



**APPROVED CLARIFICATIONS AND RATIONALE FOR THE
2026-27 AND 2027-28 ICE HOCKEY RULES BOOK
OCTOBER 16, 2026**

Rule(s)	Clarification and Rationale
9.4 Helmet and Facemask 67.1 Delaying the Game 67.5 Awarded Goal	Clarification: The rules distinguish deliberate helmet removal by a goalkeeper from deliberate helmet removal by a defending skater during a breakaway. A goalkeeper who deliberately removes the helmet or face mask during a breakaway, penalty shot or shootout attempt causes an immediate stoppage and an awarded goal. If a defending skater deliberately removes their helmet during an opponent's breakaway while the goalkeeper remains in position, play stops and the non-offending team receives a penalty shot/optional minor penalty. If the goalkeeper has been replaced by an extra attacker, the same deliberate act by a defending skater results in an awarded goal. Rule 67.5 also specifies an awarded goal for deliberate goal-post displacement by a player or goalkeeper during a breakaway. Rationale: Distinguishes the responsible player and whether a goalkeeper is available to defend the scoring opportunity, removes conflicting penalty references, and protects the attacking team from a deliberate act intended to stop a breakaway.
25.3 Designated Player	Clarification: Restores the provision that, when a penalty shot is awarded under Rule 67.1 or 67.2 in the applicable circumstances, the player last in possession of the puck takes the shot. Related rule references have been updated. Rationale: Identifies the proper shooter and avoids uncertainty over whether the non-offending team may select any eligible player. Other designated-player provisions of Rule 25.3 continue to apply to their specified situations.
67.2 Net Dislodgement	Clarification: Restores the penalty options for a player, including a goalkeeper, who deliberately displaces a goal post: ordinarily a minor penalty; with less than two minutes remaining in regulation or at any time in overtime, a penalty shot/optional minor penalty; and an awarded goal if the act prevents an obvious and imminent goal at any time. Play ordinarily stops when the goal is displaced, but may continue until an offensive scoring chance is complete when the non-offending team's own defensive goal cage has been displaced. The specific awarded-goal provision for deliberate displacement during a breakaway is addressed in Rule 67.5. Rationale: Reestablishes the full penalty framework and ensures enforcement reflects game circumstances and the scoring opportunity affected, rather than treating all dislodgements alike.
67.4 Penalty Shot	Clarification: Specifies that a penalty shot/optional minor penalty for a defending skater (other than the goalkeeper) falling on, holding, picking up, or gathering the puck into the body or hands in the goal crease applies only when

	the puck is inside the crease at the instant of the infraction. Play is stopped immediately; no additional penalty is assessed for that infringement. Rationale: Establishes a clear, observable location-and-time standard for the penalty-shot ruling and prevents application when the puck is outside the crease.
67.6 No Line Change 85.4 Change of Players on Icing	Clarification: Confirms that, following the applicable no-change stoppages under Rule 67.6 and an icing under Rule 85.4, the non-offending/attacking team selects either defending-zone face-off dot. Rule 67.6 covers accidental displacement of the goal by a defending skater and a goalkeeper freezing a puck shot into the end zone from the attacking team's own side of center ice. In the latter situation, a deflection off any player does not remove the no-change restriction. The applicable substitution exceptions remain in force, including replacement of an injured player, return of a goalkeeper substituted for an extra attacker, or a penalty affecting on-ice strength. Rationale: Makes face-off dot choice explicit and aligns its administration across these no-change situations, while preventing a deflection or stoppage from defeating the intended substitution restriction.
80.3 Line Change 92.1 Time-out	Clarification: Expressly distinguishes division-specific timeout procedures when a team is prohibited from substituting players. In women's hockey and Division III men's hockey, the team subject to the no-change restriction may use its own timeout to make a substitution. In Division I men's hockey, the defending team may not use a timeout to circumvent the substitution restriction under Rule 80.3; Rule 92.1 also prohibits a timeout following a face-off violation in Division I men's hockey. Rationale: Prevents the Division I men's timeout restrictions from being incorrectly applied to women's hockey or Division III men's hockey and provides a consistent procedure for officials and benches.
Appendix D Summary of Faceoff Locations	Clarification: Renames the third column heading from "One Zone Closer to the Offending Team's Defensive Zone" to "Face-off Spot of Least Territorial Advantage." Rationale: Aligns the reference table with the revised face-off location principles in Rules 84.3 and 84.4 and avoids implying that every applicable infraction automatically requires moving the face-off exactly one zone.