

“About Face”

Everything You Need To Know To Conduct Proper Face-offs

1. **Facing Off:** There will be a face off to start the game, at the start of each period (including overtime), and after every goal.

EXCEPTIONS

- If at the end of a period there is a “Man Down” or a “Flag Down” that will create a man-advantage, the team entitled to the ball will start the next period with possession (including overtime)
 - Any player or team commits a foul before the F/O, the non-offending team will restart the game with possession If a player unduly delays game after being told to greet the ball
 - If a player moves his Crosse, body, or tries to “beat the whistle” thereby gaining an unfair advantage, the non-offending team will restart with possession
2. **Checklist:** The referee, before the first face-off should call both players together and explain to the players what the officials will be looking for:
 - Go down together when prompted
 - Match up the reverse side of the stick heads (ball should be in the middle of both sticks)
 - Sticks up straight, up to but NOT touching the ball
 - Gloves off the plastic
 - Both gloves wrapped around the Crosse and touching the ground
 - Sticks must be parallel to midfield line
 - Everything must be to the left of the throat of the Crosse
 - Heads out of the neutral zone
 3. **The Mechanic:** The SDCLOA official will conform to the following prescribed face-off mechanic:
 - F/O official will get ready signal from partner
 - He will tell F/O middies to “Gentlemen, down.”
 - F/O official will then make sure players meet requirements of the “Checklist”
 - With whistle in his mouth, F/O official will become stationary.
 - F/O official will say “Set!” and then quickly blow whistle and back away from scrum keeping his eyes on the action at all times
 - ON official will wind his arm and yell “possession” when a player for either team scoops the ground ball and meets the requirements for possession
 - OFF official may ‘mirror’ the wind but no need to ‘echo’ possession

Positioning of Other players: When a team has all its players on the field for a F/O, those players shall meet the following criteria:

- Each team will have 3 defensive players and a goalie in Zone 1
- Each Team will have 3 attack men in Zone 4
- Each team will have one player behind each wing area line
- Each team will have a F/O middle at center X

- **Exception:** When there a Man Advantage F/O situation, the team that is “Man Down” may release one player from its attack area (Zone 4) and position himself at one of the wing area lines as long as his team meets the onside criteria before and after the whistle is blown
4. **Face Off Completed/Players Released From The Restraining Areas:** The restricted players in Zones 1 & 4 prior to the F/O will remain there until:
 - Possession has been gained by either team during live play
 - The ball goes out of bounds
 - The ball crosses either restraining line
 - The whistle blows for a time-serving foul
 - **Note:** The players in the wing areas can release at the whistle
 - **Note 2:** The restricted players will remain in the restraining areas when possession is awarded due to a non-timeserving penalty (illegal procedure, delay of game, etc.)
 5. **When To Re-face:** The official will re-face whenever one of the following occurs:
 - A player loses a piece of equipment while ball is loose
 - Simultaneous fouls occur while the ball is loose
 - There is an inadvertent whistle while ball is loose
 - The ball goes out of bounds and it cannot be determined who’s responsible for putting it out of bounds (OOB)
 - **Note:** If the ball crosses either restraining line and goes OOB and the officials cannot determine who it went out on award the ball via Alternate Possession
 6. **Restarts After The Awarding Of Possession:** When the ball has been awarded to either team due to a F/O infraction, the non-offending team will restart the game with possession over the midline in Zone 3 (the attack half of the field) and the 10-second count will be implemented immediately after the whistle.
 7. **Cheaters:** The following are various techniques some players will use to gain an unfair advantage. Look for players to...
 - Try to exempt himself from meeting any of the criteria in our F/O checklist
 - Try to beat the whistle
 - Prop the end of their stick up with their fingertips to create a lever
 - Step on, or kick through an opponent’s stick
 - Grabbing an opponent’s stick or head of the Crosse
 - Bait his opponent into a false start with a “grunt” or quick movement – this can be penalized as unsportsmanlike conduct

Face Off Quiz

1. Team A has just scored a goal and has all its players on the field and in their required areas before the next face off. Team B only has nine players on the field when the officials’ 20-second timer signifies a delay of game.

2. After the whistle has blown to start the face off, a restricted Team A player in Zone 1 steps over the defensive restraining line to play a loose ball in Zone 2.
3. After the whistle has blown to start the face off, a restricted Team A player in Zone 1 steps over the defensive restraining line after the loose ball has crossed into Zone 1.
4. Just after the F/O says “set”, but before he’s blown his whistle, the Team A face-off middle clamps the ball.
5. Team A has 4 players (3 defense men and 1 goaltender) behind its defensive restraining line (Zone 4), however defenseman A88 has positioned himself “outside the box” in the alley area.
6. After the whistle has blown to start a F/O, A22 pushes B41 from behind while B41 is attempting to scoop a loose ball.
7. After the whistle has blown to start a F/O, A22 pushes B41 from behind immediately after B41 has scooped the ball and the official signaled “possession”.
8. After the whistle has blown to start a F/O, middies A12 & B14 slash each other before possession has been called.
9. Possession has been awarded to Team A due to a Team B F/O infraction (non-timeserving). Can the restricted players release from Zones 1 & 4?
10. Can the goalies face off?