



NCAA WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY EXPERIMENTAL RULE 2026-27 SEASON – FOR CONFERENCE PLAY ONLY

The NCAA Division I Women's Ice Hockey Rules Subcommittee is interested in allowing institutions to experiment and provide data and feedback as it considers potential rules change in the future. The Division I Women's Ice Hockey Rules Subcommittee recommended the following experimental rule, which was approved by the Women's Ice Hockey Committee.

Any conference interested in experimenting must submit the request in writing to Paden Alie (palie@ncaa.org). Conferences granted permission to experiment are required to collect data and submit it to the Division I Women's Ice Hockey Rules Subcommittee at the end of the season. The subcommittee will communicate with the conferences regarding what data points they are expected to collect and focus on during the season. The experimental rules are approved for the 2026-27 season during conference play only. The experimental rules will not be used during the NCAA postseason.

Unlimited High Sticking:

Players are allowed to play the puck with their sticks at any height – no restriction at shoulder or crossbar level. Permitted skill plays include batting pucks out of the air, redirecting or tipping pucks, and scoring goals with high sticks. This does not apply during penalty shot or shootout plays to prevent “lacrosse style” goals.

High sticking an opponent is still a penalty with infractions called if contact is made to an opponent above the shoulders and/or for reckless or dangerous use of the stick.