



Conducting Face-Offs

Officiating Seminar,
27 April, 2019, Paradise Avondale



Players' Positions



▶ Centers:

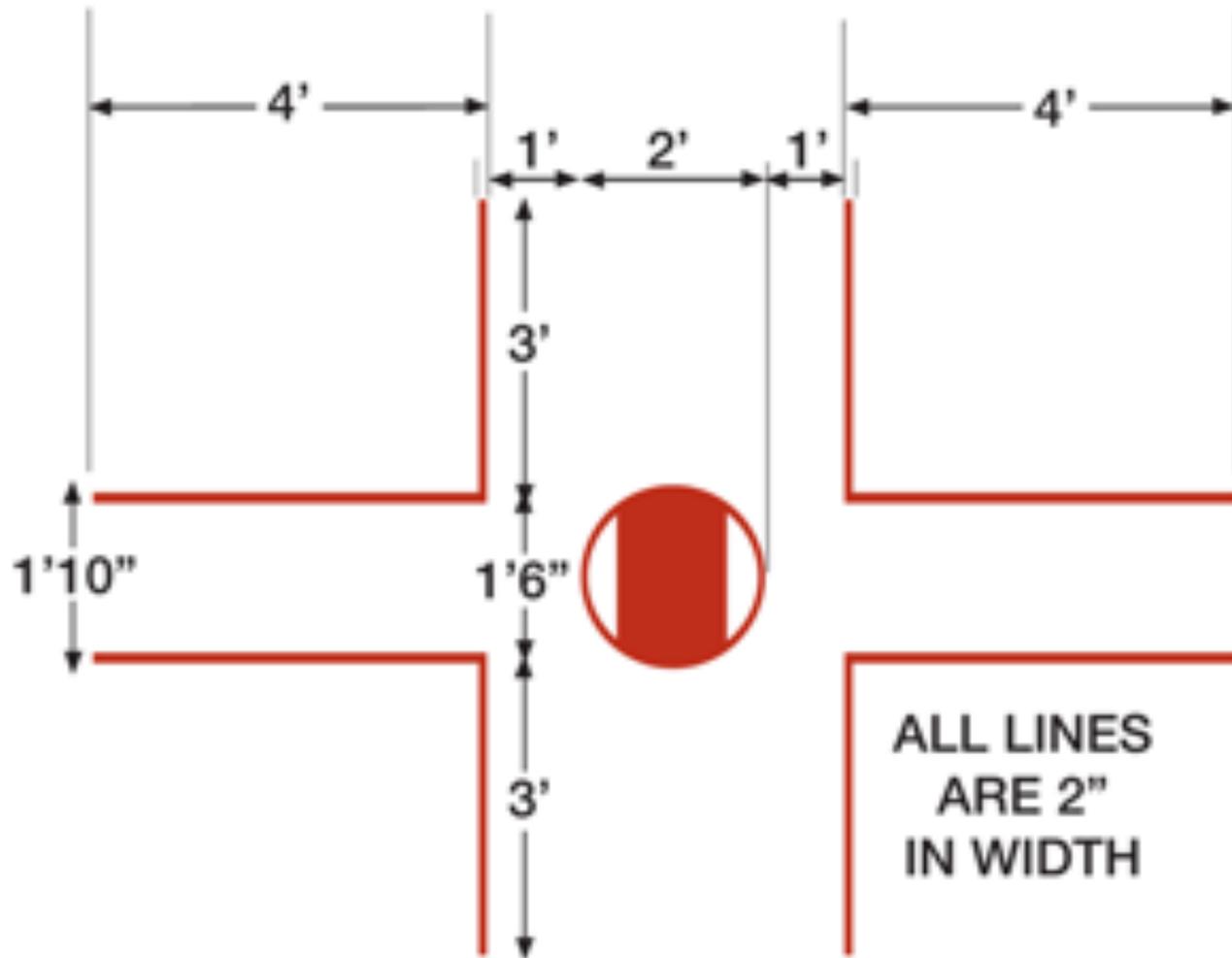
- Stick stationary on white half moon of face-off spot
- Shoulders square with end boards

▶ 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



FACE-OFF CONFIGURATION

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

Ejecting Players:

- Why eject 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 before blowing 5-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
 - 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

