



## MEMORANDUM

To: All USAH Officials, District Referees-in-Chief and Support Staff  
From: Dave LaBuda - USA Hockey National Referee-in-Chief  
Date: August 23, 2017  
Re: 2017-21 Playing Rule Interpretations

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Please see the following answers to frequently asked questions pertaining to the new rules. Hopefully, these clarifications will address most questions regarding shots off the crossbar, face-off locations, icing and helmet removal during altercations:

**QUESTION:** If an attacking player in the attacking zone takes a shot and it is deflected, directed or tipped off of or by an attacking player and as a result the puck goes off of the goal post or cross bar and out of play where is the ensuing face-off?

**ANSWER:** The face-off shall be at one of the marked end zone face spots in that attacking zone.

**QUESTION:** If an attacking player in the Neutral Zone on his attacking side of the center red line takes a shot and it goes off of the goal post or cross bar and out of play where is the ensuing face-off?

**ANSWER:** The face-off shall be at one of the marked end zone face-off spots in that attacking zone.

**QUESTION:** If an attacking player in the Neutral Zone on his defending side of the center red line takes a shot and it goes off of the goal post or cross bar and out of play where is the ensuing face-off?

**ANSWER:** In this situation, there is a potential icing violation involved. If the puck, after striking the cross bar or goal post crosses the goal line by going out of the rink anywhere behind the goal line extended vertically then an icing infraction should be enforced. If the puck goes out of the rink without crossing the goal line then an end zone face-off in the attacking end zone should take place.

**QUESTION:** If an attacking player in the attacking zone attempts a pass and the puck strikes off the back of the goal frame and out of play, where should the face-off be located?

**ANSWER:** The face-off shall be located at the closest marked Neutral Zone face-off spot nearest to where the pass was originated.

**QUESTION:** The 'Summary of Face-Off Locations' (in Appendix II) identifies three (3) situations that call for a center ice face-off. Are there any other situations that may result in a center ice face-off?

**ANSWER:** Yes, with the new '9 Spot' face-off location rule a center ice face-off may take place provided it is the nearest marked face-off location to a stoppage of play that requires a Neutral Zone face-off under the last play face-off rules.

**QUESTION:** Rule 615(c) states that "A match penalty (for all age classifications) shall be assessed to any player who deliberately removes his opponent's helmet/facemask prior to or during an altercation" yet Situation 13 (page 251/Rule/Case Book) states it should be only a game misconduct at the Adult level. Which is correct?

**ANSWER:** The correct penalty to assess in this situation is a Match penalty at the Adult level. Situation 13 in the Case Book was an oversight during the editing process and the reference to the Adult Age Classification exception should have been deleted.

**QUESTION:** Does the Rule 624(b.1) {Icing} apply to the Tier I 15 year old ONLY age classification?

**ANSWER:** Rule 624 (b.1) DOES apply to this age group. The 15 year old age classification can legally ice the puck when the team is shorthanded.