

INTRO TO HOCKEY MODEL

[OFFICIALS]

A guide for the introduction and implementation of the Intro to Hockey Model for U7 and U9 Hockey in Alberta.

Updated September 2024



OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT

U9 ONLY

This is a valuable opportunity for newer officials to put on their uniform, get on the ice in live action and learn some basic aspects of being an official in a positive and less formal atmosphere.



Basic skills include:

- DROPPING PUCKS
- SKATING SKILLS
- FOUNDATIONAL POSITIONING
- SPATIAL AWARENESS
- ESTABLISHING GOOD SIGHTLINES
- MAKING DECISIONS SUCH AS GOALS AND MINOR INFRACTIONS

Officials can apply newly acquired information they received in their clinic in a game environment. This format also provides an excellent opportunity for senior officials to mentor newcomers by shadowing them on the ice or evaluating them from the stands. The ability to mentor officials at ice level in this structure provides instantaneous feedback and assists in preparing these officials for full ice games in a two (2) or three (3) official system.

**HAVING AN OFFICIAL ON THE ICE
FOR THE U9 HALF-ICE GAMES
PROVIDES PLAYERS WITH A
PROGRESSION FROM COACHES
ON THE ICE AT THE U7 LEVEL.**

OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT CONT.

Penalties shall be called in accordance with the Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) standard of play, within a learning environment where new officials are learning the application of the rules. **PENALTIES ARE ONLY APPLICABLE FOR U9 HOCKEY.**

Flexibility is an important component to operating a system within the U9 game structure. There is no absolute way to handle every possible scenario. However, game flow and establishing a basic structure to the game is the primary focus. Officials will NOT be required to call icing or offside.



POSITIONING

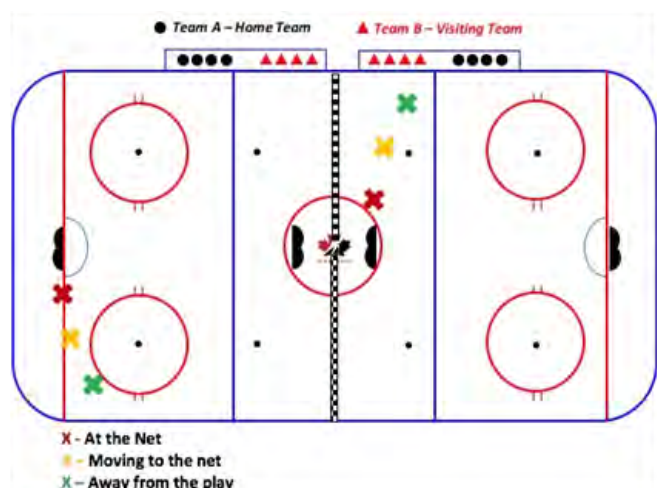


FIGURE 1: END ZONE POSITIONING OF OFFICIAL

Foundational positioning principles will be used. The concept of the “cone” should be reserved for when full ice play begins. Under the half ice structure, approximate positioning should be used to get the official comfortable with proximity to the goal (Figure 1). Officials should follow the play approximately 2-3 metres behind the puck carrier. They should remain about 1 metre from the boards or playing area perimeters. The examples on Figure 1 show guidelines for establishing recommended end-zone positions.

Officials are encouraged to move towards the net on goal situations and away from play towards the boards as play comes towards them allowing players to pass by and the official can then follow up the ice at a safe distance

OFFICIALS' RATES

Hockey Alberta will use a one (1) official system for the Intro to Hockey novice model. This is not an official Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) system, so this section provides an outline to assist local officiating programs with integrating officials into this developmental stage of the game.

U9 OFFICIATING RATES BASED ON:

TWO (2) HALF ICE GAME MODEL

Two (2) officials - One (1) official per side - \$20 per official game fee

ONE (1) HALF ICE GAME MODEL

One (1) official - \$20 per official game fee

FAQ

01

DO THE OFFICIALS IN U9 HAVE TO WEAR THE FULL OFFICIATING UNIFORM?

If officials are working games in the U9 Half Ice Model, all officials on the ice need to wear the minimum of an officiating jersey with Hockey Alberta crest, black pants and a black CSA approved helmet with a CSA approved half visor.

02

DO THE ON-ICE SHADOWS/MENTORS FOR U9 HAVE TO WEAR AN OFFICIATING UNIFORM?

No. In situations where an on-ice shadow/mentor is on the ice supporting the official it is appropriate for them to wear a tracksuit; however, they still must wear a black CSA approved helmet with CSA approved half visor.



INTRO TO HOCKEY MODEL
HOCKEYALBERTA.CA

