



MEMORANDUM

March 5, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Ice Hockey Commissioners, Head Coaches, Supervisors of Officials and Game Officials.

FROM: Wayne Dean, chair
NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee

Steve Piotrowski, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Postseason Play – Too Many Players Video Review

This correspondence is in response to numerous concerns raised by the college hockey community nationally concerning the administration of the video review criteria for Too Many Players leading to and as the result of a goal. The rules committee is providing the following communication to further assist in the understanding of the true intent and spirit of this rule, and what would be the acceptable rulings to overturn a goal scored as it applies to Too Many Player violations.

The committee believes, in recent seasons, that the rules regarding player changes have not been well defined, allowing teams to gain an unfair advantage in some situations. The current rule defines how close a player must be to the bench before a change is considered legal.

The rules committee's original intent in establishing a measurement for legal player changes was to tighten up how these changes would be made. Further, the intent was to allow video review as outlined in Rule 93.4-12 to be utilized for Too Many Player violations that create a gained advantage that lead directly to a goal rather than players that are behind the play and may not have been five feet from the bench when a goal was scored. These players had no direct impact in creating an advantage leading to the goal.

The rules committee is seeing situations in which goals are being disallowed due to undetected player change infractions that had no impact on the goal scored. As a result, the rules committee feels it is important to provide additional guidance to assist in properly administering the true intent of the video review criteria as it applies to too many players leading to a goal.

Interpretations

Video Review Situations – Too Many Players. Several potential scenarios were raised, and additional guidance is provided below:

Situation 1: At the 16:00 mark of the second period, Team B player B15 comes onto the ice before the player he is changing for is within five feet of his team's bench, B15 picks up a loose puck in the neutral zone and goes down ice on a breakaway and scores. This play is unobserved by the

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officials on the ice. Team A coach requests a timeout to review a potential Too Many Player violation resulting in a goal. The initial on-ice call is a goal. Upon video review, the referees find that Team B player B15 was on the ice prior to his teammate being five feet from the bench. What is the ruling?

RULING: No goal following the review. Since this illegal player change created a gained advantage and led directly to the goal.

Situation 2: At the 10:00 mark of the first period, Team A is on a line rush and enters the attacking zone as Team A player A4 comes onto the ice before the player he is changing for is within five feet of the bench. A4 enters the attacking zone and receives a pass from a teammate then shoots and scores a goal. Team B coach requests a timeout to review a potential Too Many Player violation resulting in a goal. The initial on-ice call is a goal. Upon video review, the referees find that Team A player A4 was on the ice prior to his teammate being five feet from the bench. What is the ruling?

RULING: No goal following the review. Since this illegal player change created a gained advantage and led directly to the goal.

Situation 3: An attacking team clearly has too many players on the ice participating in play in the neutral zone near the player bench. This is unobserved by the officials on the ice. The attacking team realizes there are too many players and removes the additional player immediately. Shortly thereafter, the attacking team gains possession in the attacking zone. Play continues and during the possession, the attacking team scores. What is the ruling?

RULING: Good goal following the review. This type of scenario did not create a gained advantage and did not lead directly to the goal being scored.

Situation 4: At the 6:00 mark of the first period, Team A is on a line rush and enters the attacking zone 3 on 2. Well behind the play and with no gained advantage present, Team A defenseman A57 is attempting to change and is not five feet from his team's bench. This is unobserved by the officials on the ice. A3 comes onto the ice replacing A57 before A57 is five feet from the bench. Within seconds of this Team A player changes behind the play, Team A scores. What is the ruling?

RULING: Good goal following the review. This type of scenario did not create a gained advantage and did not lead directly to the goal being scored.

In closing, please note that if a video review identifies a clear infraction of Too Many Players that resulted in a gained advantage and led directly to a goal, the goal should be disallowed. However, a penalty for Too Many Players shall not be assessed through the use of video review.

The rules committee hopes these interpretations help provide guidance and further communication as we head into postseason play. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to

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cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members