** PITTSBURGH ELITE OFFICIATING CAMPS - OFFICIAL ECHL CORRESPONDENCE** 
 **CONSEQUENCE**

Knowing when to impose yourself on the game vs. stepping back and letting things flow is an intuition that develops with experience and confidence. The skill to recognize when the game needs a reset is the artistry of top level officials. This is combined with trust in one's judgment and the courage to apply what is right for the game from a situational perspective.

This is not about loosening the standard; it is about minimizing calls on the tipping point of consequence or gaining competitive advantage. For example, the play is coming through the neutral zone, a defender puts his stick on the hip of an attacker, turns the stick over but the attacker continues with speed and the defenders stick comes back down to the ice with no consequence or competitive advantage. In the case of a linesman, a line change is occurring and a man is going off and is near the bench. The man who is coming on for him is in close proximity to the bench and lets the puck go through his legs and all of the way down the ice. In this case icing is waved off and we play on as they did not gain a competitive advantage. In order to be able to make these types of decisions first you must have the best sight line to see it, process it and then commit to a call or non-call based on the situation.

When processing, use officiating sense and situational management to assist in the judgment. Always strive for a consistent application, one that can be maintained throughout the game. As one gains experience just like a player you gain time and space.  You are able to process, pause and react in a confident manner due to your vast situational knowledge and trust in oneself. That moment of pause mentioned earlier, is a matter of a micro second but once you are able to do this it can ensure clarity on judgments.

It is our goal to minimize the reference to words such as weak, soft and phantom. We recognize at times there will be penalties of this type called and penalties will be missed but we must strive to recover and refocus immediately for the good of the game. Remember each and every rule has not only words but also spirit and intent. When you get to where you understand these elements combine this knowledge with focus to allow you to reach the level of consistency that you demand of yourself.

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