



MEMORANDUM

October 12, 2018

VIA EMAIL

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

FROM: Steve Piotrowski
Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Preseason Rules Guidance and Clarifications.

During recent preseason officiating clinics and coaches meetings, several questions were raised concerning some of the new playing rules and interpretations. The rules committee is providing the following communication to further assist in the understanding of the playing rules as officials and teams prepare for the upcoming season. Listed below are several situations that were raised as well as some minor clarifications.

Interpretations

Rule 80.1, 75.1 – Change of Players. **“Players may be changed at any time from the players’ bench, provided the player or players leaving the ice are within five feet of the bench before the substitute may contact the ice.”** **“A player, in the course of making a substitution while entering or leaving the game, may not deliberately play the puck with the stick, skates or hands, or check or make physical contact with an opposing player while the retiring player is leaving the ice.”**

Situation 1: During the second period, Team A makes a line change where player A11 exiting the ice enters the bench in the opposing teams end zone and player A17 coming on to the ice enters in the neutral zone, (in one door and out the other). A17 is on the ice PRIOR to A11 being within five feet of the players’ bench. What is the ruling?

RULING: Bench Minor penalty for too many players on the ice. Players may be changed at any time during the play from the players’ bench provided that the player or players leaving the ice shall be within five feet (5') of his players’ bench before the substitute may make contact with the ice to change.

Situation 2: When the player coming off the ice is clearly within five feet of the bench and a teammate replacing him steps onto the ice at this point, can the player coming on the ice play the puck if the player being replaced is still on the ice and not in the bench and out of the play?

RULING: No. A player, in the course of making a substitution while entering or leaving the game, may not deliberately play the puck with the stick, skates or hands, or check or make

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physical contact with an opposing player while the retiring player is leaving the ice. PENALTY—Bench minor (“too many players on the ice”).

Situation 3: Team A makes a line change where player A15 exiting the ice enters the bench in the opposing teams end zone and player A20 coming on to the ice enters in the neutral zone, (in one door and out the other). A20 is on the ice when A15 is WITHIN five feet of the players' bench. What is the ruling?

RULING: No penalty. Players may be changed at any time during the play from the players' bench provided that the player or players leaving the ice shall be within five feet (5') of his players' bench before the substitute may make contact with the ice to change.

Rule 93.7 – Video Replay. “When any aspect of the video replay criteria is challenged, it allows the referee to utilize all aspects of the review criteria to be judged (e.g., high stick challenged, but video shows the puck was kicked into the goal).”

Situation 1: At the 12:00 mark of the first period, the referees conduct a video review requested by coach for a possible high stick resulting in a goal. The initial on-ice call is goal. Following the review, the referees conclude the puck entered the net legally (no high stick) but during the review they also see the play entered the zone offside. There is NO coach challenge for an offside play. At this point in the game (12:00 mark of first period) and with no requesting coach timeout/challenge, is it permissible for the officials to review and overturn the goal for the offside?

RULING: No, it is not permissible for officials to review an offside play except in the last 10 minutes of the game or in the overtime period. Any aspect of the video review process refers to aspects where the referee has discretion to review. Rule 93.4, items 1- 11 and 1-12, provided the review takes place in the last 10 minutes of the game or anytime in overtime may be used under this rule.

Situation 2: The Team A head coach requests a timeout to have the referees review a goal he/she feels was scored as a result of a high stick play. The referees conduct the review and determine the goal was scored legally and NOT the result of a high stick. However, during the review the referees also determine that the puck entered the Team A net as the result of the puck being kicked. Can the referees rule on the kicked in puck as this aspect of video replay criteria was not requested to be reviewed by the Team A coach?

RULING: Yes. When any aspect of the video replay criteria is challenged by a coach, it allows the referee to utilize all aspects of the review criteria that are under referee discretion to be judged (e.g., high stick challenged, but video shows the puck was kicked into the goal).

Situation 3: At the 12:00 mark of the first period, the referees conduct a discretionary video review (not requested by coach) for a possible goal scored by the use of a distinct kicking motion. The initial on-ice call is goal. Following the review, the referees conclude the puck entered the net legally (no kicking motion) but during the review, they also see the play entered the zone offside. There is NO

coach challenge for an offside play. At this point in the game (12:00 mark of first period) and with no coach's challenge, is it permissible for the officials to review and overturn the goal for the offside?

RULING: No. It is not permissible for officials to review an offside play except in the last 10 minutes of the game or in the overtime period. During regular-season competition, a team must use its timeout except in last 10 minutes of the game or in the overtime period to have these plays reviewed. In postseason competition, offsides and too many players infractions are part of the criteria for review without a coach's challenge.

Rule 93.7 – Video Replay. “When a video review, due to technical issues with the video replay system, is unable to provide an adequate review, a team timeout will not be charged.”

Situation 1: The Team B head coach requests a timeout to have the referees review a goal he/she feels was scored because of an offside play. As the referees attempt to conduct the review, the video feed is lost and is unable to be restored to allow the referees to conduct the video review. Since the referees were unable to rule on the Team B coach request to overturn the on-ice call, does Team B lose its timeout?

RULING: No. When a video review, due to technical issues with the video replay system, is unable to provide an adequate review, a team timeout will not be charged.

Situation 2: The Team A head coach requests a timeout to have the referees review a goal he feels was scored because of a possible kicked in puck. As the referees conduct the review, they are unable to find a camera angle that shows conclusively how the puck entered the net. All cameras and video feeds are working. Since the referees were unable to rule on the Team B coach request to overturn the on-ice call, does Team A lose its timeout?

RULING: Yes. Since all cameras and video feeds to the replay system were working and there was not a video replay angle available to overturn the initial on-ice call. Team A is charged with its timeout. Per Rule 93.7 - If the challenge is unsuccessful, the timeout is charged. This timeout policy applies to any video replay procedure used. The on-ice official makes the final decision.

Rule 93.4 – Video Replay. “To allow the on-ice officials to review infractions that may result in the ejection of a student-athlete.” Game officials may use replay during the game to review major penalties that would result in the removal of a student-athlete to ensure proper enforcement.

Reminders/Protocol

- MUST be when a MAJOR PENALTY is being considered.
- On-ice officials will notify coaches prior to review.
- Instruct Public Address Announcer to make an announcement so fans and media are aware.
- Officials have the following three options for their final determination in situations where the game has been stopped for a penalty:
 1. Minor or Major Penalty Only;

2. Major and Game Misconduct; or
 3. Major and Game Disqualification.
- Where there is a possible infraction that was not observed and a major penalty may be considered, officials may use video to review the incident. Should the officials ascertain the infraction would be a minor penalty only, they may not assess this penalty by video review. However, should the officials ascertain that a major penalty, major and game misconduct or disqualification is warranted they may enforce such under this rule.

Examples/Guidance:

Situation 1: Player A1 makes contact with B1 driving the player into the boards. The referee signals for a delayed minor penalty for boarding. After discussion with the rest of the crew, there is at least the potential that this penalty could be a major penalty for hitting from behind.

RULING: Because the crew came to the conclusion that a major penalty should be considered, this play is now reviewable. The officials have all penalty options at their disposal when reviewing this play.

Situation 2: Team A moves the puck through the neutral zone on a rush. The trail official observes a player from Team B down on the ice behind the play with an apparent injury. After play is stopped, the officiating crew huddles. None of the officials saw what occurred to the Team B player.

RULING: The officials may use video replay to determine if a major penalty occurred. In this case, the review may result in no penalty being called OR a minimum of a major penalty. A game misconduct/disqualification may also be assessed. A minor penalty may not be assessed in this situation since there was not an initial penalty being called.

Situation 3: Player A1 makes high contact with Player B1 after B1 releases a pass. B1 is injured on the play. The referee signals for a major penalty for contact to the head on Player A1.

RULING: This play is reviewable to determine if the contact was directly to the head or neck area, so a major penalty is being considered. The officials have all penalty options at their disposal when reviewing this play, but a minimum of a minor penalty must be enforced.

Officials are to use common sense as it relates to a call permitting use of video replay. When there is doubt on an initial call, officials should use the video when applicable to assist in determining the correct outcome. It is important to remember that conclusive video evidence must be present to overturn the on-ice call.

Rule 71 – Handling the Puck. “A player shall not catch the puck and skate with it, in order to conceal the puck or gain a territorial advantage over an opponent. Additionally, a player may not throw the puck.” PENALTY – Minor penalty for closing the hand on the puck.

Situation 1: During a scramble in front of the net a defenseman A4 is standing in front of the net outside the crease. A shot is taken by Team B and deflected in the air. A4 catches the puck with his hand and then throws the puck into the corner. What is the referee's decision?

RULING: Minor penalty for closing the hand on the puck. A player shall be permitted to catch the puck out of the air but must immediately place it or knock it down to the ice. If a player catches it and skates with it, either to avoid a check or to gain a territorial advantage over his opponent or, throws the puck, a minor penalty shall be assessed for “closing his hand on the puck.”

Situation 2: Team A player, A 17, throws the puck into the Team B goal with the hand. What is the ruling?

RULING: Minor penalty to A17 for closing the hand on the puck. The goal is disallowed, and a faceoff shall take place in the Team A defensive zone.

Editorial Clarifications

Clarification in Interpretation Section of Rules Book - Rule 81 Faceoffs, A.R. 14 on Page 122:

A.R. 14: An attacking team player directs or throws the puck into the goal with the hand.

INCORRECT RULING: Goal is disallowed. Faceoff shall take place at the nearest faceoff spot one zone closer to the offending team's goal from the zone in which the infraction took place.

Clarification point: The correct ruling should read - minor penalty to the offending team for closing the hand on the puck, the goal is disallowed, and a faceoff shall take place in the offending team's defensive zone.

There was also a misprint on Page 6 of the 2018-20 Ice Hockey Rules Book. The error is specific to dates indicated as follows: Major Rule Changes for 2019-20 and 2020-21. The correct entry should read - Major Rule Changes for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pre-season guidance information. Hopefully, this will assist officials and coaches in understanding our rules changes for this season. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me, Steve Piotrowski, (spiotrowski@bigten.org). Good luck as the season starts.

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