



2026 NCAA ICE HOCKEY APPEALS PROCESS

When a player is assessed a Game Misconduct or Game Disqualification penalty in an NCAA ice hockey contest, the following process shall be followed if the team and conference believe the ruling on the ice was clearly and obviously in error and determine that an appeal is warranted.

1. Conference Review

- a. A team wishing to appeal a Game Misconduct or Game Disqualification shall notify its respective conference office.
- b. The conference commissioner and coordinator of officials shall review the play. If they agree there is clear and obvious evidence that the ruling on the ice was in error, the conference may submit an appeal to the National Coordinator of Officials and Secretary-Rules Editor.

Note: In cases where the Secretary Rules Editor also acts as a conference coordinator of officials, the National Coordinator will be the sole decision maker.

2. Submission of Appeal

- a. The conference shall submit the appeal through the [Appeal Form in RQ+](#) within the following deadlines:
 - i. First or Second Game Misconduct: Within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.
 - ii. Game Disqualification or Third Game Misconduct: Within 12 hours of the conclusion of the game.

3. Review Standard

- a. The National Coordinator of Officials and Secretary-Rules Editor shall review the appeal to determine whether the ruling on the ice was clearly and obviously in error.
 - i. If the review provides clear and obvious evidence that the ruling on the ice was in error, the conference and team will be notified that the ruling on the ice has been overturned.
 - ii. If the review does not provide clear and obvious evidence that the ruling on the ice was in error, the conference and team will be notified that the ruling on the ice has been upheld.

- b. The ruling on the ice is the starting point for the review. The purpose of the appeal process is not to re-officiate the play or substitute judgment when reasonable judgment may differ. There must be clear and obvious evidence that the ruling was in error.
- 4. Review Timeframe
 - a. The NCAA will make every effort to complete its review within the following timeframes after receiving a completed appeal:
 - i. First or Second Game Misconduct: Within 72 hours.
 - ii. Game Disqualification or Third Game Misconduct: Team appealing will receive notification by 1:00 p.m. local time the following day.

Applicable Rule

- 29.1 The proper disciplinary authority may, at the conclusion of the game, and at its discretion, investigate any egregious incidents that occur in connection with any game and may assess additional suspensions for any offense committed before, during or after a game by a player, coach or non-playing personnel, independent of whether such offense had been penalized by a referee. In cases where a game misconduct or game disqualification penalty is enforced, a conference may appeal to the NCAA secretary-rules editor and national coordinator of officials (men's or women's) to review the penalty for a possible reduction. In NCAA championship competition, the proper disciplinary authority is the divisional championship committee or its designee.

Note: The proper disciplinary authority has a responsibility to identify the proper penalized player.