



MEMORANDUM

February 21, 2024

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Conference Commissioners,
Head Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Jeff Fulton, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Postseason Rule Reminders.

The NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee is distributing this communication to remind all in the college hockey community of the rules dealing with post-season league play as well as NCAA Tournament play.

As the season progresses toward the end of the regular season, the committee reminds officials and teams of the rules in effect for the postseason:

1. **Rule 91.4 Tied Games - Postseason Conference/NCAA Tournament Competition** - Where advancement in a bracket or the determination of a tournament champion is necessary, any series in a format (e.g., single game, minigame series) that results in a tie shall be broken by 20-minute, sudden-victory overtime periods.

The following shall apply:

- The ice shall be resurfaced upon completion of regulation play.
- The teams shall change ends at the end of each period (except as indicated in Rule 90.2).
- Each team shall be allowed a one-minute timeout per overtime period; the timeout may be taken anytime during a stoppage of play. The regulation timeout **does not** carry over to the overtime period.
- A one-minute ice maintenance timeout shall occur at the first stoppage of play under the 10-minute mark. Teams may return to their benches. If the stoppage in play results in a team not being allowed to change its players, play shall continue until a normal stoppage of play occurs.
- For conferences utilizing a mini game format: A tied game in a minigame series must use a five-minute overtime period. If the series is tied after the second game, a 20-minute, 5-on-5 overtime minigame will be played after an intermission period. See Appendix A in the NCAA Ice Hockey rules book for complete procedures.

2. Video Review Criteria.

As a reminder, the replay rules no longer allow for an off-ice video replay official to confirm and clear goals (e.g., verify plays are onside) before play resumes. The 2024 postseason (including NCAA Championship events that have video replay) will use the same procedures used during the regular season. All aspects of the video replay criteria, including those requiring a coach's challenge, will be in effect.

It should be noted that the video replay official may request to review a potentially non-detected goal. Additionally, the video replay official may confirm the puck entered from the front of the net and below the top of the net, and completely crossed the goal line. In situations when a non-detected goal is awarded, officials will reset the game clock accordingly. If penalties occur prior to or after the undetected goal, these penalties will be enforced regardless of team.

A coach may challenge a ruling in accordance with Rule 93.4. If a coach's challenge is unsuccessful, that team's timeout will be charged the first time it occurs in a game. The second and subsequent times a play is challenged and not overturned, a bench minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed. If the team has already utilized their timeout for any reason, a bench minor penalty will be assessed on the first challenge of the game.

The following criteria are subject to the use of video replay:

Referee Use or Coach's Challenge. The items below may be reviewed through **either referee discretion or by a coach's challenge**:

1. A puck crossing the goal line.
2. A puck entering the net before the goal frame is dislodged. (see Rule 83.5.)
3. A puck entering the net before or after expiration of time at the end of a period, a whistle, or referee's determination that play has stopped.
4. A puck deflected into the net by an official.
5. To establish the correct time on the clock, or to determine the correct location of a faceoff.
6. To allow the on-ice officials to review infractions that may result in the ejection of a student-athlete. (See Rule 93.4-c)
7. To determine if a goal was scored before a penalty infraction occurred. Note: When it is determined a major penalty occurred prior to a goal, the goal shall be disallowed, and clock will be reset to time of infraction.
8. To correctly identify individuals who participated in a fight or committed an infraction.
9. The legitimacy of all potential goals on Penalty Shot or Shootout attempts to ensure compliance with applicable rules (e.g., double tap, rebound, goalkeeper throwing stick,

goalkeeper dislodging goal, shooter cradling puck above the normal height of the shoulders, shooter performing illegal spin-o-rama move, skater's continued forward advancement of puck, goalkeeper leaving crease prior to puck touch at center ice, etc.).

Coach's Challenge Only. The items below may **ONLY** be reviewed through a **coach's challenge**:

1. A goal scored as a result of an offside play. The opportunity for review exists during the time the puck entered the attacking zone illegally as a result of the offside infraction and until the puck either:
 - a) Leaves the offending team's attacking zone.
 - b) A stoppage of play occurs, and a faceoff is conducted.
2. A puck directed into the net by a hand or a distinct kicking motion.
3. To determine if an attacking player prevented the goalkeeper from defending the goal in accordance with Rule 73.
4. To determine if a goal was scored as the direct result of a hand pass by an attacking player to a teammate or deflection off of the goalkeeper.
5. To determine if a goal was scored as the direct result of a high stick by an attacking player to a teammate or to himself/herself.
6. To determine if a goal was scored, as a direct result of the puck deflecting off the curved glass or the protective netting above the glass, by the first team to gain possession of the deflected puck.
7. A puck directed or deflected into the net by a high stick.
8. A defending player, except the goalkeeper, falling on the puck, holding the puck or gathering the puck into the body or hands when the puck is within the goal crease. The non-offending team's coach shall have an option of a penalty shot or optional minor.

As a reminder, a potentially missed penalty for too many players on the ice is no longer reviewable as part of video review process.

Note 1: When a goal is disallowed for an offside infraction the clock will be reset to the time at which the play should have been stopped for the missed infraction.

Note 2: Direct Result is defined as there is no Change of Possession after the infraction and prior to the goal.

Any potential goal requiring video review must be reviewed prior to or during the next stoppage of play. No goal may be awarded (or disallowed) as a result of video review once the puck has been dropped and play has resumed. Video review must be initiated and reviewed prior to officials exiting the ice for the end of a period or game. In situations where there is an initial false face-off a team will be allowed to challenge prior to the second drop since the clock has not started and play has not resumed.

3. **Ejection of Student-Athlete - Enforcement Guidance.** Game officials may use replay to review major penalties that would result in the removal of a student-athlete to ensure proper enforcement.

The following guidance shall be used:

1. Officials may only use this procedure when a major penalty is being considered.
2. On-ice officials will notify coaches before starting the review and alert the scorer's table to communicate the review through the announcer.
3. Officials have three penalty options when the game has been stopped for a penalty in these situations:
 - a. Major or minor penalty only
 - b. Major and game misconduct
 - c. Major and disqualification

Officials are allowed to review a possible infraction that was not observed during play and a major penalty may be considered. Should the officials determine the infraction to be less than a major penalty, officials may not assess this penalty by video review.

However, if the officials determine that a major penalty, major and game misconduct or disqualification has occurred, those penalties may be enforced under this rule.

Thank you for your attention to this reminder and good luck as the post season begins.

JF:th

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee
NCAA Registered Officials and Coordinators of Officials
Selected NCAA Staff Members