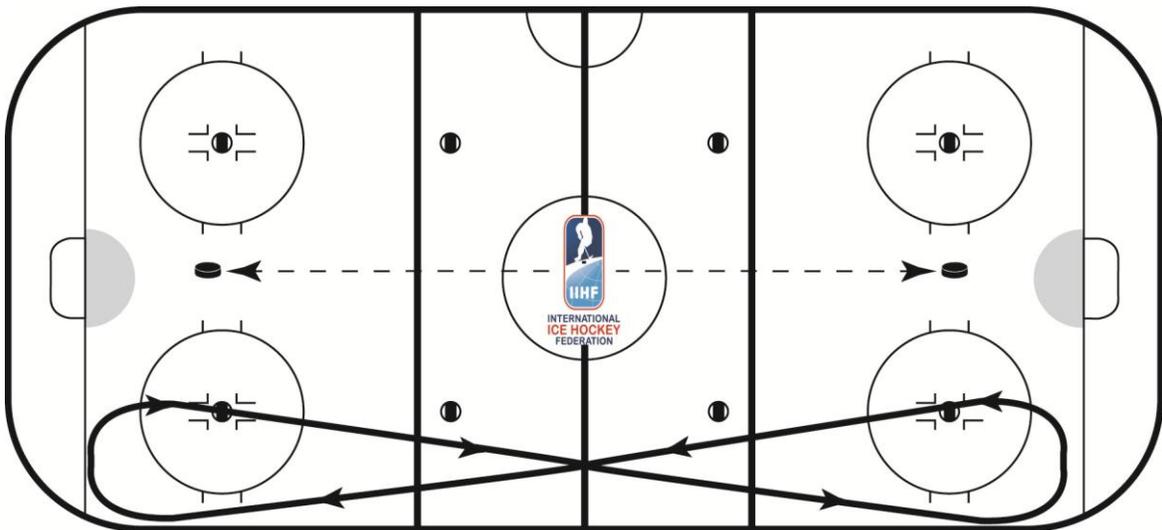


Figure 32

- To reduce the number of stops and starts, and to maintain excellent position while play is in progress, try to maintain a “figure 8” pattern of positioning by using tight turns (Figure 32).
- Many altercations occur in the area around the net. Once play has stopped the referee should move to a position of not more than three metres from the net but with all players and both benches in full view. Your presence and verbal communication will deter any actions and you will have a good view of any altercation or players leaving the benches.

Three Official System - Linesmen

Most of the face-offs are conducted by the linesmen. The linesman who is conducting the face-off should retrieve the puck. Upon the stoppage of play, the two linesmen should watch the players on the ice as their first priority. If two players are standing talking and challenging each other, they should be immediately aware of this potential trouble, move in quickly and move the players out before any serious trouble occurs. If there is no potential trouble, one linesman will proceed to the position for the face-off and the other will retrieve the puck, skate back and take the face-off.

Positioning While Play is in Progress

- They should always be in position to call the play.
- They should be at their blue line (or slightly inside the blue line), establishing the best position to have an unobstructed view down the line. This is called “Working the Line” as the puck crosses the line. They should not straddle the line.

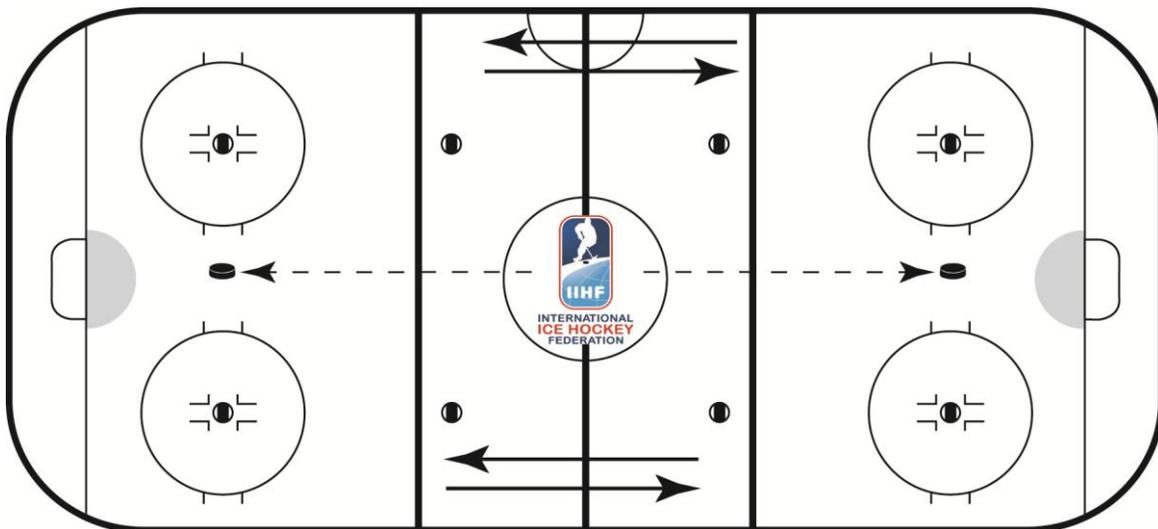


Figure 33

- They should work from the blue line to a position about midway between the centre red line and the other blue line (Figure 33).
- The back linesman must **ALWAYS** position himself so that he is at the same level as the deepest offensive player in order to cover his blue line in case of a fast break, long pass situation.

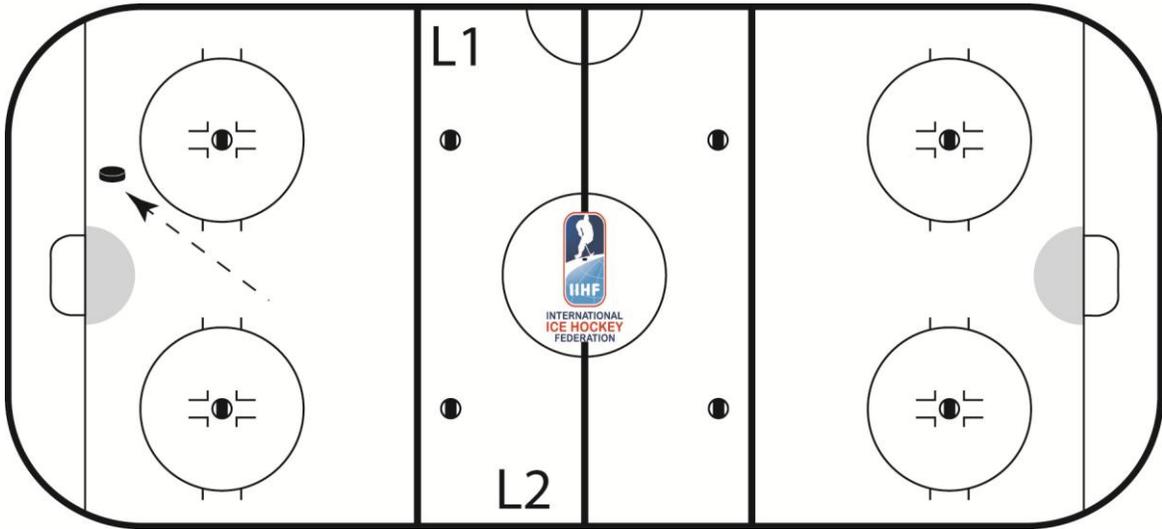


Figure 34

- When play is in the end zone, the front linesman **L1** should be one stride outside the blue line, turn the body at 45 degree angle to view the entire end zone while the other linesman **L2** should be midway between this blue line and the centre red line on the opposite side of the ice (Figure 34).

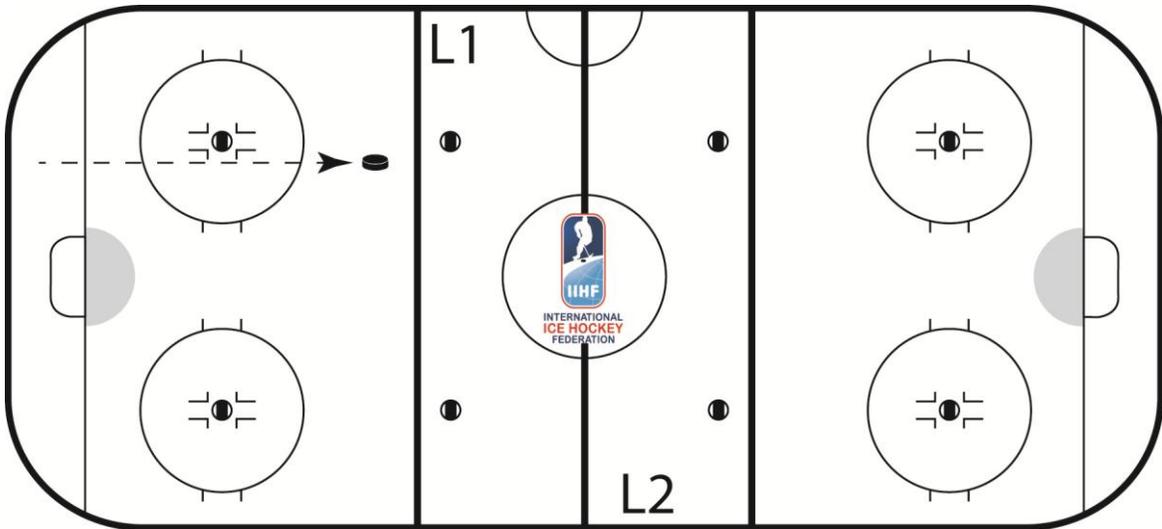


Figure 35

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- When the defending team gains possession in their end zone, **L2** should anticipate the play coming out of the end zone and move back to the red line. In these positions, **L1** and **L2** now have both blue lines covered. (Figure 35).

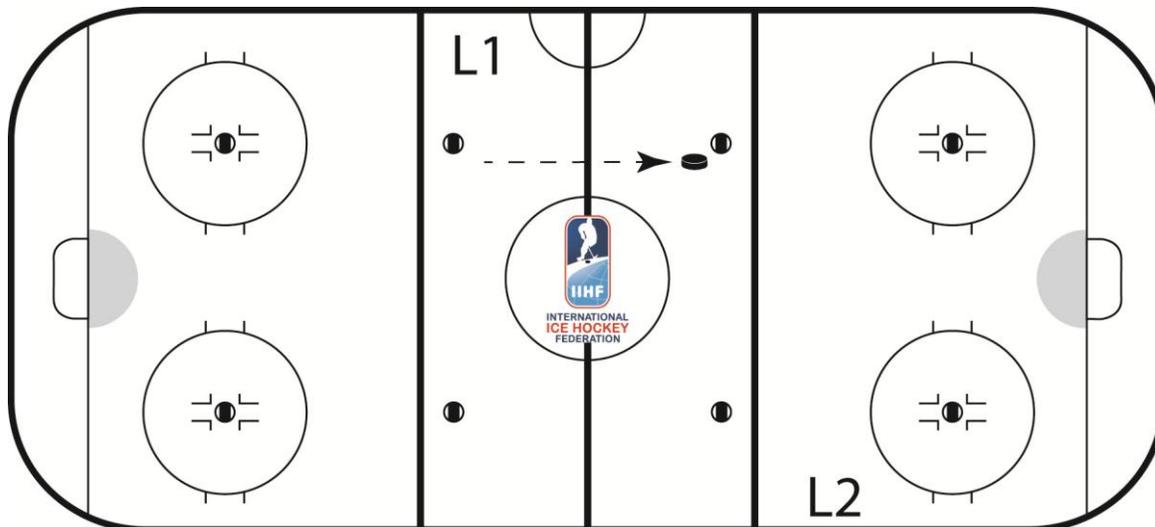


Figure 36

- Linesman **L1** must observe attacking players behind the play as the play leaves the end zone and be able to get back to the blue line in time to make a call if the play changes direction. After the puck crosses the blue line, **L2** will move to the attacking blue line and be in position to call a potential offside at that line (Figure 36).

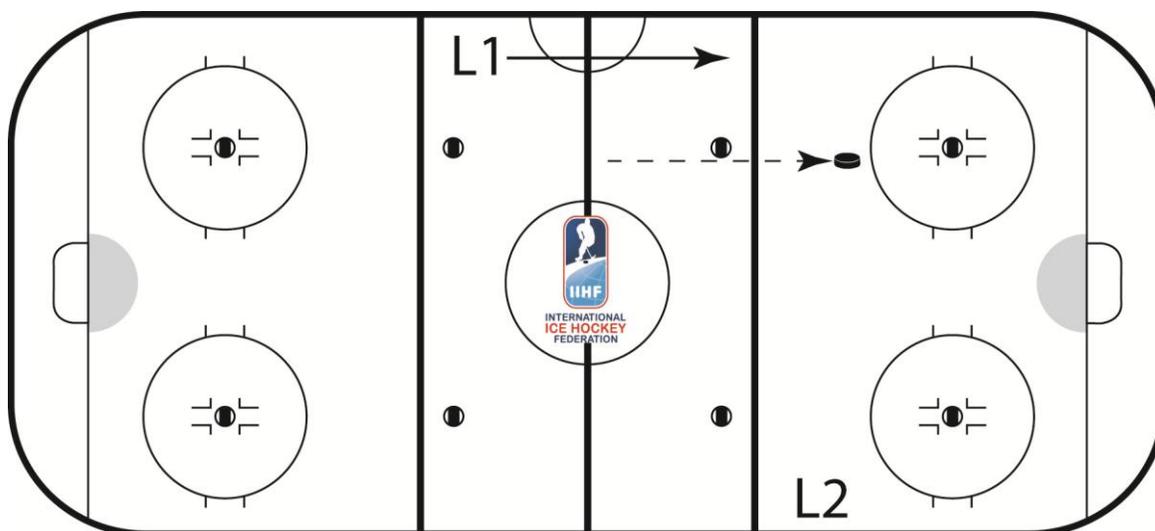


Figure 37

- When the puck approaches the blue line, **L2** must be at the line while **L1** should move up to a position midway between the centre red line and blue line.

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- Both linesmen should always be at their blue line and in correct position **before** the puck, on any potential offside play at the blue line (Figure 37).
- When the puck comes out of the end zone, the procedure for positioning is then reversed for each official.

Positioning for a Face-Off

- Face-offs will be taken by the linesman retrieving the puck.
- The linesman not taking the face-off must hold and cover the line of the linesman taking the face-off.

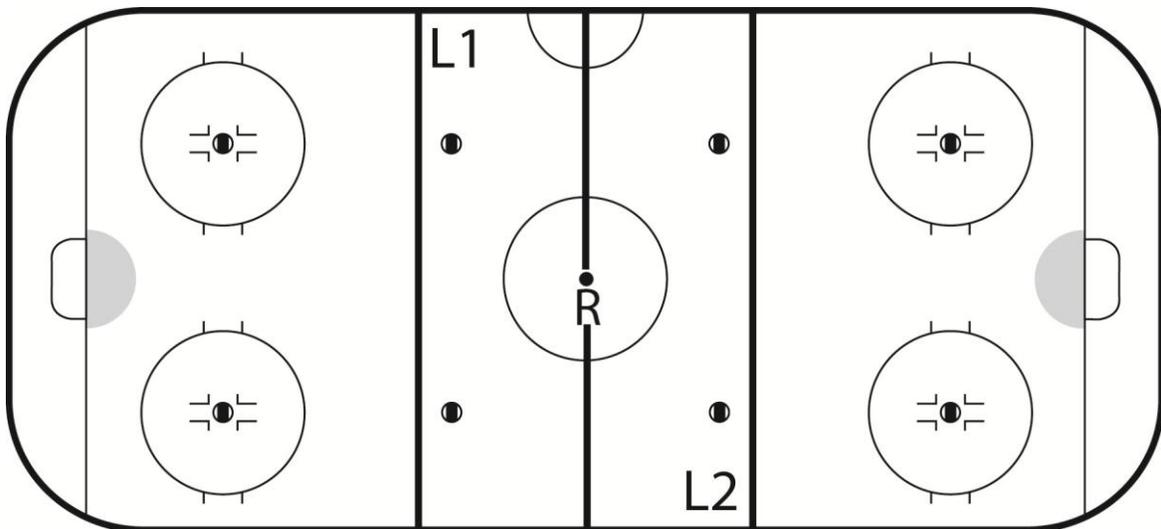


Figure 38

- When the referee is taking a face-off at centre ice, the two linesmen should be on opposite sides of the ice against the side boards, just outside the blue line (Figure 38).
- After a goal has been scored, the linesman on the side of the player's bench will take up a position close to the bench of the "Happy" team.

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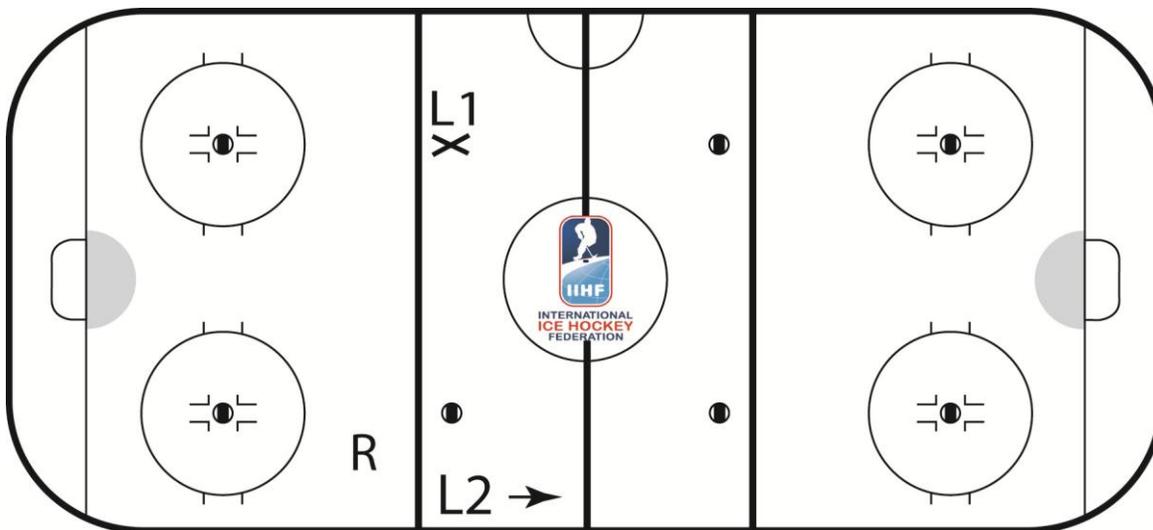


Figure 39

- For a face-off at the face-off spots in the neutral zone, **L2** must always follow the play and cover the attacking blue line, as **L1** is always taking up his position as back linesman between the blue line and the red line (Figure 39).

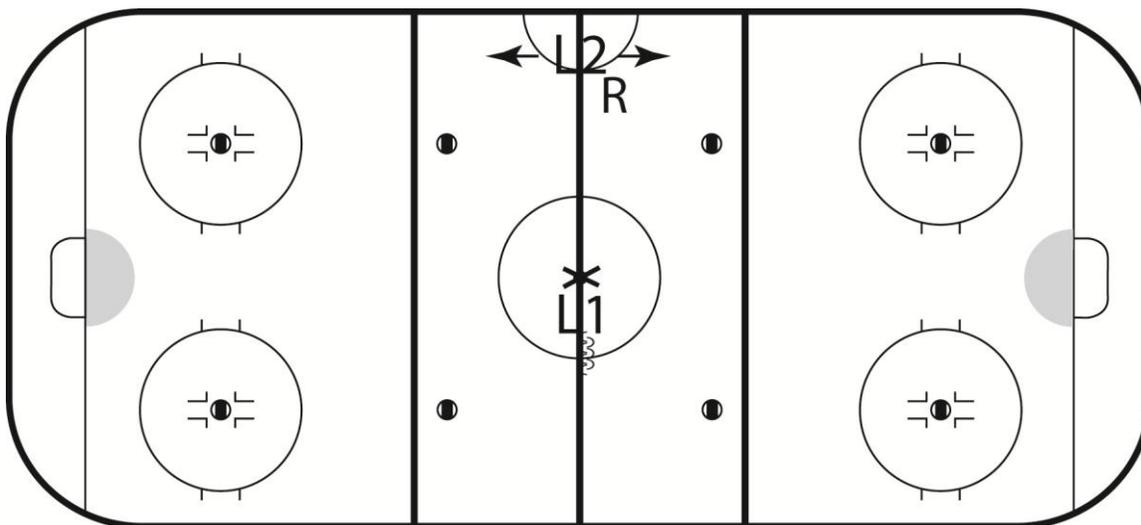


Figure 40

- For the face-off in the center face off spot, the two linesmen should be positioned along the centre red line facing each other. The linesman taking the face-off **L1** should be facing the Scorekeeper's bench so that the timekeeper can start the clock when the puck is dropped. **L2** positioning on the side of the Scorekeeper's bench is responsible for all lines in case **L1** is trapped in the middle of the ice. (Figure 40).

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- When the face-off is at an end face-off spot, **L2** should be positioned one stride outside the blue line on the opposite side of the ice. If **L2** is screened from seeing players positioned behind **L1**, who is conducting the face-off, then **L2** may move off the boards an appropriate distance to get a clear view. If a player is encroaching, **L2** will blow the whistle and point out which team caused the **face-off encroachment**. **L1** will then remove the offending team's centre player and conduct the face-off with a new centre from the offending team. Before conducting that second face-off, the linesman must wait until the referee will make warning to the offending team and will get back to his proper position. After the puck is dropped, **L2** will move back to the side boards and take a position one stride outside the blue line. **L2** will remain there and **L1** will then move out midway between the centre red line and blue line. (Figure 41)

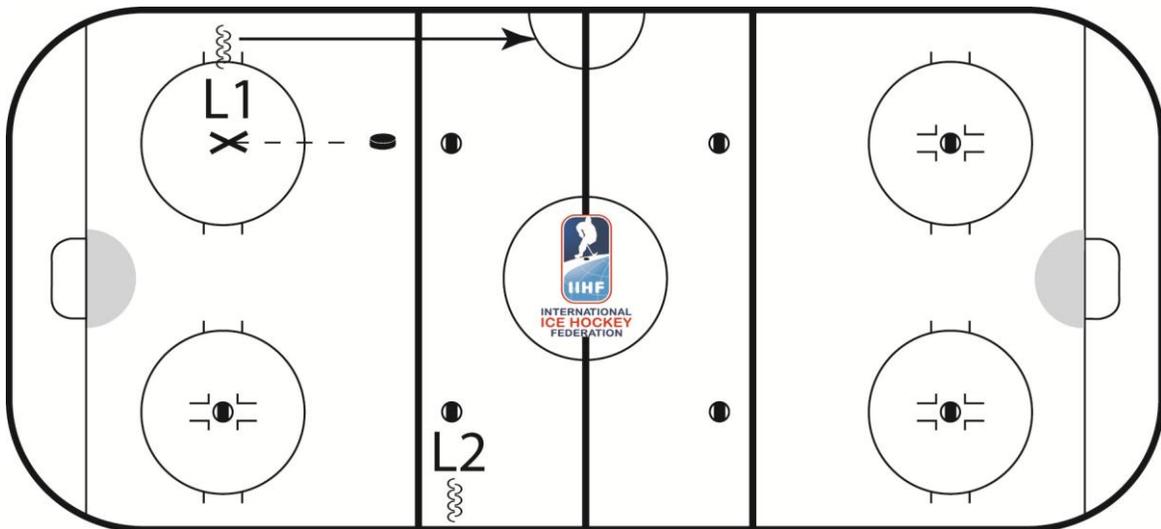


Figure 41

- Both linesmen should work as a team, always aware of what is going on and knowing where the other linesman is at all times.
- They should always be alert and ready to cover each other's lines if one linesman should fall or be trapped out of the play.
- They should always be prepared to cover for the referee if he falls or gets trapped out of the play. If this happens the linesman may have to enter the end zone and practice the "end zone positioning" until the referee gets back into position.
- Working as a team, along with the referee, they should have complete control of the hockey game.

Common Faults and Tips

- A common fault of the linesman on a stoppage of play at the net is a slow reaction to the whistle, or a pre-occupation with retrieving the puck. Anticipate the whistle and rush immediately to the area in front of the net or the area of high player concentration to deter any potential altercation. You can retrieve the puck later.
- Linesmen should set as their standard for positioning to be at the blue line before the play crosses the line. To reach the line at the same time as play crosses the line does not give for an opportunity to view the full ice surface and watch as play develops up ice.

One Referee - One Linesman System

In the Three Official System, the referee is the official in charge of the game. In the event that one of the three officials is unable to appear, or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following procedures should be followed (officials should be aware of the policy in their National Association):

- If the referee is unable to continue or appear, the two linesmen shall work the two official system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

- If the referee is unable to continue or appear, one of the linesmen shall assume the duties of the referee. This system shall be known as the one referee - one linesman system. The selection of which linesman will assume the duties of the referee would normally be done by the referee, however, this may not always be possible.
- Where there is a game supervisor or referee supervisor, it becomes their responsibility, in discussion with the referee, to decide whether to use one linesman as a referee or change to the two official system.

If a linesman is selected as the referee, in most instances, the linesman will be the most senior of the two.

- Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the one referee - one linesman system, as described earlier in this section.

OR

- Should one of the linesmen be unable to continue or appear, the referee and the remaining linesman shall work the one referee - one linesman system.

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Note:

- *The one referee - one linesman system should be used as the exception rather than the rule. If used, it should only be in upper level games where the consistency of the referee is of the utmost importance.*
- *Should another official be available in the arena or nearby, that individual should be encouraged to replace the missing linesman (provided this individual is qualified to officiate at the level of hockey being played).*

Positioning and Procedures (One Referee - One Linesman System)

- The referee is responsible for all end zone face-offs, while the remaining linesman shall be responsible for all neutral zone face-offs.
- For icing calls, normally the referee will be the back official and would indicate that a potential icing is in effect by extending the arm at shoulder level and pointing up ice by using a pumping motion. This is done until the front official (linesman) either blows the whistle to indicate icing or until the icing is washed out. If icing is called, the referee will proceed to the face-off spot and prepare to conduct the ensuing face-off.

Note: The referee must be careful not to raise the arm for icing. This could cause confusion for the players, coaches and spectators who may think that a penalty is about to be assessed. The key in this situation is to communicate well with your partner, using eye contact, signals and verbal communication.

- The referee must also be prepared to call offside at the blue line. This would happen when the referee is pursuing the play through the neutral zone and there is a sudden change in possession that would make it impossible for the linesman to go from one blue line to the other to make an accurate call. The referee must be prepared to make a call in these situations.

Note: The referee must not raise the arm for delayed offside. Verbal instructions must be used in this situation. Calling out "Offside" will be effective in ensuring that the attacking players are aware that they must clear the zone. Once the linesman reaches the blue line, and using effective communication with the referee, the linesman can take over this call at the blue line and the referee can resume the necessary end zone positioning.

- The referee in this system must also assist with altercations. Otherwise, the remaining procedures for the referee and linesman remain unchanged from those outlined in the Three Official System.

One Referee System

In the event that one of the two officials is unable to appear, or due to sickness or injury is unable to finish the game, the following options are suggested (officials should be aware of the policy in their National Association):

- Appoint a replacement official (if available) and continue using the two official system.
- If possible, appoint a player from each of the competing teams to act as a linesman and the remaining official shall become the referee in a three official system. Both teams must be in full agreement with this option.
- Continue the game using one official. This is not highly recommended, although, in reality, it is often less costly than suspending the game and having it replayed. In lower levels of hockey, this is highly recommended as the first option.
- Officials should always report on the game sheet the circumstances surrounding an official not appearing or unable to finish a game.

Note: National Associations must give specific directions to their officials with respect to the procedures they are to follow when officials are unable to appear or become sick or injured.



Summary

Positioning is an important element in becoming a good official. You must understand and perform the procedures outlined in this section to allow you to make the correct call. Each official from every country must become familiar with the IIHF Official's Development Program positioning and procedures to ensure consistency when applying these skills.