## Hundred Year-Old Hockey: Rules Changes to play HOCKEY BLAST With 1923-24 Teams

## By Bruce McFarlane

The first thing gamers will notice is that there are so few cards. In 1923, clubs were only allowed to dress 12 players. The common convention was to have two full forward lines (who would spell each other off, in 3 to 6 minute shifts) a defensive trio, one goalie and two substitutes (who would "ride the bench", until needed). With such an arrangement we do not need both the "Skip a Line" and "Double Shift" tactics, in Hockey Blast. In fact, with only two lines, when a team "Skips a Line" is, effectively, a "Double Shifts", anyway. Remove "Skip a Line" tactic, in the 1923 game. However, gamers are allowed to use the "Double Shift" tactic THREE times, in each period.

Until 1956, a player was not released from the penalty box when the opposition scored on a minor two-minute penalty. He had to serve his full two minute suspension. In Hockey Blast, when the opposition scores, on a Power Play, continue with the penalty until the full two minutes have been served.

In 1923, goalies had to serve their own penalties. With no other player dressed in goal equipment, it was a pretty good bet the ensuing power play would score at least one goal. In Hockey Blast, when a goalie commits an infraction, score one goal, immediately, and play out the rest of the two minute penalty to see if a second (or third) goal is scored.

Refrigeration units of the 1920s were not as powerful and robust as the industrial units we have today. As a result, the ice was at the mercy of the outside temperature, humidity and even the heat generated by thousands of fans. Often, by the third period, players were skating in slush. A situation exacerbated some evenings by fans throwing handfuls of salt onto the ice if the home team was winning in the third period. To get a sense of this "slowing game", limit "Lulls", in the first period to only TWO minutes. In the second period "Lulls" are the usual THREE minutes and in the third period "Lulls" are a full FOUR minutes long.

You'd better get a lead early!



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