



November 2, 2021

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Ice Hockey Coaches and Game Officials.

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

SUBJECT: Goaltender Interference Guidance.

The NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee is distributing this guidance to assist in the application of the goaltender interference rules (Rule 73). First, a reminder regarding the rules:

Rule 73.1 Interference on the Goalkeeper - The overriding rationale of this rule is that a goalkeeper should have the ability to move freely within the goal crease without being hindered by the actions of an attacking player. However, an attacking player's position, whether inside or outside the crease, should not, by itself, determine whether a goal should be allowed or disallowed. In other words, goals scored while attacking players are standing in the crease may, in appropriate circumstances, be allowed.

Goals should be disallowed only if an attacking player, either by positioning or by contact, impairs the goalkeeper's ability to defend the goal.

Rights of the Goaltender – The rules must protect the goaltender and allow him or her to defend the goal, within the goal crease, without interference from an attacking player. This includes allowing a goaltender to move effectively and efficiently within the crease, as well as being able to see the puck unimpeded by a player who has established a position in the crease.

In the video clip link below, the goaltender makes an initial save with the goal pad. The attacking player makes contact with the goaltender with his stick and forces the puck loose. The result of the contact allows the attacking player to put the loose puck into the net.

The rules committee would like to provide additional guidance in this situation: "An attacking player who initiates deliberate contact with a goalkeeper that leads to the puck entering the net and the goal should be disallowed. A reminder to officials for purposes of this rule, "contact," whether incidental or otherwise, shall mean any contact that is made between or among a goalkeeper and attacking player(s), whether by means of a stick or any part of the body."

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qmvt61fe4bb093k/2021-10-29-CCHA-Goaltender%20Contact.mp4?dl=0>

Thank you and good luck as the season continues.

JF/TH:brr