



MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2021

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Ice Hockey Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches, Supervisors of Officials and Game Officials.

FROM: Jeff Fulton, Secretary-Rules Editor
NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

Hillary Witt, Chair
NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Postseason Play – Rules Reminders.

As the regular season is quickly coming to a close, the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee is providing some reminders entering postseason play, as there are some differences between regular-season and postseason competition.

Rule 93.4-12 – Video Review of Offsides/Too Many Players.

This is a reminder of the video replay criteria dealing with reviews of offsides and too many players. The video replay criteria for offsides and too many players on the ice includes the following language: "*In postseason competition, offsides and too many players infractions are permitted to be reviewed without a coach's challenge.*" This is a difference from the regular-season, when a coach must use a challenge to review these situations.

By rule, the opportunity for review exists during the time the puck entered the attacking zone illegally **as the result of an offside infraction** and until the puck either:

- Leaves the offending team's attacking zone;
- A stoppage of play occurs, and a faceoff is conducted; or
- **The defending team gains possession and control of the puck** (officials are guided to use the same judgment in possession and control as they would use when a delayed penalty is in effect).

Additionally, the opportunity for review exists during the time the puck entered the attacking zone illegally **as a result of the gained advantage created by a too many players infraction** and until the puck either:

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Creating a pathway to opportunity for college athletes

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

- Leaves the offending team's attacking zone; or
- A stoppage of play occurs, and a faceoff is conducted.

Rule 93.4 – 11 – Video Replay – Ejection of Student-Athlete.

Again, a reminder that game officials may use replay during the game to review major penalties that would result in the removal of a student-athlete to ensure proper enforcement. The video replay criteria reads that officials are allowed: *"To allow the on-ice officials to review infractions that may result in the ejection of a student- athlete."*

This rule also includes some guidance for coaches and officials. When utilizing this rule, the circumstances and protocols below are required.

- MUST be when a MAJOR PENALTY is being considered.
- On-ice officials will notify coaches prior to review.
- Instruct Public Address Announcer to make an announcement so fans and media are aware.
- Officials have the following three options for their final determination in situations where the game has been stopped for a penalty:
 - o Minor or major penalty only;
 - o Major and game misconduct; or
 - o Major and game disqualification.
- Where there is a possible infraction that was not observed and a major penalty may be considered, officials may use video to review the incident. Should the officials ascertain the infraction would be a minor penalty only, they may not assess this penalty by video review. However, should the officials ascertain that a major penalty, major and game misconduct or disqualification is warranted they may enforce such under this rule.

Rule 73 – Interference on the Goalkeeper.

The rules committee believes this rule should continue to be reviewed by game officials and coaches to understand the rationale and direction provided by the rules committee.

As a reminder, the rule reads: *"The overriding rationale of this rule is that the goalkeeper should have the ability to defend the goal particularly while in the goal crease. At the same time, attacking players attempting to score a goal also have rights. The rules committee is providing*

discretion and judgment to officials when making determinations on these plays. Officials must take into account the nature of any contact that occurs and the impact of such contact or positioning on the goalkeeper's ability to defend the goal. Finally, when video replay is available to review such plays, evidence to overturn a goal must be clear and conclusive."

Finally, as a reminder, when using video replay for any of the allowable criteria (See, Rule 93), *conclusive video evidence must present to overturn the initial on-ice call.*

Rule 81 – Faceoff Protocol.

The Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee believes the rules governing faceoffs are adequate and appropriate. Enforcement of these rules, particularly in encroachment and centers that do not abide by the instructions of the officials, must be strictly adhered to. The lines on the ice are clear and stringent enforcement of these rules is the expectation.

Rule 68 – Diving/Embellishment.

The Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee is concerned with continued presence of diving and embellishment throughout both the men's and women's games. As a point of emphasis over the past few years, all parties should work to stop the spread of diving and embellishment. Attempting to deceive an official through these actions shows a lack of respect and the responsibility to curb this behavior must be shared by players, coaches, officials and administrators.

The Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee requests that this information be reviewed with all administrators, coaches, players and officials. A PDF version of the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Book can be found [here](#). In addition, the preseason rules video can be found [here](#). Thank you for your time and attention.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NCAAFulton@gmail.com.

Good luck down the stretch.

JF:th

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members