



MEMORANDUM

February 18, 2026

VIA EMAIL

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

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

SUBJECT: Use of Timeout in Overtime – Unsuccessful Coach’s Challenge.

This memorandum provides guidance on administering team timeouts in overtime when a coach’s challenge is unsuccessful. The objective is to ensure consistency nationally during overtime periods and to make sure there is clear guidance regarding challenges during overtime periods.

When a team initiates a coach’s challenge during overtime and the challenge is ruled unsuccessful, that team shall forfeit its allotted overtime timeout. If the team has already used its overtime timeout, the existing delay-of-game bench minor shall be assessed, consistent with current penalty provisions.

Overtime Timeout - Interaction with Unsuccessful Challenge – Key Notes:

- If a team initiates a coach’s challenge in overtime and the challenge is ruled **unsuccessful**, the team **forfeits its overtime timeout**.
- If the team **does not** have its **overtime timeout remaining** at the time of an unsuccessful challenge, a **delay-of-game bench minor** is assessed in accordance with existing penalty provisions.
- If a challenge is **successful**, there is **no impact** on the team’s overtime timeout.

Scenario 1 — Unsuccessful Challenge, Timeout Available.

Situation: Team A initiates a coach’s challenge for goaltender interference at 2:10 of overtime. Team A has not used its overtime timeout.

Ruling: Video review confirms the call on the ice. Team A forfeits its overtime timeout. Play resumes per standard procedures.

Scenario 2 — Unsuccessful Challenge, No Timeout Remaining.

Situation: Team B challenges an offside entry at 1:35 of overtime. Team B previously used its overtime timeout.

Ruling: Review confirms the on-ice call. Team B is assessed a delay-of-game bench minor in accordance with existing penalty provisions.

Scenario 3 — Successful Challenge, Timeout Preserved.

Situation: Team A challenges a goal for missed stoppage at 0:58 of overtime. Team A has its overtime timeout.

Ruling: Review overturns the goal. No timeout impact. Overtime timeout remains available to Team A.

Scenario 4 — Timeout Request and Challenge During Timeout Period.

Situation: Following a stoppage in overtime, Team B calls a timeout, which is granted. During the timeout period, Team B's coach initiates a coach's challenge.

Ruling: If the challenge is unsuccessful, Team B cannot be charged a second timeout. Because no overtime timeout remains, assess a delay-of-game bench minor.

Applicable Rules References:

92.1 **Timeout** - Each team shall be allowed a one-minute timeout during regulation play in the game; the timeout may be taken anytime during a stoppage of play. A team will be permitted to use its timeout for rules that do not allow a substitution of players. The team that is prevented by rule from substituting its players must call the timeout to be allowed to change.

92.2 Timeout During Overtime - Each team shall be awarded one team timeout if the game is tied after 60 minutes of play. This is not an additional timeout in cases when a team has not utilized its timeout during regulation play.

93.7 Team Timeout Request/Coach's Challenge - 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. This policy applies to any video replay procedure used. The on-ice official makes the final decision.

Thank you for your attention to this important guidance. Good luck to all as the season progresses.

JF:pa