



## MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Head Coaches and Game Officials.

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

SUBJECT: Rule 74.2 - Leaving the Penalty Bench.

The NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee reviewed a recent situation regarding a player leaving the penalty box early and was not detected by the on-ice officials. This communication clarifies these situations.

Below is the video clip of the situation:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/kbmez6b4ua1khmb/3.%202022-02-05%20-%20Livebarn-1107636-30000-Iceworks Skating Complex Rink 3 T175949.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/kbmez6b4ua1khmb/3.%202022-02-05%20-%20Livebarn-1107636-30000-Iceworks%20Skating%20Complex%20Rink%203%20T175949.mp4?dl=0)

**Situation:** During an overtime period, a penalized Team A player prematurely leaves the penalty bench with :01 remaining on the penalty time. The player receives a pass and scores a goal.

**Question:** *Is this situation reviewable under rule 93.4 Video Replay Criteria Coaches Challenge, No. 15, for a too many players violation?*

**Guidance/Clarification from Ice Hockey Rules Committee:**

1. This situation (leaving the penalty bench area prematurely) is **NOT reviewable** under the video replay criteria.
2. The committee reminds officials if this situation occurs in future games:
  - a. A heightened awareness is needed by the officiating crew when the release of a player from the penalty box is imminent. It is imperative that the linesman create a sightline on the player leaving the penalty box and the game clock.
  - b. If there is a question on the player leaving the penalty box early officials are encouraged to:
    - (1) Meet with the crew to discuss.
    - (2) Verify with the scorekeeper and penalty box attendant as outlined in rule 74.2.

The committee plans to discuss this and all video replay criteria after the season and consider adjustments this summer.

**Rules Reference:**

*74.2 - Leaving the Penalty Bench* - Except at the end of each period, or on expiration of a penalty, a player may not leave the penalty bench at any time.

Penalized players must remain on the penalty bench during stoppages of play and timeouts.

A player serving a penalty on the penalty bench must step on the ice and proceed to the respective players' bench before a change may be made.

**PENALTY—Bench minor.**

***A penalized player may not leave the penalty bench before the penalty time has expired, regardless if play is in progress.***

***PENALTY—Minor after serving the unexpired penalty time.***

If a player leaves the penalty bench before the penalty is served fully, the penalty timekeeper shall note the time and notify a referee at the next stoppage of play.

A player who returns to the ice before the penalty time has expired because of an error of the penalty timekeeper is not to serve an additional penalty but must serve the unexpired time.

A player who has received a time penalty or one who is serving for a disqualified player, must remain in the penalty bench until the penalty time is completed.

**PENALTY—Minor and the offending player must serve the balance of the initial penalty.**

Thank you and good luck as the season continues.

JF:th

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