RULEBOOK REVIEW
Version II

RULE 47

Rule 47 - Objectives

- To clarify Rule 47 and to promote consistently appropriate application of this rule
- To provide the official with helpful strategies to be used to diffuse potential problem situations when applying this rule

Note: The intent of this module is to clarify NOT increase the frequency of the application of Rule 47

Rule 47

- Unfortunately situations continue to arise during the game when a referee has to deal with a player or a team official who behaves in an inappropriate manner. In these situations, it’s extremely important that an official handles the situation as calmly as possible and that his own conduct and language are always appropriate

Rule 47

- The purpose of this section is to draw special attention to the rules that help deal with these situations to ensure that all officials are applying the rules correctly and consistently.
- All of the clarifications that will be presented are the result of incidents that occurred in the 2008 ball hockey season and all involved situations when a lack of respect was displayed.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Misconduct**
  - Rule 47(a) – A Minor penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who challenges or disputes the ruling of any official during the game or who displays unsportsmanlike conduct.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **(continued…)**
  - If the player or goaltender persists, he shall be assessed a Misconduct penalty and any further disputes will result in a Game Misconduct penalty being assessed to the offending player or goaltender.
  - If a team official persists, he shall immediately be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **(continued…)**
  - A referee is not required to assess a Minor penalty under this rule before assessing the Misconduct or Game Misconduct, but may assess either of these penalties initially.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **OBHA Clarification**
  - Rule 47(a) to be applied when a player or team official disputes or challenges the ruling of an official but profane or abusive language is not used.
  - Normally assess the Minor penalty first.
  - If after assessing the Minor penalty, the player or team official continues to dispute or challenge, assess the player a Misconduct penalty or the team official a Game Misconduct penalty.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **OBHA Clarification (continued…)**
  - If after assessing the player a Misconduct penalty, the player continues to dispute, assess the player a Game Misconduct penalty.
  - Communicate your Minor and Misconduct calls verbally and/or by using the appropriate signals, as these are warnings for the player or team official to stop his inappropriate actions. The offending player or team official must be aware that your have assessed a Minor or Misconduct penalty before you assess the Game Misconduct.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Misconduct**
  - Rule 47(b) – A Misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who:
    1. Uses obscene, profane or abusive language or gestures to any person.
    2. Persists in disputing or shows disrespect for the ruling of any official.
    3. Intentionally knocks or shoots the ball out of reach of an official who is retrieving it.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **(continued…)**
  - A player who, after receiving a Misconduct penalty, persists in any of the actions of (b) above shall be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty.

    Note: In the case of a team official, a Bench Minor penalty shall be assessed instead of a Misconduct penalty. A team official after receiving a Bench Minor penalty would receive a Game Misconduct penalty if the actions continue. A referee is not required to assess a Bench Minor penalty under this rule before assessing the Game Misconduct penalty.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **OBHA Clarification**
  - Rule 47(b) to be applied when a player or team official uses obscene, profane or abusive language or gestures to any person including the referee(s).
  - For a player, normally assess the Misconduct penalty first.
  - For a team official, normally assess the Bench Minor penalty first.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **OBHA Clarification (continued…)**
  - If after assessing the Misconduct (player) or Bench Minor (team official), the player or team official continues to challenge using obscene, profane or abusive language, then assess the player or team official a Game Misconduct penalty.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **OBHA Clarification (continued…)**
  - Communicate your Misconduct and Bench Minor Misconduct calls verbally and/or by using the appropriate signals, as these are warnings for the player or team official to stop his inappropriate actions. The offending player or team official must be aware that your have assessed a Misconduct or Bench Minor penalty before you assess the Game Misconduct.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **OBHA Clarification (continued…)**
  - The only time you should go directly to the Game Misconduct is if the player or team official completely loses control and is directing obscene, profane or abusive language at the official.
  - Similarly it is appropriate to assess a GM if the player or team official continues to dispute, but does not continue to use obscene, profane or abusive language after being assessed the initial Misconduct (player) or Bench Minor (team official) penalty under Rule 47(b).

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **Question?**
  - What if the player or team official continues his inappropriate behaviour after being assessed a Game Misconduct and/or refuses to leave the bench?

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- **Answer:**
  - You have a couple of options:
    - Assess the player or team official a Gross Misconduct for making a travesty of the game, and/or
    - Use Rule 78(e) Refusing to Start Play

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- Rule 47(a) normally starts with a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct and may lead to a Misconduct (M20) and/or Game Misconduct (GM20). This sequence is unlikely to occur because it would mean that the player/team official has persisted in his dispute without the use of obscene, profane or abusive language.

Rule 47 - Harassment of Officials

- Rule 47(b) is used when obscene, profane or abusive language is used by the player/team official during a dispute. A Misconduct (M21) and/or Game Misconduct (GM21) are the codes used with this section of the rule. (A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct MAY NOT be used if Rule 47(b) is applied).

Rule 71 – Physical Harassment

- In the 2008 ball hockey season we saw an **decrease** in the number of incidents when officials were threatened or physically contacted by players or team officials. However we must stay diligent in our approach should such an incident occur in a game. Either on the floor, off the floor or outside the arena.
- In these situations it is important that the appropriate Match Penalty be assessed and reported:
  - MP if you are threatened – Rule 71(c)
  - MP if there is intentional or deliberate physical contact – Rule 71(a) and (b)

Rule 71 – Physical Harassment

- Do not be afraid to make these penalty calls when the situation warrants. No official should allow himself or his partner to be threatened or deliberately or intentionally physically contacted by a player or team official. This shows a lack of respect for the official and it's only through enforcement of the rules and appropriate suspensions that we can reduce occurrences of this type of conduct in the future.

Conclusion

1. You now know the proper use of Rules 47 (a) and (b) as well as the penalties and penalty codes associated with the application of these rules.
2. You have been provided with some techniques to help to diffuse problem situations when confrontations occur.

Rule 47

Questions?