



MEMORANDUM

September 30, 2026

VIA EMAIL

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

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

SUBJECT: Exhibition Game Clarifications

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance and clarification regarding NCAA Ice Hockey exhibition games and the application of Rule 30.3. As institutions prepare for and participate in exhibition contests, several questions have been raised regarding the flexibility permitted under the rule, including overtime and shootout procedures, roster requirements, and the administration of penalties and discipline. The information below is intended to provide a consistent understanding and application of the exhibition game provisions across NCAA ice hockey.

As a reminder, 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, provided the agreement is communicated to the referee before the start of the game.

The following procedures apply:

- **Game Decided in Regulation:** If a winner is determined at the end of regulation, the game is complete for purposes of determining the official result. The teams may conduct an overtime period and/or shootout for exhibition or developmental purposes only if mutually agreed upon prior to the game.
- **Game Tied After Regulation:** If the game is tied at the end of regulation, the teams may play overtime, proceed directly to a shootout, or conclude the game as a tie, based on the procedure mutually agreed upon prior to the game.
- **Overtime Period:** If the teams agree to conduct a 5-minute overtime period for exhibition or developmental purposes after a winner has already been determined in regulation, the overtime ends when a goal is scored.
- **Shootout:** A shootout may be conducted for exhibition or developmental purposes even when the game winner has already been determined in regulation or overtime, provided it was mutually agreed upon prior to the game.
- **Shootout Used to Determine the Winner:** When a shootout is being used, the shootout ends once the winning goal has been determined in accordance with the applicable shootout procedure.
- **Pregame Agreement Required:** Any modification to the standard overtime or shootout rules must be mutually agreed upon by both head coaches before the game and

communicated to the referee. Procedures should not be changed once the game has begun.

Unless modified under Rule 30.3, all overtime and shootout procedures must be administered in accordance with the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Book.

A few other reminders to teams and coaches regarding Exhibition Games:

- There shall be no restriction on the number of eligible players/goalkeepers who may participate in an exhibition game.
- A game misconduct penalty assessed during an exhibition game shall be recorded and included in the accumulation of game misconduct penalties under Rule 22.2 (Suspensions).
- A player who receives a disqualification penalty in any game, including an exhibition game, shall not be permitted to participate in the team's next played regular-season or tournament game against an NCAA member institution.
- Exhibition games shall not be used to fulfill any suspension resulting from a disqualification penalty. If a disqualification penalty is assessed during an exhibition game, the required suspension shall be served during the team's next applicable regular-season or tournament game against an NCAA member institution.
- Any suspension imposed through the supplemental discipline process shall be served during the team's next applicable regular-season or postseason game(s) against an NCAA member institution.
- All NCAA Ice Hockey Playing Rules shall apply during exhibition games

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