** PITTSBURGH ELITE OFFICIATING CAMPS - OFFICIAL NCAA CORRESPONDENCE** 

**FIVE TIPS FOR LINESMEN**

1. Icing rulings can easily turn into problematic calls, here’s how to avoid controversy:

\* A puck off the ice or bouncing will be icing if all of the other conditions are met, the defensive player is not expected to be able to play that puck.

\* Make the decision when the puck is at the top of the circle if the player has been skating or not and then live with the decision. Do NOT wave off a puck a foot or two before the goal line because a defenseman "may" have held up.

\* Remember if a player can't get to a puck before it crosses the goal line then it is icing.

\* In a foot race, if the puck in your judgment will cross the goal line when the players get to the dot, it is icing if the defensive player wins the race.

\* When the puck is on the ice, defensive players are expected to make a reasonable effort to play the puck, if this condition is met then it is icing.

\* The back linesman is responsible for watching the players coming off the bench. Initiate icing and take inventory of the players on the ice. Stay with the bench and make sure the right players are on the ice. The referees will help but this is your responsibility.

2. For offside calls, judge the players crossing the blue line, see where the puck and players are and make a decisive ruling. Don't guess or anticipate where you thought the player "was going to be" on the place.

3. Establish the faceoff standards early and keep them throughout the game. I never like to see a center thrown out for the first time late in the third period on a defensive zone faceoff.

4. Establish a presence after the whistle and calm players and volatile situations.

5. Go with a referee to the bench when a conversation is taking place between the coach and referee. You are there to observe, not offer opinions.

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