

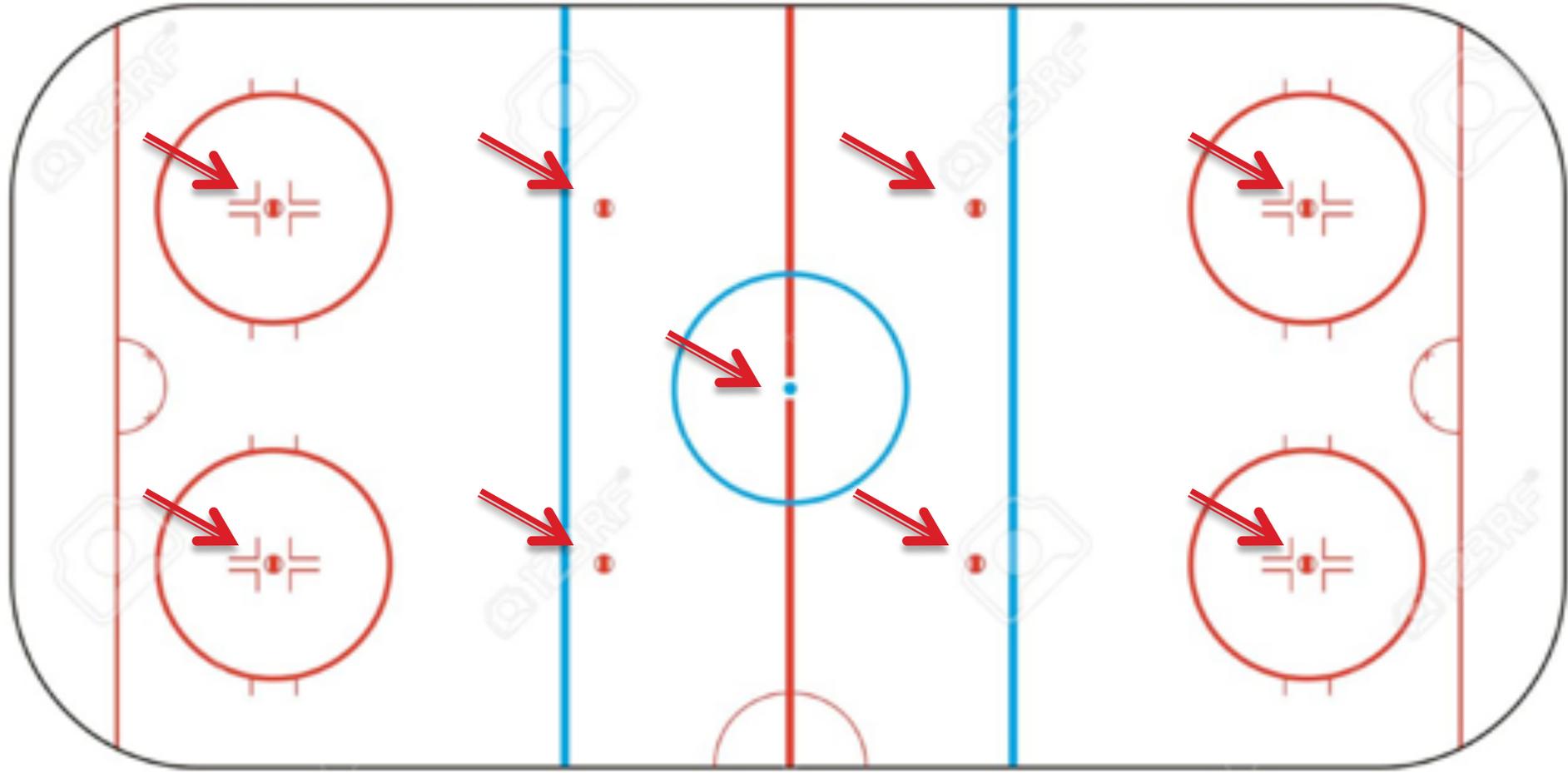


# Conducting Face-Offs

Level 1 / Basic



# Face-off Locations



# Face-off Locations



## Center ice:

- ✓ Start of the game, of a period
- ✓ After a goal is scored
- ✓ Referee mistake on an icing
- ✓ When the rules says: "To the closest spot..."

## Neutral Zone:

- ✓ Off-sides
- ✓ Puck shot out of ice area from neutral zone
- ✓ Puck shot directly out of ice area by attacking team in attacking zone
- ✓ When the rules says: "To the closest spot..."

## End Zone:

- ✓ Goaltender freezes puck
- ✓ Puck deflected out of ice area by defending team
- ✓ Penalty assessed; face-off in offending team's end zone
- ✓ When the rules says: "To the closest spot..."

# The Procedure:



## ▶ Stance:

- Square to the players, 30 cm from dot
- Feet shoulder width apart, knees slightly bent
- Puck held in non-whistle hand
- Head up and looking forward

## ▶ Holding the Puck:

- Thumb on top, forefinger along the side
- Just below belt height level, puck-hand extended out from the body so that centers can see puck

## ▶ Dropping the Puck:

1. Downward motion, keeping puck flat
2. Bend knees as you push puck downward
3. Puck must land flat and remain stationary
4. Puck must land on center of face-off spot
5. Do not flick wrist prior to puck drop
6. Push the puck to the ice partners

✓ Face-off must be fair!





# Moving into Position After Face-Off

1. Drop puck
2. Pause to view play
3. Look behind you
4. Back to side boards (Not too fast! You want players to see you.)
5. Keep play in front of you
6. Proceed to position facing play
7. Hustle only when clear to move

# Players' Positions



## ▶ Centers:

- Stick stationary on white half moon of face-off spot
- Shoulders square with end boards

## ▶ Other Players:

- Same side of circle as center
- Outside of circle and skates on their side of hash marks

## ▶ Which official is responsible for which players?

- Official conducting face-off
  - Centers and players in front of him
- Partner
  - Players behind the official conducting the face-off

# Getting Players into Position



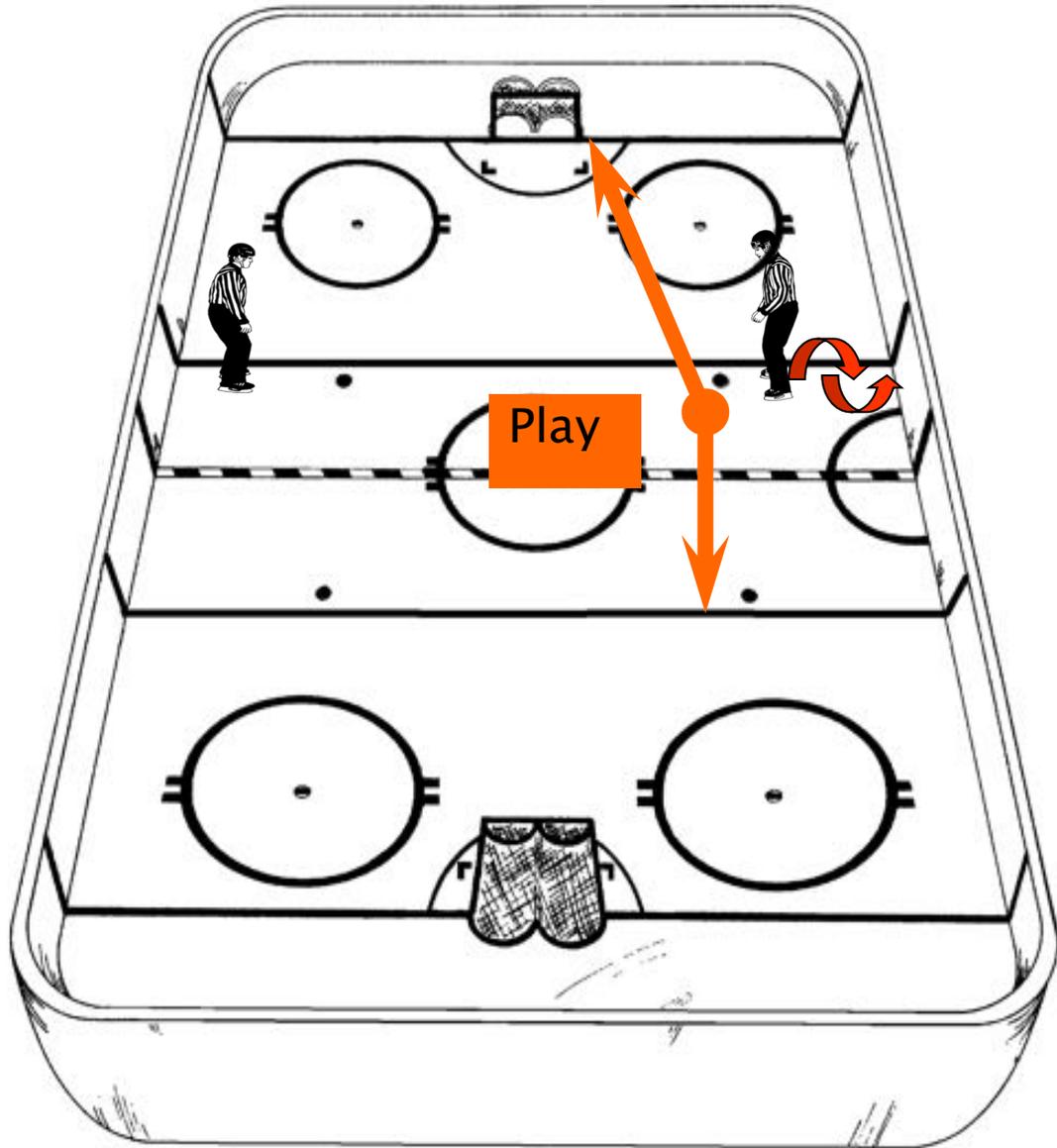
## Procedure:

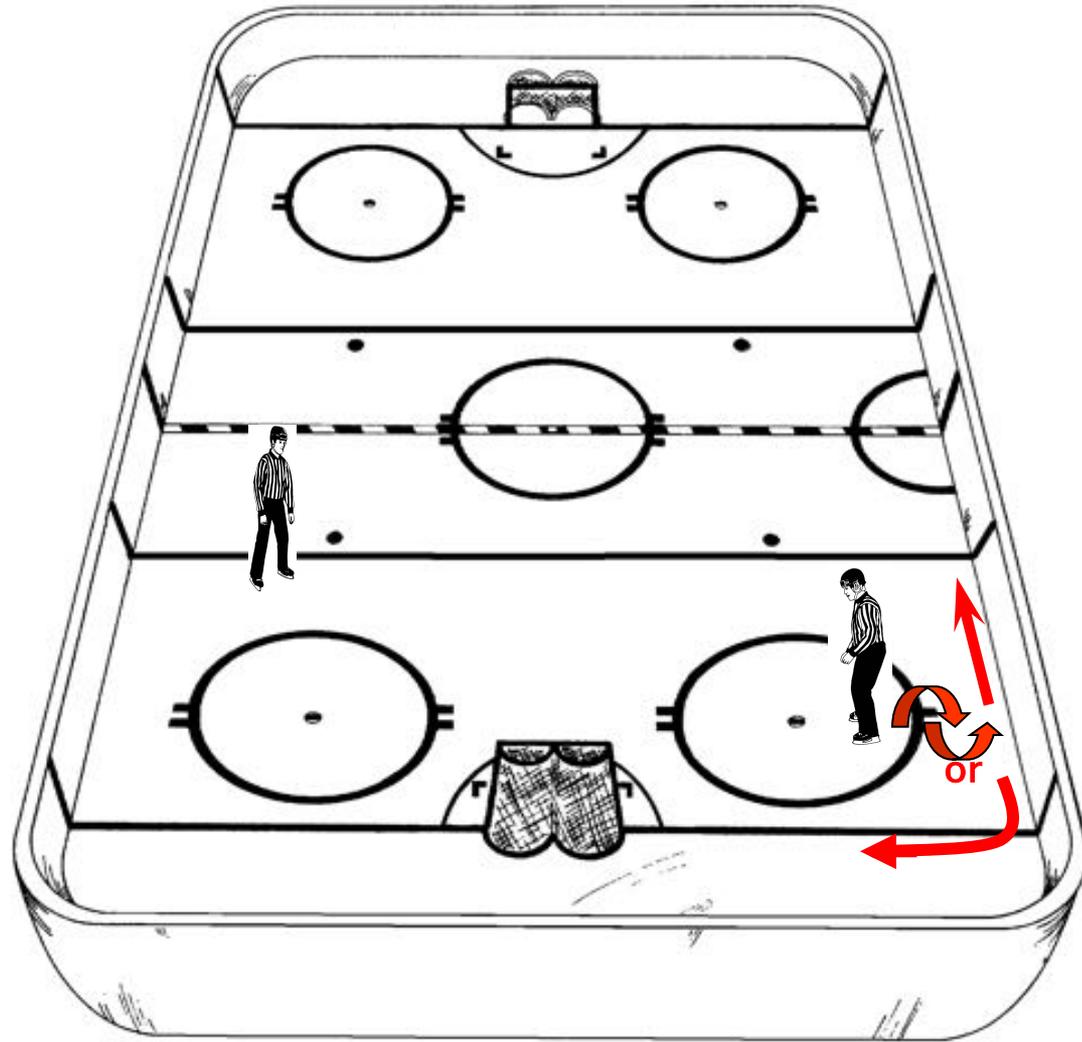
- Officials must be in position before players
- Whistle initiating 5-second window
- Players take their positions, defending team in defending half of the ice stick down first
- Communication: talk to players, direct them into position
  - Specific directions: “Put your stick on the ice.”
  - Begin talking *before* players get into face-off circle



# Center Ice Face-Offs

- ▶ Start of the period:
  - Referee dropping the puck:
    - Face score bench
    - Signal goal judges (or goalkeepers!)
    - Signal time keeper
  - Partner: at the score-bench side, opposite partner
- ▶ Following a goal: same as above but no signal to time keep or goal judges







# Conducting Face-Offs

- ▶ Why are face-offs important for a referee?
  - Properly-conducted face-offs set standard for game-control
  - Efficiently-conducted face-offs keep the game moving
  - Builds players' confidence in the referee
  - A chance for referee to communicate with players
- ▶ At higher levels, higher stakes for face-off wins
  - Important that referee conducts fair face-offs!

Communicate with your partners



# Handing the Puck to your Partner

## Hand shake technique:

1. Place the puck flat in palm of partner
  - *Make sure your partner receives the puck!*
2. Receiving official closes hand firmly on puck
3. Professional look when clean and crisp
  - Everyone is watching you during this time!