Ice Hockey Rules and Positions

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which player normally wears large leg pads and uses a catching glove to stop shots?
   A. Goaltender
   B. Center
   C. Left wing
   D. Referee
   Correct answer: A. Goaltender
   The goaltender wears specialized equipment and guards the net.

2. An official drops the puck between two opposing skaters. What is this restart called?
   A. Timeout
   B. Icing
   C. Faceoff
   D. Shootout
   Correct answer: C. Faceoff
   A faceoff starts a period or resumes play after a stoppage.

3. What is the area between the two blue lines called?
   A. Goal crease
   B. Neutral zone
   C. Penalty box
   D. Trapezoid
   Correct answer: B. Neutral zone
   The blue lines separate the neutral zone from the two end zones.

4. Which marked area is directly in front of the goal mouth?
   A. Players’ bench
   B. Center-ice circle
   C. Referee’s crease
   D. Goal crease
   Correct answer: D. Goal crease
   The goal crease extends out from the goal line in front of the net.

5. Which skaters typically form the pair behind three forwards in a five-skater lineup?

A. Centers
B. Defensemen
C. Wingers
D. Goaltenders

Correct answer: B. Defensemen
A common even-strength lineup has three forwards and two defensemen in front of the goaltender.

6. One team skates with five skaters while the opponent has four because of a penalty. What is the five-skater team’s advantage called?

A. Power play
B. Delayed offside
C. Icing
D. Penalty shot

Correct answer: A. Power play
The team with the additional skater has a power play while the opponent is shorthanded.

7. An attacking skater without the puck is fully over the blue line before the puck carrier brings the puck into the attacking zone. Which rule is at issue?

A. High-sticking
B. Icing
C. Too many men on the ice
D. Offside

Correct answer: D. Offside
The puck ordinarily must enter the attacking zone before a teammate without the puck has entered.

8. At even strength, a team sends the puck from behind the center red line across the other team’s goal line outside the net. Under the usual race and touch conditions, which violation can be called?

A. Hand pass
B. Offside
C. Icing
D. Holding

Correct answer: C. Icing
That path can lead to icing. The NHL uses race and touch conditions to determine when a whistle is warranted.

9. A legal shot ends with part of the puck still over the goal line. What must happen for the goal-line requirement to be met?

A. The entire puck must cross the goal line between the posts and below the crossbar.
B. The leading edge of the puck must touch the line.
C. The goaltender must touch the puck with a pad.
D. The defending team must gain possession first.

Correct answer: A. The entire puck must cross the goal line between the posts and below the crossbar.
The whole puck must cross the goal line in the goal opening, in addition to satisfying the other rules for a goal.

10. What do players call making a legal substitution while the game is still in progress and the puck is in play?

A. Serving a penalty
B. Tagging up
C. Taking a faceoff
D. Changing on the fly

Correct answer: D. Changing on the fly
A line change on the fly takes place during play. The substitution rules limit the replacement near the bench.

11. An official signals a delayed penalty against Team A. Team B still controls the puck. Why might Team B send its goaltender to the bench?

A. It must change goaltenders before the whistle.
B. It can stop play by making the goaltender cross the blue line.
C. It can temporarily replace the goaltender with an extra skater.
D. It can erase Team A’s penalty by making a substitution.

Correct answer: C. It can temporarily replace the goaltender with an extra skater.
Team B can add a skater while the penalty is delayed. Under the usual conditions play stops when Team A takes control.

12. An NHL player is serving a standalone major penalty. The opposing team scores a power-play goal. What happens to the time remaining on the major?

A. It ends immediately.
B. It continues to run.
C. It changes to a penalty shot.
D. It doubles automatically.

Correct answer: B. It continues to run.
A goal does not end a major penalty. The remaining time still has to be served.

13. An official signals delayed offside after a puck enters the offensive zone. The attacking skaters skate out to neutral ice to tag up. What can this accomplish?

A. The attacking team must play without a goaltender.
B. The attackers automatically receive a penalty shot.
C. The next faceoff always goes to center ice.
D. The official can cancel the delayed offside after all attackers clear the zone.

Correct answer: D. The official can cancel the delayed offside after all attackers clear the zone.
Leaving the offensive zone can clear a delayed offside when the play meets the rule’s other conditions.

14. Team A has iced the puck. With no special exception, which team must keep the skaters who were on the ice at the moment specified by the icing rule?

A. Team A, the team that iced the puck
B. Team B, the team that did not ice it
C. Both teams must replace all their skaters.
D. Neither team is subject to an icing restriction.

Correct answer: A. Team A, the team that iced the puck
An icing normally prevents the offending team from changing skaters before the faceoff. Limited exceptions apply.

15. A skater serves a single double-minor penalty. With no other penalties, the opponent scores during the first two-minute segment. What is left to serve?

A. All four minutes from the beginning
B. None of the penalty
C. The second two-minute segment
D. An automatic five-minute major

Correct answer: C. The second two-minute segment
For penalty timing, a double minor consists of two consecutive minor penalties. The power-play goal terminates the first segment in this situation, and the second remains.