

## **HOCKEY CANADA “FRINGE” RULE NATIONAL OFFICIATING STANDARDS INITIATIVE**

There are numerous “fringe” rules in Hockey Canada’s playing rules that call for warnings or penalties when an infraction occurs. These rules are technical rules, put in place to ensure that the game is played in a safe, fair and controlled manner. Applying certain “fringe” rules has, heretofore, been a lose-lose proposition for referees. Officials that enforced them were branded as having no “feel for the game”. Officials who overlooked them were chastised by non-offending teams for being inconsistent, unfair or lacking in fortitude. Often, these rules were simply overlooked because they seemed less important than other rules.

In 2001, a *National Standards of Officiating Committee* was formed, in part, to identify problematic “fringe” rules and to establish the standard by which these rules should be enforced. Hockey Canada Information Bulletin 04/04 dated 1 August 2003 identifies these rules and directs that they always be called so that a consistent standard is achieved. The advantage of a consistent standard is that the teams know what to expect and will eventually conform, allowing everyone to focus on “playing the game” rather than squabbling about the enforcement of certain “fringe” rules.

### **Executive Summary of Hockey Canada Information Bulletin 04/04**

- 1 The onus is on team officials to ensure that their team does not violate certain “fringe” rules.
- 2 Officials are expected to issue warnings and/or assess penalty(s) as prescribed by the rules on every occasion that an infraction of certain “fringe” rules occurs.
- 3 Officials shall strictly and consistently enforce the rules when a player...
  - A. Does not have his chinstrap or facial protector straps (if required) securely fastened during play or during the pre-game warm-up. Refer to Rule 24(c),
  - B. Deliberately removes his helmet to fight. Refer to Rule 24(c),
  - C. Wears a helmet or facial protector in an offset position during play. Refer to Rule 24(d),
  - D. Does not return to their player’s bench or designated neutral area during a fight after being directed to do so by the referee. Refer to Rule 59(a)(5),
  - E. Interferes with the goaltender. Refer to Rule 66(b),
  - F. Who will not take part in the face-off at the start a period does not go directly to his player’s bench after entering the ice surface from the dressing room. Refer to Rule 81(d),
  - G. Does not remain on his player’s or penalty bench until directed off by the referee. Refer to Rule 81(e).
- 4 Officials are encouraged to assess a differential in penalties in the following situations:
  - A. Roughing after the whistle situations. Refer to Rules 59(g),
  - B. Interference with the goaltender situations. Refer to Rule 66(b).