



*Created by Steve Wallace, Technical Director of Officiating, Greater Toronto Hockey League.*

*For more information or to comment on this article send email to [tdo@gthlcanada.com](mailto:tdo@gthlcanada.com).*

*An electronic version of this article is available in the Learning Centre at [www.refschool.com](http://www.refschool.com).*

When Playing Rule 10.2 - Face-offs was modified in 2008, Hockey Canada released Information Bulletin i0905 and a clarification bulletin in August 2008 to specify how the rule would be applied. Subsequently, immediately prior to the 2010/2011 season, Hockey Canada adopted a new way to apply Rule 10.2 when an off-side violation results in a stoppage of play. Specifically, a “Gain the Dot; Keep the Dot” concept replaced the “Quadrant” system previously used to determine neutral zone face-off locations in some off-side situations. This change effectively voids Hockey Canada Information Bulletin i0905 (dated 15 August 2008) and a related follow-on bulletin (dated 19 August 2008). Therefore, the information in those two documents should be disregarded.

When this article was published, Hockey Canada had yet to release a written document explaining in detail the latest changes to the face-off rule application. Therefore, until such information is released, this article is your best source of information about face-off location rule applications.

#### **SUMMARY OF FACE-OFF LOCATION RULES AND THEIR APPLICATION**

1. Face-offs shall only occur at the 9 face-off spots marked on the rink.
2. The centre ice face-off spot is only used at the start of periods, after goals, after an erroneous icing call and, unless otherwise stated in Rule 2.5(f) Note 3, when a premature substitution of the goaltender foul occurs.
3. When icing or intentional off-side is called the face-off shall occur at one of the offending team's defending zone face-off spots.
4. When a defending player causes a stoppage of play in his/her defending zone the face-off shall occur at the end zone face-off spot nearest to where possession of the puck last occurred (see Figures 1 through 6).
5. When neither team is solely responsible for a stoppage of play in an end zone the face-off shall occur at the end zone face-off spot nearest to where possession of the puck last occurred (unless otherwise covered in the rules) (see Figure 7).
6. When an attacking player causes a stoppage of play in the attacking zone the face-off shall occur at the nearest neutral zone face-off spot (see Figures 8 through 12). Additionally, as per Rule 10.2(j), when an attacking player comes deeper into the end zone than the top of the face-off circles when a gathering occurs after the whistle the face-off shall occur at the nearest neutral zone face-off spot (unless otherwise covered in the rules).
7. When play is stopped due to an offside infraction (other than those considered intentional) the face-off shall normally occur at one of the neutral zone face-off spots adjacent to the offending team's defending blue line (see Figures 13 & 14). However, if an off-side call is the result of a pass that originates in the offending team's defending zone, then the ensuing face-off occurs at the end-zone face-off spot nearest to the origin of the pass (see Figure 15). *Additionally, if the offending team has control of the puck in line with or beyond the neutral zone face-off dots adjacent to their attacking blue line immediately prior to an off-side violation, the face-off shall occur at one of the neutral zone face-off dots adjacent to the offending team's attacking blue line (see Figures 16, 17 & 18).*
8. When play is stopped due to an off-side that occurs because, after having been cleared out of an end zone, the puck deflects off an attacking player, defending player or official back into the same end zone, the face-off shall occur at a neutral zone face-off spot (excluding centre ice) adjacent to the offending team's attacking blue line (see Figures 19, 20 & 21).

**New**

9. When neither team is solely responsible for causing a stoppage of play in the neutral zone, the face-off shall take place at the neutral zone face-off spot (excluding centre ice) nearest to the place where possession last occurred (see Figure 22).
10. When one team is solely responsible for a stoppage of play in the neutral zone for a reason other than off-side, the face-off shall occur at one of the two face-off spots nearest to the offending team's blue line (unless otherwise covered in the rules) (see Figures 23 through 27).
11. When the puck goes out of bounds off an official positioned in the neutral zone, the face-off shall occur at the neutral zone face-off spot (excluding centre ice) nearest to the place where the official was struck by the puck (see Figures 28 & 29). Similarly, when the puck goes out of bounds off an official positioned in an end zone the face-off shall occur at the end zone face-off spot nearest to the place where the official was struck by the puck (see Figure 30).

Figure 1 Rules 10.2(h) & Situation 5 and 10.11(a)

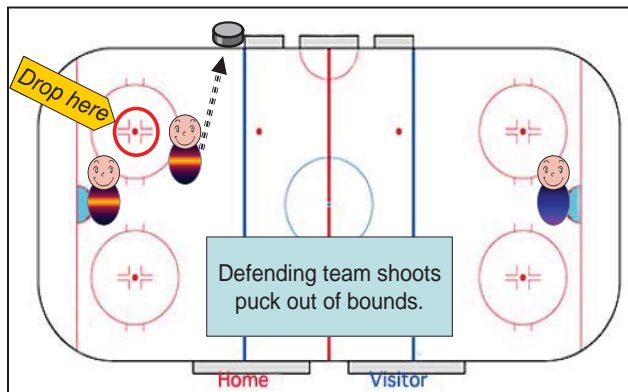


Figure 2 Rules 10.2(h) & Situation 5 and 10.11(a)

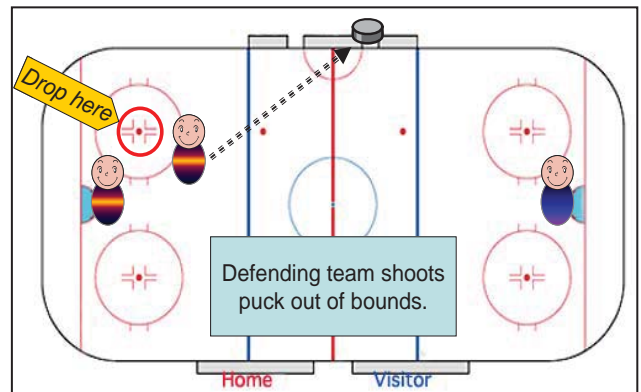


Figure 3 Rules 10.2(h) and 10.11(a)

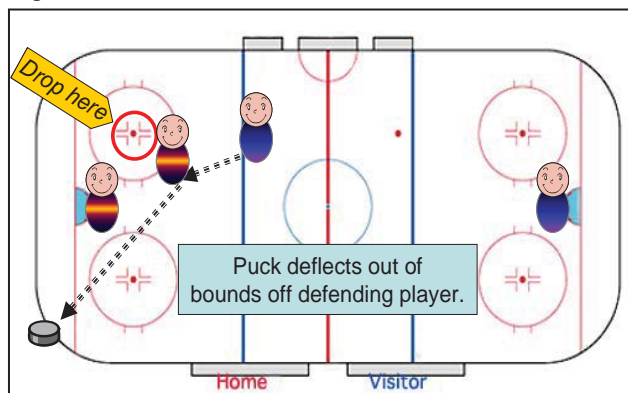


Figure 4 Rules 8.3(d) and 10.2(h)

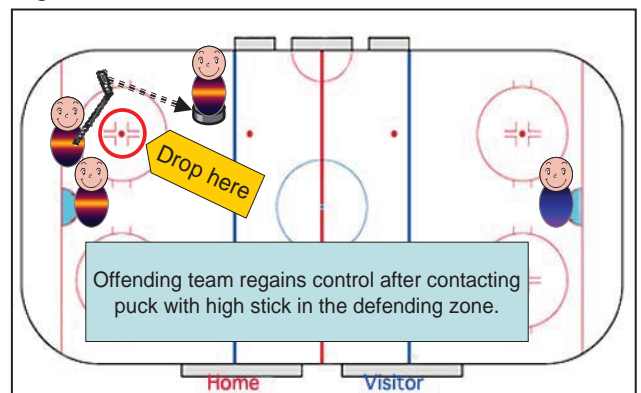


Figure 5 Rule 9.1(d) & Situation 6 and Rule 10.2(h)

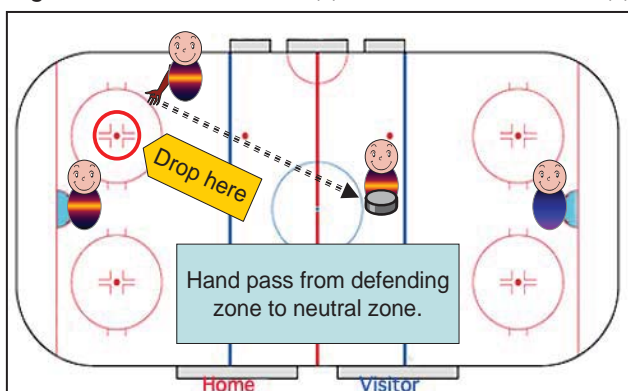


Figure 6 Rules 8.3(d) & 10.2(h)

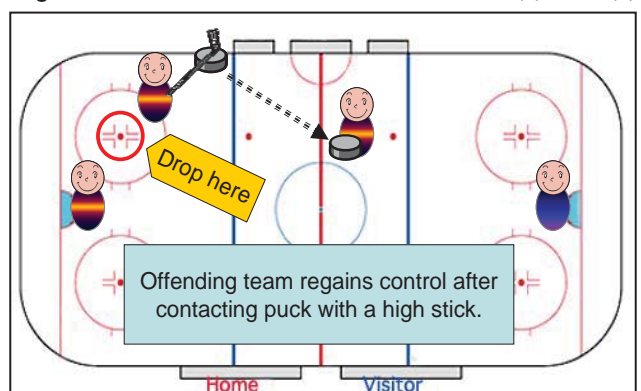


Figure 7

Rule 10.2 (f) & (g)

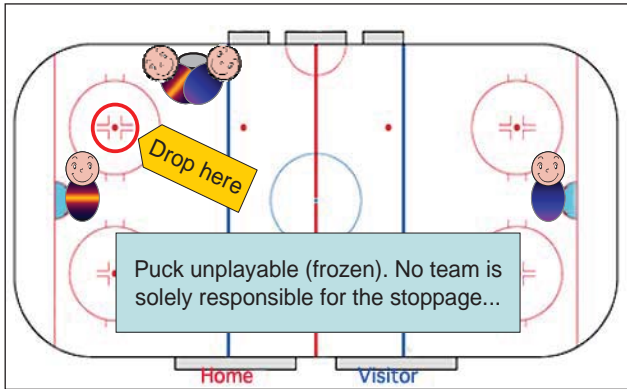


Figure 8

Rules 10.2(e) & 10.11(a)

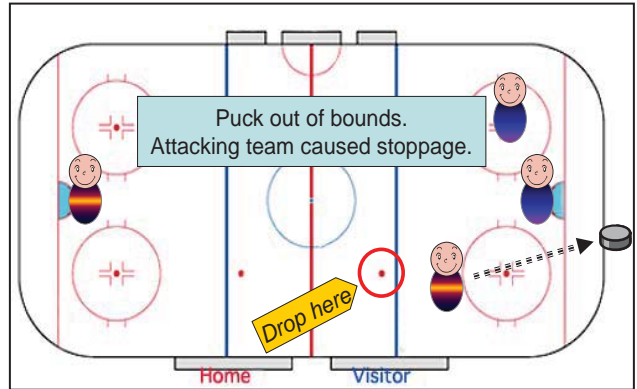


Figure 9

Rules 8.3(d) and 10.2(e)

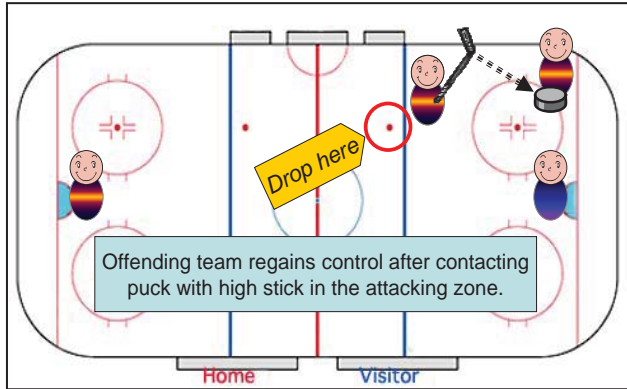


Figure 10

Rules 9.1(d) and 10.2(e)

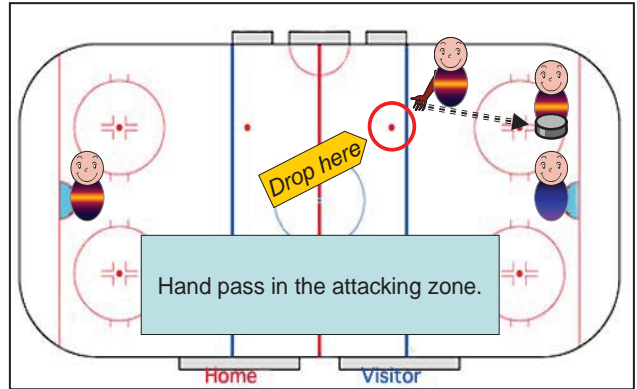


Figure 11

Rules 10.2(e) and 10.11(c)

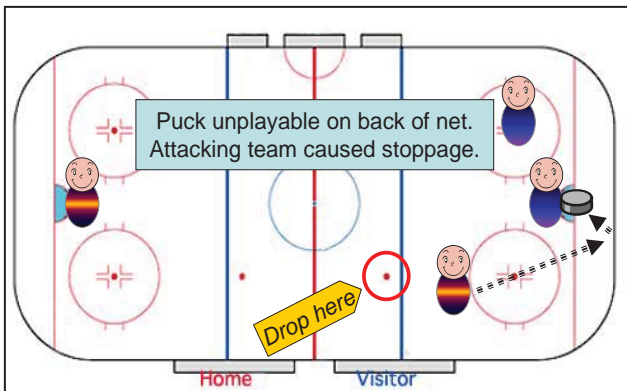


Figure 12

Rules 10.2(e) and 10.11(c)

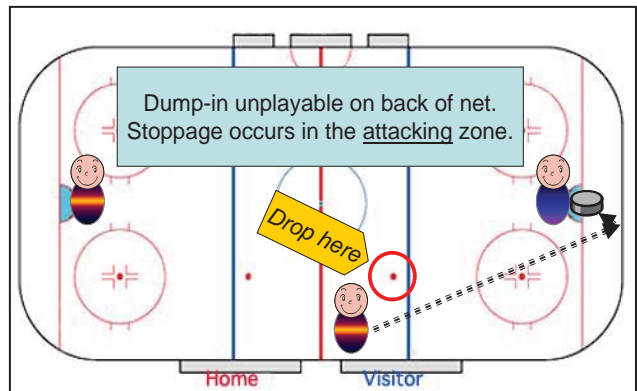


Figure 13 Rule 10.2(g) & Modified Application of Rule 10.8(b)

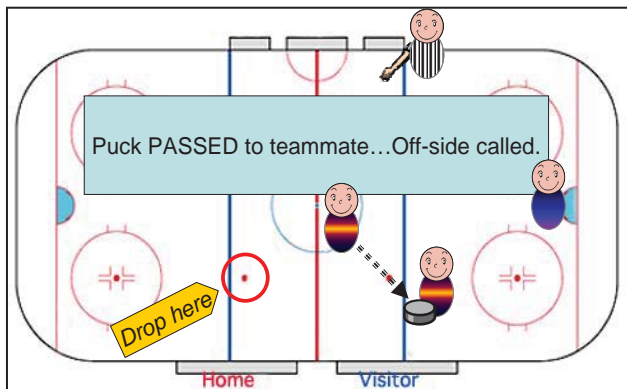


Figure 14 Rule 10.2(g) & Modified Application of Rule 10.8(b)

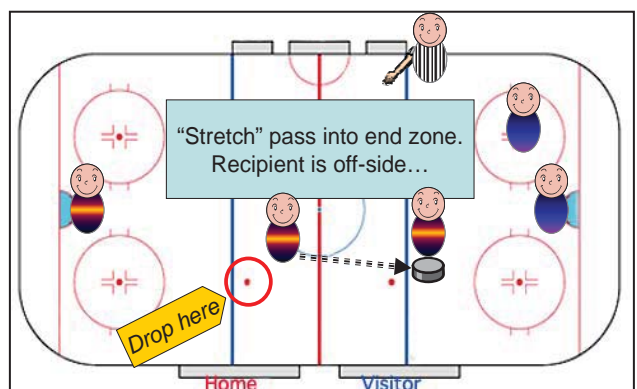


Figure 15 Rule 10.2 Situation 7 and 10.8(b)

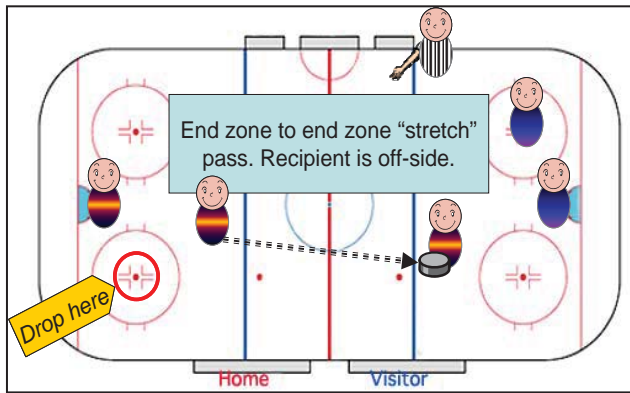


Figure 16 Rule 10.8(b) & Situation 19

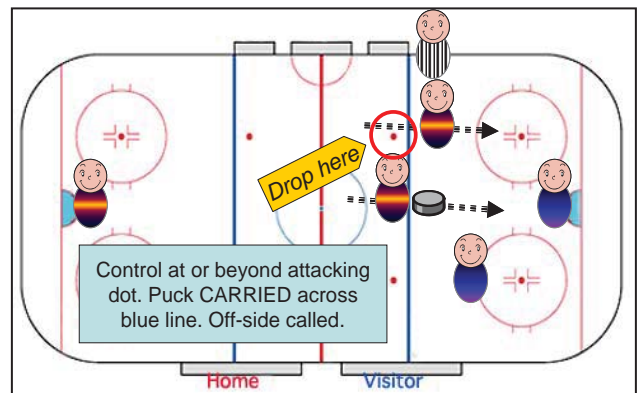


Figure 17 Rule 10.8(b) & Situation 21(5)

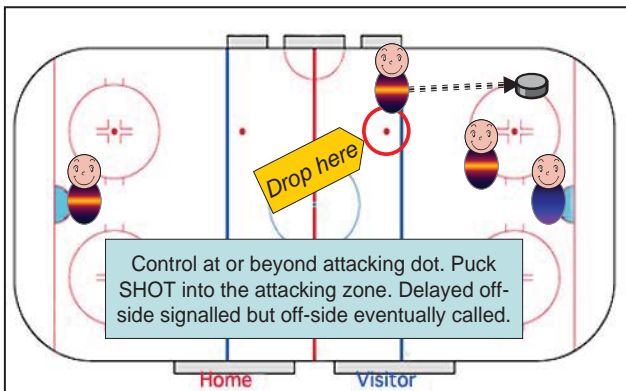


Figure 18 Rule 10.8(b)

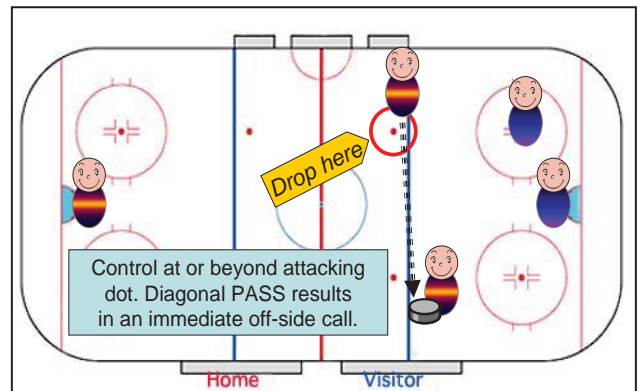


Figure 19 Rule 10.2(e) and Rules 10.8(b) & (e)

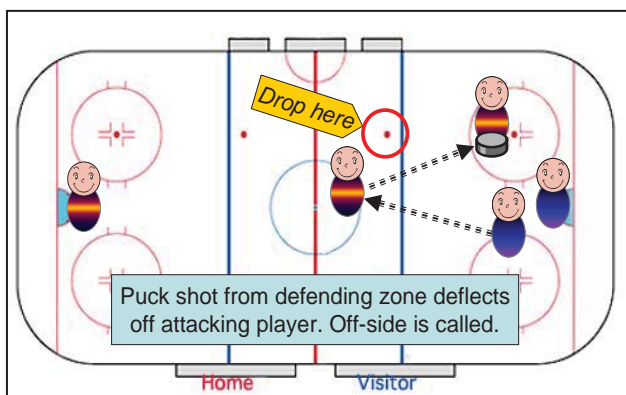


Figure 20 Rule 10.2(e) and Rules 10.8(b) & (e) & Situation 13

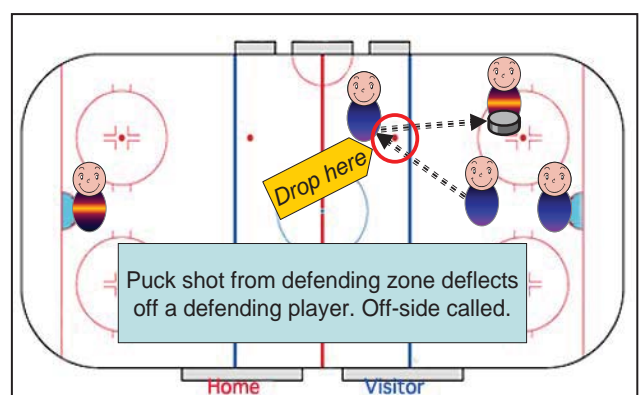


Figure 21 Rule 10.2(e) and Rule 10.8 Situation 17

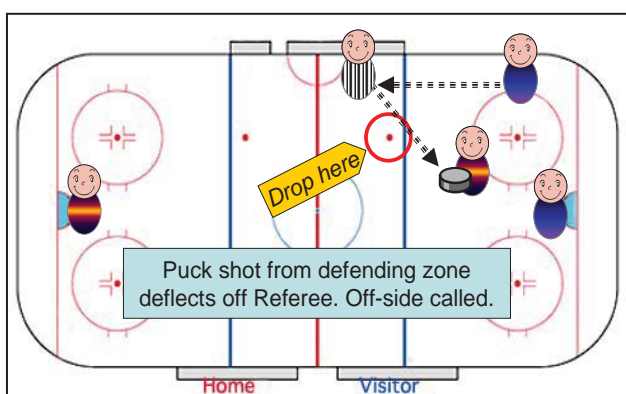


Figure 22 Rules 10.2(g)

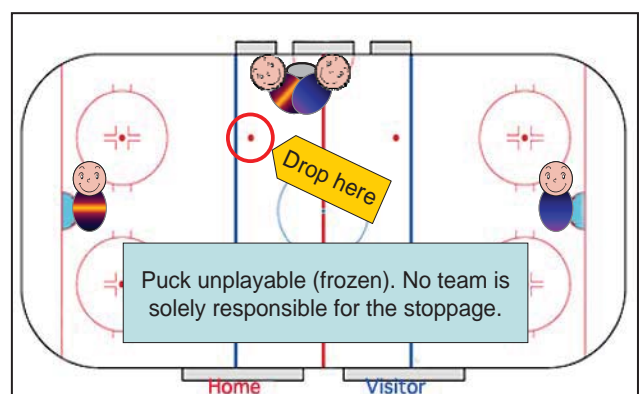


Figure 23 Rule 9.1(d) & Situation 6 and Rule 10.2(g)

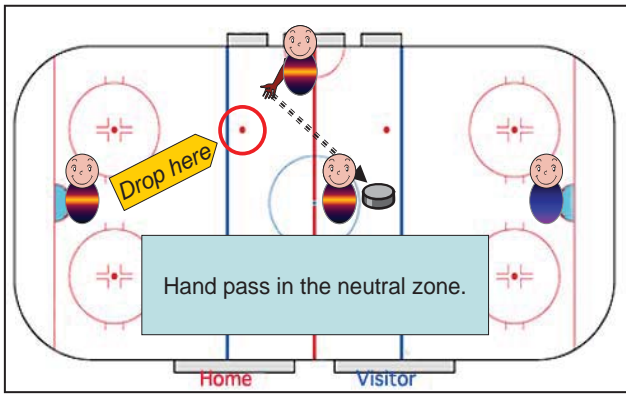


Figure 24 Rules 10.2(g) & 10.11(a)

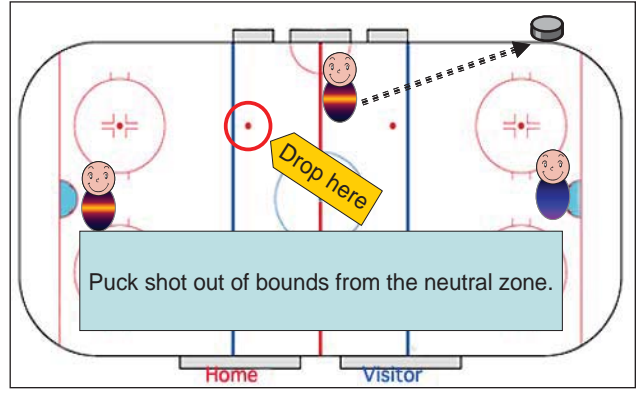


Figure 25 Rule 10.2(g) and 10.11(a) & Situation 2

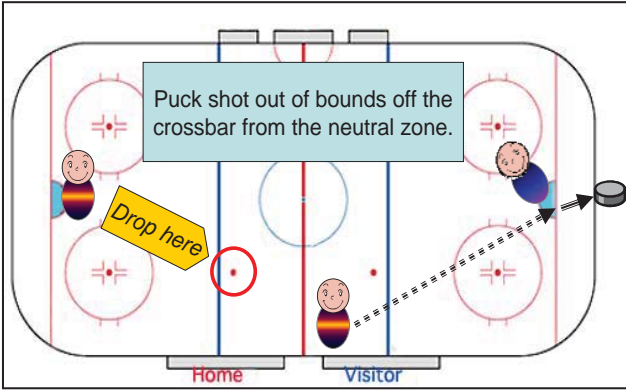


Figure 26 Rules 10.2(g) & 10.11(a)

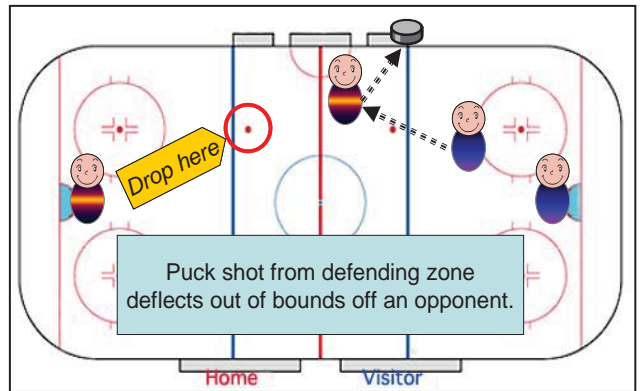


Figure 27 Rule 9.1(d) & Situation 6 and Rule 10.2(g)

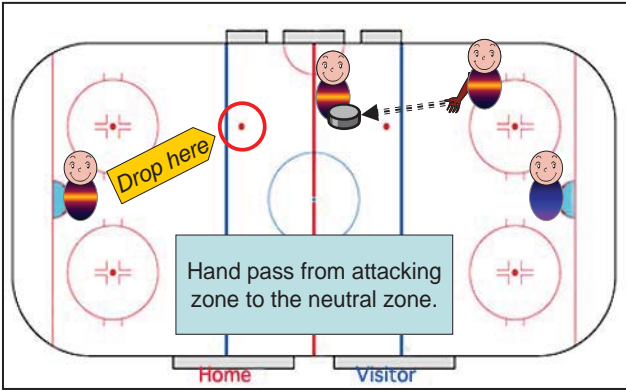


Figure 28 Rule 10.2(g) & Situation 10

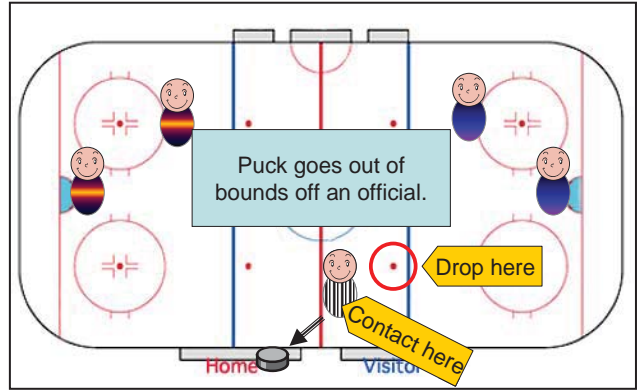


Figure 29 Rule 10.2(g) & Situation 10

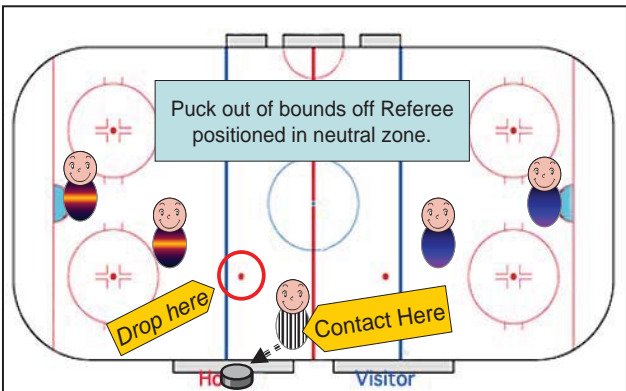


Figure 30 Rule 10.2(g) & Situation 10

