MEMORANDUM

October 7, 2016

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 Committee

SUBJECT: Preseason Rules Guidance and Clarifications.

During recent preseason officiating clinics and coaches meetings, several questions were raised concerning some of the new rules and interpretations. The committee is providing the following communication to further assist in the understanding of the 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**

**Video Review Situations – Offside and Too Many Men.** Several potential scenarios were raised at various clinics and the interpretations below are being issued in the spirit and intent of the rules:

**Situation 1:** At the 16:00 mark of the 2nd period, the Team A coach requests a timeout to review a potential offside play resulting in a goal. The initial on-ice call is a goal. Upon video review, the referees find that play entered the zone in a legal manner (no offside) but during the same review the referees find that the puck entered the net from a distinct kicking motion and disallow the goal. Since the coach requested a timeout for the purpose of having the officials review a potential offside goal and the play was found to be on side, does the coach lose the timeout?

**RULING:** As long as a goal is overturned on the subsequent review (regardless of the requested replay criteria), the coach will retain the timeout. However, should the request not result in an overturn of the initial on-ice call the timeout is lost.

**Situation 2:** At the 12:00 mark of the 1st period, the referees conduct a video review (not 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 min mark of 1st period) and with no requesting coach timeout/challenge, is it permissible for the officials to review and overturn the goal for the offside?
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**RULING:** No, it is not permissible for officials to review an offside play except in the last 2 minutes of the game or in the overtime period. Rule 93.4 states – “During regular-season competition, a team must use its timeout except in last two 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.”

**Situation 3:** With 2:08 remaining in regulation time, the attacking team gains possession and control of the puck in the attacking zone, but is offsides. Play continues until the scoring of a goal at the 2:00 mark of the third period. What procedure should the officials follow?

**RULING:** A Referee-initiated review is permitted per Rule 93.4, because the goal is scored in last two minutes of the game. In this situation, officials shall identify what time on the clock the goal was scored as the determining factor for when it is permissible to initiate video replay of an offside play. In this case, if clear video evidence shows the entry into the zone was offside, the goal would be disallowed and time restored to 2:08 of third period.

**Situation 4:** With 2:08 remaining in regulation time, the attacking team gains possession and control of the puck in the attacking zone, but is offsides. Play continues until the scoring of a goal at the 2:02 mark of the third period. What procedure should the officials follow?

**RULING:** A Referee-initiated review is not possible per Rule 93.4, because the goal was not scored in last two minutes of the game. In this situation, officials shall identify what time on the clock the goal was scored as the determining factor for when it is permissible to initiate video replay of an offside play. However, a review would be possible through a team challenge.

*Rule Reference: 9-3.4 – “To determine if a goal was scored as a result of an offside play or as the result of an undetected too many men on the ice infraction by the attacking team. The opportunity for review exists during the time the puck entered the attacking zone illegally as a result of the offside infraction and until the puck leaves the offending team’s attacking zone. During regular-season competition, a team must use its timeout except in last two minutes of the game or in the overtime period to have these plays reviewed.”*

**Use of Computers/Tablets on the Bench (other than video).**

**Question:** Can a team representative (coach, assistant, player, etc.) use a tablet, laptop or mobile device to enter statistical tracking information into a software program (e.g., charting shots or power play opportunities, etc.) while on the bench?

**RULING:** A team is permitted to use a tablet, laptop or mobile device on the bench only for the sole purpose of charting and tracking. Video use is restricted and not permitted on the bench in any manner or at any time during the course of a game.

*Rule reference: Rule 3.1 - “The use of video in the player’s bench area is prohibited. PENALTY – For a violation, after a warning by the referee, a bench minor penalty shall be assessed.”*
Thank you for your time and attention to this early-season guidance information. Hopefully, this will assist officials and coaches in understanding our rules changes for this season.

SP:mm

cc: Selected NCAA Staff