

Face Offs

When to face off

- To start a game
- To start a period
- After a goal
- Exception: fouls that award the ball by rule or possession at the end of a previous period during a man-up/man-down situation
- Even strength does not = Man-up/man-down (9-on-9, 8-on-8, etc.)

Player positioning

- F/O middies at 'X'
- Wing middies – behind line within end points, either side of midline
- Attack/defenders behind restraining line – THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE IN THE BOX
- Man-down – either attack player or defensive player can occupy a wing
- Wing must be left open if penalty expiration is imminent – or penalized player must wait for “possession” call

Officials positioning prior to F/O

“On Official”

- Stand over ball until ready to face (like an umpire in football)
- After a goal, get ball down, whip out scorecard, write it down, and LET'S GO!
- “Down, set” Whistle – No Pump!

“Off Official”

- 20-second timer – no delay if late player is hustling (unless way too late off bench) – bang both simultaneously when possible. You'll never have to worry about delay again for rest of game

- **Dead ball signal – count both teams (3&3, 3&3, 3&3 plus goalies) arm down and along sideline when ready to face**

The Checklist

- **Left of ball**
- **Reverse heads – up to (not touching) and even on ball**
- **Perpendicular to ground**
- **Sticks parallel to midline**
- **Neutral zone (on official should occupy the NZ prior to “set”)**
- **No part of the body touching on or beyond midline (head & shoulders over line Okay)**
- **Hands off plastic or head**
- **No lifting/levering of butt end**

On official speak to players that are non-conforming

- **“Straighten the head”**
- **“Out of the neutral zone”**
- **“Thumb off the plastic”**
- **DO NOT PHYSICALLY ALTER POSITIONING**
- **If after “set” player is illegal – “Gentlemen up”, award ball – let violator know why you awarded ball to opponent**

Whistle blows

“On Official”

- **No coaching. No “Get it out”. “Move the ball”. Nothing, nada, Shut the F up and let them do their thing. They are not required to get the ball out. Why are telling them to do so?**
- **Look for clamp, kicking through stick, fingers, hold (even with feet), spear, etc. – “play-on” then whistle**
- **Look for ball stuck in back of crosse (off official can help) – okay to clamp, reverse pop, and catch**
- **Change your cadence – if players are ‘beating the whistle’**
- **You own your half of the field**
- **“Possession” call and wind – give it up if ball goes towards “off (now on) official”**
- **Be ready to pick up 10-second count or put on 20-second timer**
- **Your half of the field is your half of the field**
- **Get to your goal!**

“Off Official”

- **No “gotcha” fouls**
- **Players restrained**
- **Illegal body checks/unnecessary roughness**
- **“Possession” call help if ball comes to you**
- **10 or 20 count**
- **Get to your goal!**

When does face off end

- **Awarding of ball – no release. Time-serving - release**
- **Possession**
- **Ball crosses restraining line**
- **Ball goes out of bounds and can be determined who put it out**

Re-Face When

- **Simultaneous fouls at face**
- **Ball goes out of bounds between restraining line and can not be determined who put it out**
- **Inadvertent whistle between restraining lines**
- **RULE OF THUMB: between the lines and possession cannot be determined – Re-face**
- **Beyond a restraining line and possession cannot be determine - AP**