



# Calling Too Many Players On The Ice

*General Membership Training*  
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# *Why This Is A Difficult Call*



- Inconsistency
  - Everyone has their own idea of a legal change
  - Each player change situation is different
  - The rule book has some gray areas
    - “At the bench”
    - “Out of play”
    - Goalkeeper substitution
- Frequency
  - Player changes happen very often
- Importance
  - A good too many players call usually happens as a result of a big play
  - A too many players call can be a big call

# *How To Prevent It*



- Verbalize during sloppy changes
  - “Let’s clean up the changes”
  - “How many are out here?”
  - “Count ‘em”
  - Let’s the benches know you are watching
  - Doesn’t take any extra time from the game
- A quick warning to the coach
  - Be civil - don’t threaten
  - Warn both benches
  - Use this if the in-game verbalizations haven’t worked

# *How To Call It*



- Have a good view of the change
- Do a player count – twice
- Assess the impact of a sloppy change
  - Change of possession
  - Injury potential
  - Scoring opportunity
  - Blatant
- If you decide to call it then signal and assess like a normal penalty
- If you decide not to call it, be able to explain why not

# *Things To Remember*



- It is the responsibility of the officials to make sure the proper number of players are on the ice prior to the start of play
  - Know how many players each team is entitled to at all times
  - Make a habit of counting the number of players from each team before dropping the puck
  - If a team is entitled to four players and you drop the puck with five on the ice, DO NOT assess a too many players penalty
- Make a habit of knowing the instant a penalty expires
  - As the back official, watch the player return from the penalty bench

# *Things To Remember*



- Premature goalkeeper substitution is not a too many players on the ice time penalty
  - The “penalty” is
    - A stoppage of play when the offending team gains possession and control of the puck
    - A faceoff in the zone of least territorial advantage