Date: October 4, 2016

To: Branch Referee-in-Chiefs

From: Lance Roberts, Hockey Canada Referee-in-Chief

Topic: Playing Rule 7.3 (b) Interference / Protection of the Goaltender

The new wording of Rule 7.3 (b) has caused for some discussion and this is provided to you for clarification and direction on how the rule is to be interpreted.

> Unless the puck is in the goal crease, a player of the attacking side may not stand in the goal crease. If the puck should enter the net while such conditions prevail the goal shall not be allowed. **However, if an attacking player is in the goal crease but does not interfere with the goaltender and another attacking player (who is outside the goal crease) scores, the goal shall be allowed provided that the player who is in the goal crease does not attempt to play the puck, interfere with the play, obstruct the goaltender's view or his movement.**

The new wording change would be applied in the following manner:

1) If a player is standing in the goal crease and does not interfere with the goaltender, does not attempt to play the puck, interfere with the play, or obstruct the goaltenders view the goal is allowed.

2) If a player's actions would warrant a Goaltender Interference Penalty under Rule 7.3 (b) for interference by actual physical contact while in the Goal Crease prior to a goal being scored, then the Goal is disallowed and a penalty is assessed.

The Rule 7.3 (b) is written: A minor penalty for Interference with the Goaltender shall be imposed on a player who by means of his stick or his body, interferes with or impedes the movements of the Goaltender by actual physical contact. The penalty should be announced as "Interference with the Goaltender"

The first part of the Note with this Rule has not been changed but would now only apply in situations that would warrant a goal to be disallowed with no penalty assessed.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at lroberts@hockeycanada.ca.

Sincerely,

Lance Roberts
Hockey Canada Referee-in-Chief

Calgary – Phone / Tél. : (403) 777-3636
201-151 Canada Olympic Road SW, Calgary, AB T3B 6B7
201-151 Canada Olympic Road SO, Calgary, AB T3B 6B7

Ottawa – Phone / Tél. : (613) 562-5677
N204-801 King Edward Avenue, Ottawa ON K1N 6N5
N204-801 avenue King Edward, Ottawa ON K1N 6N5

HockeyCanada.ca