



2018-19 NCAA ICE HOCKEY POINTS OF EMPHASIS

For the first time at its 2018 annual meeting, the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee developed points of emphasis for the game overall, but also gender-specific points of emphasis where appropriate. The rules committee requests that players, officials and coaches concentrate on the following areas:

Respect for The Game (Men's and Women's)

As stated prior to the 2017-18 season, the rules committee urges a continued commitment by all stakeholders to respect the game and each other, on and off the ice. From the pregame statement to be read in all arenas to the post-game handshake at the conclusion of each contest, the rules committee urges all participants to continue to work together to foster good sportsmanship.

Consistent with the concept of "Respect for the Game," all parties should work to stop the spread of diving and embellishment that has increased in recent years. Attempting to deceive an official through these actions shows a lack of respect and the responsibility to curb this behavior must be shared by players, coaches, on-ice officials and administrators.

Student-Athlete Protection (Men)

Continued diligence is needed with regard to player safety rules, particularly contact to the head, contact against defenseless or unsuspecting players and hitting from behind.

Additionally, other levels of elite ice hockey have identified an increase in slashing and late hits and have taken steps to curb these tactics. While not yet a major issue in college hockey, the rules committee urges officials and coaches to address these issues.

Faceoff Protocol (Men)

In the men's game, the rules committee believes the rules governing faceoffs are adequate and appropriate. Enforcement of these rules, particularly in encroachment and centers that do not abide by the instructions of the officials, must be tightened. The lines on the ice are clear and stringent enforcement of these rules is the expectation.

Student-Athlete Protection (Women)

Continued diligence is needed in the women's game, particularly contact to the head, contact against defenseless or unsuspecting players and contact from behind. Women's representatives on the rules committee also identified an increased use of slashing of the gloves of the puck carrier as a concerning trend.

Allowable Contact (Women)

The wording of the rules governing contact in the women's game (Rule 94) were adjusted for clarity and to assist officials, coaches and student-athletes to better understand these rules. The women's members of the rules committee believe some contact is too often penalized without the elements of body checking. Reviewing the clarified language and accompanying video examples (distributed to all women's institutions and officials) will assist in the understanding of these rules.