

Penalty Interpretation for Off-Ice Officials

In general:

- when a penalty is shown **on the clock**, the player serving the penalty is eligible to return immediately when the penalty ends (but see #1 below).
 - A penalty that is to be shown **on the clock** is generally referred to in the rule book as a penalty to be served **without substitution**.
 - A penalty **on the clock** ends:
 - when its time expires (in this case, it automatically disappears from the clock)
 - when a team is playing shorthanded and the opposing team scores a goal, the penalty on the shorthanded team that **caused it to be shorthanded** ends (but see #3 below) (in this case, the penalty timekeeper must manually remove the penalty from the clock).
 - trivially, when the game ends.
- when a penalty is **not on the clock**, the player serving the penalty may only return at a stoppage in play (but see #2 below).
 - A penalty that is **not on the clock** is generally referred to in the rule book as a penalty to be served **with substitution**.
- all **coincidental** penalties are served **with substitution** (but see #4 and #5 below).

(1) When a penalty **on the clock** ends, what are the circumstances under which the player should **not** be allowed to return to the ice?

- The player received penalties in addition to the penalty shown on the clock (e.g., misconduct, coincidental minor).
- When a team has three players serving penalties without substitution at the same time.
 - If after the first penalty ends, play continues uninterrupted without a stoppage and consequently the **second** penalty ends, the **first** player (who had not been allowed to return to the ice when his penalty ended) should then be allowed to return to the ice. Similarly, if the **third** penalty ends before a stoppage, the **second** player would be allowed to return. The **third** player would only be allowed to return at a stoppage in play.
 - If, in the above example, the **first** and **second**, or **second** and **third**, penalties end at the same time, according to the rule book the team captain shall designate which player should return first. In practice, however, since this is an exceedingly rare situation, nobody remembers to ask for or make the designation, the players don't realize that they're not eligible to return, and this is when mistakes happen.
- A player may not leave the players' bench or penalty bench at any time during an altercation.

(2) When a player is serving a penalty that is **not on the clock**, when should that player be allowed to return to the ice?

- The player will only be allowed to return to the ice at a stoppage in play.
- The player must serve all of the penalties which were called on him.
- If any of the penalties called on the player are to be served **without substitution**, it is not possible to determine at the time the penalties are called the time at which the player will be eligible to return to the ice.
 - It will only be possible to determine the player's release time when the penalties he is serving **without substitution** end.
 - A substitute player may sit in the penalty box and return to the ice when the penalties

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without substitution (i.e., those **on the clock**) end. However, a team is not required to provide a substitute player, and it is not our job to remind them to do so, or require that one be provided. If a team does not provide a substitute player, and the penalties being served **without substitution** end, they are not entitled to an additional player on the ice until the next stoppage in play; specifically, the original penalized player may not leave the penalty box, as he still has additional penalty time to serve. (I'm not sure what would happen in the event of a long uninterrupted stretch of play during which all of the player's penalties expired. I don't think it's covered anywhere in the rule book, it probably never has come up, and let's hope it doesn't.)

(3) When does a penalty that **caused a team to be shorthanded** not end when the opposing team scores a goal?

- When the penalty that **caused the team to be shorthanded** is a major penalty.
 - When a player receives a major penalty and a minor penalty at the same time, the major penalty shall be served first by the penalized player.
 - If a short-handed team is scored upon while serving a major and a non-coincidental minor penalty (two different players), the minor penalty shall terminate.
- When the goal is scored as a result of a penalty shot.

(4) When are **coincidental penalties** served **without substitution**?

- When both of the following conditions are in effect:
 - No penalties **on the clock** at the time the **coincidental penalties** are called.
 - One minor penalty to each team.
- In **all other situations**, **coincidental penalties** are served **with substitution**.

(5) How do you determine which penalties are **coincidental**?

- Count the total number of major penalties given to each team (not the number of players, just the total number of penalties). If one team receives more majors than the other, the majors in excess of the other team's are served **without substitution**; all the matching majors are **coincidental**.
- Count the total number of minor penalties given to each team (not the number of players, just the total number of penalties). If one team receives more minors than the other, the minors in excess of the other team's are served **without substitution**; all the matching minors are **coincidental**.