



## MEMORANDUM

March 5, 2026

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Ice Hockey Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches, Coordinators of Officials, Registered Officials.

FROM: Jeff Fulton  
Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Goaltender Helmet Displacement During Play

Dear Coaches and Officials,

This message is intended to provide clarification and guidance regarding situations in which a goaltender's helmet and/or facemask becomes displaced during play.

When a goaltender's helmet and/or facemask comes off during play, the on-ice officials should stop play immediately when they become aware of the situation. Player safety remains the priority in these circumstances.

Please note the following important points:

- A displaced goaltender helmet situation is **not reviewable** under the **Missed Game Stoppage** provisions.
- If the officials stop play due to a goaltender's displaced helmet/facemask, a **goal cannot be awarded** on that play.
- The whistle for the displaced helmet/facemask effectively stops play at that moment, regardless of the puck's location or any subsequent scoring action.
- Officials should remain vigilant in identifying a displaced helmet/facemask as quickly as possible and stop play promptly once it is observed.
- As there is a human factor involved in blowing the whistle to stop play, the referee may intend for the play to be stopped slightly before the whistle blows. For example, the fact that the puck may come loose or cross the goal line before the sound of the whistle has no bearing if the referee determined that the play had stopped.

This guidance is intended to ensure a consistent application of the rule across all games while maintaining the safety of the goaltender. If there are any questions regarding this situation or other video review or game administration procedures, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your attention and continued professionalism.

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CC: Division I Men's Ice Hockey Rules Subcommittee  
Division I Women's Ice Hockey Rules Subcommittee  
Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee

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