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In attempt to improve sightlines from above and increase the area surrounding the net for enhanced play the National Hockey League (NHL) has approved the use of a redesigned goal net for the 2013/14 season. The new net has a slightly smaller base and enhanced upper net design that will allow for improved viewing by on ice officials and where applicable by video equipment used to confirm game play.

- ❖ There is no change to the size of the front opening of the goal area of 1.2192m x 1.8288m (4ft x 6ft)
 - ❖ 45.7cm (18in) of clear plastic that starts at the post and extends 45.7cm (18in) back on both sides has been added to the skirting to allow for improved viewing by on ice officials. It is fully replaceable without replacing the entire skirt
- ❖ New nets will continue to fit on existing net moving equipment.

Please Note:

As of this date there is no expectation for any community arena to upgrade their current goal nets to this new design.

As with any such modification a complete review should be conducted post season to determine if in fact the redesign meets the NHL's set expectations for an improved field of play. It is anticipated that other leagues will monitor this change and discuss if this improvement should be adopted into their official rule book.

There is often the inherited expectation that

the related costs for such an upgrade should be absorbed by the ice rink operation yet there is no obligation for any facility to do so. At an estimated cost of \$2000-\$3000 per-set (plus shipping costs) facility management should consider how this expense might be best covered. The addition of a surcharge to current ice hockey ice rates for one season may assist in recovering the costs is not unreasonable.

ORFA Members are encouraged to maintain strong communication with their facility user groups/leagues to ensure that they are adequately prepared to meet any expected increase in customer service.

Other Resources

ORFA members are invited to review the "Suggested Guidelines for Ice Arena Goal Nets and Goal Frame Anchoring Systems 2013" - http://member.orfa.com/Resources/Document/s/librarydocs/guides_bp/Suggested%20Guidelines%20for%20Arena%20Goal%20Nets%20and%20Goal%20Frame%20Anchoring%20Systems.pdf

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