



MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2026

VIA EMAIL

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

FROM: Steve Piotrowski
Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Ice Hockey.

SUBJECT: Early Season Interpretations.

In addition to yesterday's reminders, we have had some questions arise in early season games and scrimmages. Please see the following clarifications and interpretations:

1. Timeouts in no-change situations.

- **Situation:** Team A has committed an icing violation with 2:43 remaining in the third period. They attempt to use their timeout to change their players.
- **Ruling:** Legal, permit the timeout by Team A. Timeouts are only restricted during a no-change situation in Division I Men's games.

2. Back-to-back timeouts during the same stoppage.

- **Situation:** Team A has committed an icing violation with 2:43 remaining in the third period. Team B calls a timeout. Is Team A allowed to change their players?
- **Ruling:** Team A must utilize their own timeout to be eligible to change their players in this situation. The Team B timeout does not directly allow them to change their player. The team that is prevented by rule from substituting its players must call the timeout to be allowed to change.
Note: The 2026-27 Rule Change preventing back-to-back timeouts during the same stoppage only applies to Division I Men.

3. Faceoff location after play is stopped for a high stick or hand pass.

- **Situation:** Team B plays the puck with a high stick nearest the center ice red line. Where should the faceoff be located?

- ***Ruling:*** Rule 84 dictates officials shall use the face-off spot nearest the point of the infraction that provides the offending team with the least territorial advantage. The center-ice face-off spot is an available face-off location and should be used when appropriate under this standard.

4. Exhibition Game Rule Modifications

- ***Situation:*** Two teams are competing in a pre-season exhibition game and wish to play an overtime period and a shootout, regardless of the score of the exhibition game.
- ***Ruling:*** Rule 30.3 permits the head coaches of both teams to mutually agree, prior to the game to modify, conduct, or omit overtime procedures and/or a shootout. The officials should be notified prior to the game.
- ***When overtime or shootout is used to resolve a tied game at the end of an exhibition:*** The overtime period and/or shootout will be played to the point of game resolution.
- ***When overtime or shootout is used following an exhibition for developmental purposes:*** The full overtime and/or shootout may be played.

Note: All overtime and shootout procedures must be administered in accordance with the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Book.

SP:pa

cc: NCAA Division I Women's Ice Hockey Rules Subcommittee
NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee
NCAA Division I Women's Ice Hockey Committee
NCAA Registered Women's Ice Hockey Officials
Select NCAA Staff Members