

Faceoff or Possession to start the next period?

The Guiding Rule (2016 NFHS)

Rule 4.3 FACING OFF

Article 1, Exception 1:

“In the event of an extra-man situation **or a flag-down creating an extra-man situation** at the conclusion of any period, the next period shall be commenced by awarding possession of the ball in the same relative position on the field to the team that had possession of the ball (**or is entitled to possession by a play-on**) at the conclusion of the prior period. However, if the period ends with no team in possession, **except in the previously mentioned flag-down situation**, the ball shall be faced with all the normal restrictions.”

The Possible Outcomes

| Players in penalty Box | Possession at end of period | Flag Down at end of period | Play on at end of period | Next Period starts with |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Even | White | No | No | Faceoff |
| | No | No | Yes | Faceoff |
| | Yes or No | On Black | No | White possession |
| Uneven | White | No | No | White possession |
| | No | No | Yes (on black) | White Possession |
| | No | No | Yes (on white) | Black Possession |
| Uneven-Black | Yes or No | On Black | No | White possession |
| | No | On White | No | Faceoff |
| Uneven-White | No | On Black | No | Faceoff |
| | Yes or No | On White | No | Black Possession |

- Note that a slow whistle (Flag down or Play on) that is in effect at the end of a period DENOTES POSSESSION. This includes situations where the ball is in flight, as on a pass or shot. From there, it only matters whether the teams will start at even strength in the next period to determine faceoff or possession.
- Naturally, any dead-ball fouls after the period ends and before the next begins can change things. See Rule 7 for discussion of dead ball and simultaneous fouls for clarification on proper adjudication.
- In the above table, assume that the last four lines represent uneven situations where there is only a one man advantage, and that a single flag on the man-up team will create an even situation. The logic extends to a 2-man advantage being evened out by 2 flags on the man-up team.