



# Conducting Face-Offs



**INTERNATIONAL  
ICE HOCKEY  
FEDERATION**

# The Procedure:



## ☞ Stance:

- Square to the players, 30 cm from dot
- Feet shoulder width apart, knees 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, slight turn of the wrist, keeping puck flat
2. "Push" the puck to the ice
3. Bend knees as you push puck downward
4. Puck must land flat and remain stationary
5. Puck must land on center of face-off spot
6. Do not flick wrist prior to puck drop

✓ Face-off must be fair!





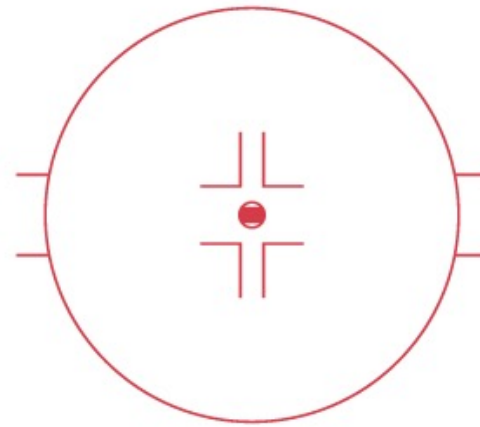
# Moving into Position After Face-Off

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:
  - Skates inside the right-angle marks
  - Stick stationary touching white half moon of face-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



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# Getting Players into Position



## Procedure:

- Officials must be in position before players
- Count the players
- Whistle initiating 5/8-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

## Warning the players:

- Why warn a center?
  - center makes stick contact or body contact with opposing center
- How?
  - Verbal directions, no hand motions. Maintain face-off stance.
- *Talk* the players into position. If too slow, then eject the center.
- Set the standard from the first face-off. Maintain standard throughout game.

# Calling Encroachment



- What is “encroachment?”
  - When player’s skates enter face-off circle or makes physical contact with opponent before puck-drop
  - Encroachment occurs only after players are in position.
- How?
  - If wing creeps in before puck drop, eject the center
  - If wing behind official conducting face-off, partner blows whistle and points toward offending player’s end of the ice
  - Once you have ejected center, get the puck down
  - A second infraction during the same face-off calls for minor penalty
    - How strict? At what point in the game?

# Communication with Partner



- You should communicate with your partner throughout the game. How?
  - eye contact
  - hand signals
  - verbal discussion
- Face-off communication:
  - Official conducting face-off should look at partner/referee before blowing 5/8-second whistle ... make eye contact
  - Official not conducting face-off should also make eye contact. Can use subtle hand signals to assist partner. Should step in only when obvious partner needs help.



# 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...you should take 20-30 seconds to conduct face-off between plays!
  - 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