

OUR ANNUAL LISTING OF MOST MISSED EXAM QUESTIONS

This is the time of year where we get to review the most missed questions on the various exams this past season. The open book exam answers and rule references appear in another section of this issue (the actual exam questions in the corresponding order will appear on the official's page of usahockey.com until Aug. 1). This is an excellent time to review the questions that appeared to give you the most trouble and try to understand the reason why it may have been missed. Here are the top 10 missed questions on the open book exam.

#1 If a player deliberately dislodges an opponent's helmet during play, that player must be ejected from the game. This is the most missed question for the second straight year. The correct answer is false. USA Hockey does not have a game ejection penalty and a minor or major penalty should be assessed for either head contact or roughing. There is nothing in the rule book that specifically addresses this action.

#2 Play must be stopped whenever a penalty is signaled and the offending team touches the puck. The correct answer is false as the offending team must gain possession and control of the puck in order to stop play. This is covered under the note section of Rule 409(b).

#3 Shooting the puck directly out of the playing area from the defending zone is a minor penalty to both players and goalkeepers. This question is the third most missed for the second year in a row with the correct answer being False. Whereas the minor

penalty is automatic for a goalkeeper, the decision to assess a delay of game minor penalty to a player is left up to the discretion of the referee and must be deemed to be deliberate for the penalty to be assessed.

#4 Whenever a match penalty is assessed, the official assessing the penalty must file a report to the District referee-in-chief within 48 hours of the occurrence for attempted physical harm:

- only to an on-ice or off-ice official.
- only to an opposing team official.
- to any participant.

The correct answer is A. The 48-hour reference only appears under Rule 601 g1 and j1 for physical assault to an official. Otherwise, a match penalty assessment requires the official to report the incident to the proper authorities immediately following the game.

#5 If three players from the same team are on the penalty bench serving non-coincident minor penalties assessed at different times, the player whose penalty time expires first may return to the game:

- at the instant that penalty expires.
- when the second penalty expires if no stoppage occurs following expiration of the first penalty.
- only at a stoppage of play following expiration of that penalty.

The correct answer is B. The key here is that the first player whose penalty expires will always be the first player back on the ice when a stoppage occurs or when the team is entitled to have another player on

the ice. If there is no stoppage of play, then the first player is the one that would return to the ice when the second penalty expires. The same holds true for the second penalized player when his penalty expires, as well.

#6 In order for a penalty shot to be called for a fouled player on a breakaway under the tripping rule, the attacking player must be fouled directly from behind beyond their defending blue line. Once again, the correct answer is false because the penalty shot should also be called if the foul is committed diagonally from behind (beyond their peripheral vision).

#7 If the puck is in the neutral zone when play is stopped, the "last play" faceoff takes place at the closest faceoff spot. False is the correct answer. Under the last play faceoff rules, the faceoff would take place at the nearest location along an imaginary line that connects the faceoff spots on each side of the rink.

#8 If the captain and an alternate captain are both legally on the ice, only the captain is entitled to confer with the referee regarding a rule interpretation, even if the alternate captain is nearer to the referee. This question in a similar form was number two on last years' most missed list. The correct answer is false. The rule is specific in that only one "C" or "A" can converse with the referee during a stoppage, but does not specify it must be the captain. Common sense would suggest that an official would not chase an alternate captain, who is nearby, away while she called the captain, who is on

the far side of the ice, over to speak only to her.

#9 A linesman is permitted to stop play if observing any “Injury Potential” infraction. This is false and the opposite question appeared as #6 on last years list. The linesman is required to report such incidents to the referee at the next stoppage of play, but does not stop play.

#10 The Team A center is penalized for slashing the goalkeeper. Which linesman will conduct the faceoff at one of the neutral zone spots by the Team A attacking zone?

- the back linesman.
- the front linesman.
- the linesman who was on the same side of the ice as the face-off location.

The correct answer is B. In the three-official system, the linesman will conduct all faceoffs occurring at his end of the ice (divided by the center red line) and this would be considered to be the front linesman when play was stopped in the end zone.

The following are the top three missed questions from the Level 2 closed book exam.

#1 If play is on the opposite side of the rink from the referee (three-official system), the referee’s skating lane should be along the line of spots. The correct answer is false as the referee’s skating lane will be 5-10 feet off the boards when play is on the opposite side of the ice. This question has won the top prize now two years in a row.

#2 When play is in the neutral zone, the officials in a two-official system should be:

- on their blue line.
- just outside their blue line.
- just inside their blue line.

The correct answer is C. That way, both officials are in the proper position to make a call at the blue line, depending on which way play goes.

#3 If you observe a player who is injured and unable to get to the bench, you should:

- stop play immediately.
- wait until that player’s team has control of the puck and then stop play.
- allow play to continue unless the puck goes in that player’s vicinity.

The answer we are looking for was A. The fact the player is unable to get up and participate in play or skate to the bench indicates the injury may be serious enough to warrant stopping play immediately. USA Hockey would prefer that the officials always err on the side of caution when dealing with youth players in this instance.

Finally, here are the top five missed questions on the Level 3 closed book exams.

#1 If a minor penalty for “Delay of Game” is assessed for a faceoff violation, it may be served by any player then on the ice. The correct answer is false. The penalty is assessed to the player who actually commits the violation and he is the person who must serve the penalty.

#2 While play is in progress in the neutral zone, the linesmen (three-official system) should be just outside (neutral zone side) of their respective blue lines, diagonally opposite each other. The correct answer is false (see the second most missed question on the Level 2 closed book exam). The principle is the same for the linesman or the officials in the two-official system.

#3 Whenever an additional puck is observed on the ice, even if not interfering with the game, the play must be stopped immediately. False. As long as the second puck does not interfere with the progress of the game, there is no need for an immediate whistle. 630(b) is the proper rule reference.

#4 If the captain and an alternate captain are both legally on the ice, either one are entitled to confer with the referee regarding a rule interpretation. This is true (see most missed #8 from the Open Book Exam).

#5 A penalized player who fails to go directly and immediately to the penalty bench when ordered to do so by the referee shall be assessed a minor penalty. The correct answer is false as the rule is very specific in that a misconduct is the proper penalty. This was the most missed question on last year’s Level 3 closed book exam.

Don’t be surprised to see some of these questions pop up on future exams and, as always, don’t hesitate to contact your local supervisor of officials or District referee-in-chief with any additional rules questions you may have. 🏒