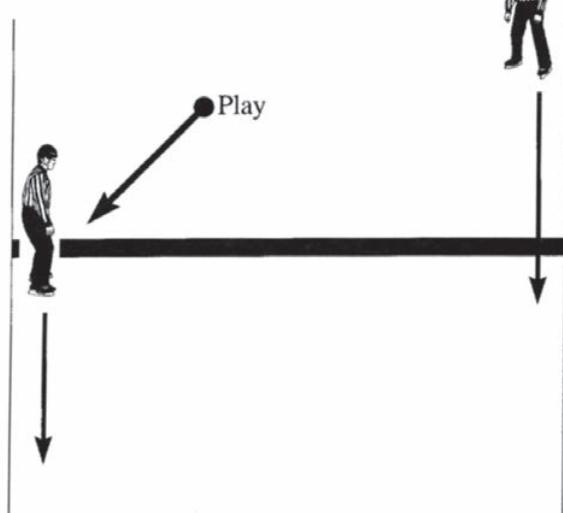
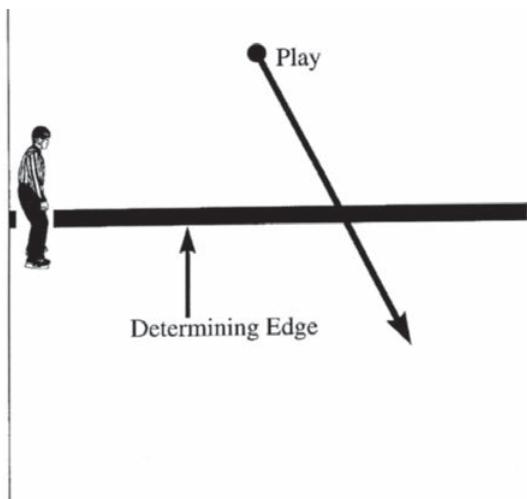


# CALLING OFF-SIDE VIOLATIONS

## Positioning On The Blue Line (Any Officiating System)

Proper positioning around the blue line is a must for accurate off-sides calls, whether you are an official in the two-official system or a linesman in the three-official system. The official making the call should be inside the blue line as play enters the attacking zone. There is no set-in-stone exact position the official must be in every time. Instead, some latitude is given to allow the official to find the position that gives the best angle on the play entering the zone and gives a clear view of the determining edge of the blue line. His/her partner (official in two-official system, or linesman in three-official system) must also be aware of the play and move quickly into position and be prepared to cover for the partner who gets knocked off of the line or has an obstructed view.



## Signaling At The Blue Line

There are three basic signals that are used when play crosses the blue line and a potential off-sides occurs. They are:

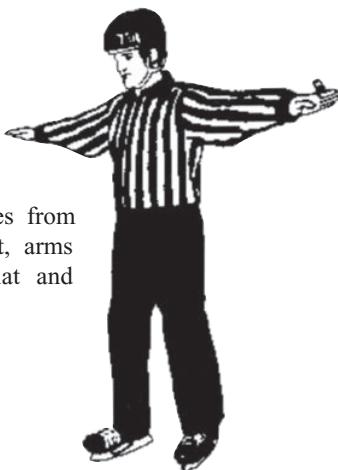
- slow “delayed” whistle used in classifications where “tag-up” off-sides is used – non-whistle arm is raised straight above the head with a flat palm and fingers together.



- point to the face-off location – a full palm point with the fingers together.

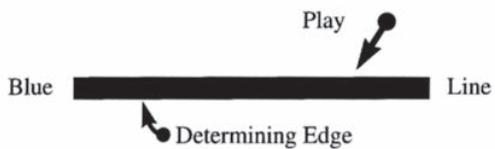


- washout – signal comes from the chest and then out, arms straight with palms flat and fingers together.



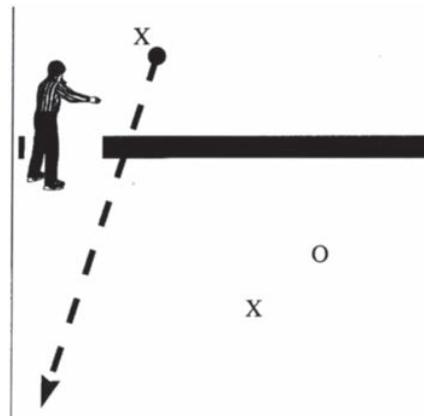
## Stopping The Play For Off-Side

The first thing to remember when calling off-sides is the blue line is always considered part of the zone in which the puck is in. Therefore, the determining edge of the blue line for off-sides is constantly changing. Another basic rule is the puck must completely cross the determining edge of the blue line for an off-sides to occur.



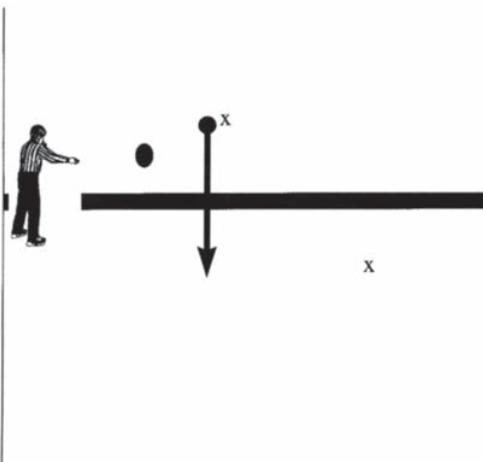
When the puck is carried into the attacking zone with one or more teammates off-side, the official will immediately blow his/her whistle and point to the location of the ensuing face-off. The official stopping play will then skate to the spot where the face-off will take place while his/her partner (always being aware of the players) retrieves the puck, hands off and hustles into the proper face-off position.

A puck shot or passed into the attacking zone with one or more teammates off-side will call for an immediate whistle (unless “tag-up” off-sides is used) by the official.



An immediate whistle should occur (unless “tag-up off-sides is used) in every situation where the puck is shot into the attacking zone with one or more players off-side.

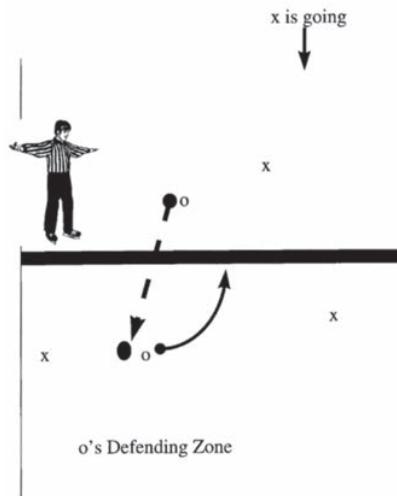
Intentional off-sides should be called in every case where the official deems there was no opportunity to complete a legal play. An intentional off-sides calls for an end zone face-off of the offending team.



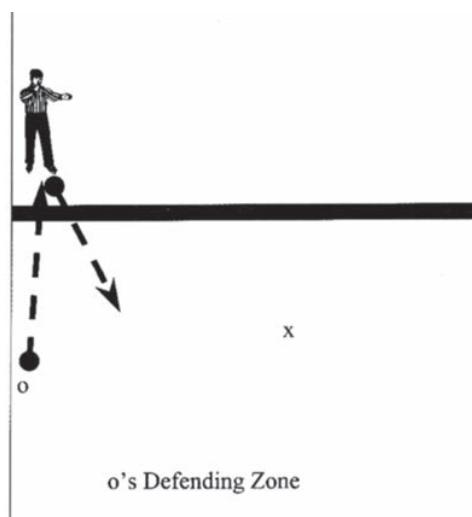
## Special Off-Sides Situations

These situations are special situations where awareness by the official is a must to insure the proper call is made.

- The defending team shoots or carries the puck back into the defending zone with attacking players in the zone. In this case, off-side does not occur and play should be allowed to continue. The official should give the washout signal in these instances to acknowledge witnessing the play.

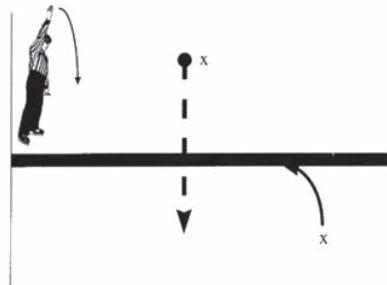


- If the puck leaves the defensive zone and deflects off of an official, any player or defective boards and re-enters the attacking zone with attacking players off-side, an off-side (immediate whistle) will be applicable in all situations.

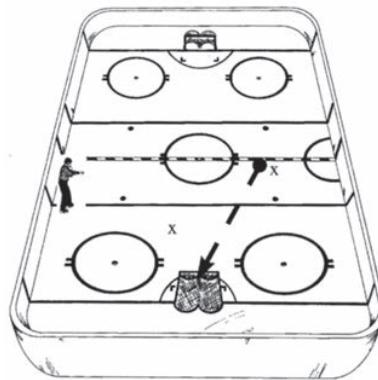


These off-sides situations (tag-up options) apply to those playing in the classifications where delayed off-sides is used.

- all players of the attacking team clear the zone by making skate contact with the blue line. For this to nullify the off-sides, the entire attacking team must be clear of the zone or in skate contact with the blue line for one instant.



- play shall be stopped when the puck is immediately shot on goal. A goal cannot be scored during a delayed off-side situation.



- play shall also be stopped when the attacking team plays or attempts to play the puck.

