VIA EMAIL

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

FROM:  Joe Bertagna
        Chair, NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee

        Steve Piotrowski
        Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Preseason Rules Guidance and Clarifications.

As you are likely aware, the rules committee and NCAA staff have prepared rules and officiating materials designed to assist in the understanding of our rules and expectations with regard to enforcement. Additional clarification items will likely be distributed in the coming weeks, but the committee wanted to share links to the rules videos and provide some information as the clinic season gets underway.

1. **Rules Videos.** The rules and officiating staff has prepared two video presentations to be utilized at the upcoming clinics and in preseason meetings. Links to the videos are below (Best to view videos using Google Chrome):
   - Rules and Officiating Video (Men’s and Women’s):
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOlaORqhzgc
   - Women’s Supplemental Video: https://vimeo.com/230297937/ad39f0cf85

2. **Point of Emphasis: Showing Respect.** The committee approved several points of emphasis for the 2017-18 season. Student-athlete protection and the standard of play continue to be critically important and therefore remain in the spotlight from last season. A new point of emphasis – showing respect – was added this year. The following statement was approved by the rules committee:

   “Coaches, players and administrators need to ensure that respect for officials, respect for opponents and respect for the game remain a priority on and off the ice at all times. There will be no tolerance for hateful or offensive speech. There will be an effort to eliminate poor sportsmanship before, during or after contests. Consistent with this practice, conferences
should crack down on the continued use of diving and embellishment to influence the calls of an on-ice official.”

3. **New Rule: Video Review of Offsides/Too Many Men.** The committee did make two adjustments to the instant replay rules that deal with offside/too many men reviews. The opportunity for review now exists during the time the puck entered the attacking zone illegally as the result of an offside infraction and until the puck either: 1) Leaves the offending team’s attacking zone; 2) A stoppage of play occurs and a faceoff is conducted; or 3) **The defending team gains possession and control of the puck.** Officials are guided to use the same judgment in possession and control as they would use when a delayed penalty is in effect.

Additionally, during regular-season competition, a team must use its timeout to challenge these plays with the exception of the last 10 minutes of the game or any overtime period. Previously, the last two minutes of the game was the rule. The committee believes this timeframe will provide more time for officials to properly review these plays without a challenge.

4. **Postgame Handshake.** As a reminder, teams and coaches are to shake hands after each game. It is understood that some conferences altered this policy in the past during weekend series, but this is a rule and must be followed. This falls closely in line with the new point of emphasis of showing respect.

5. **Reminder: Use of Computers/Tablets on the Bench (other than video).** The committee has received several inquiries regarding the use of computers/tablets/electronic devices in the bench area. The following interpretation was made prior to last season and remains in place:

   **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.”*

6. **Goalkeeper Equipment.** At the summer meeting, the committee discussed potential changes to goalkeeper equipment and standards that is in development by the National Hockey League and the possible impact on NCAA institutions. While no changes are imminent, it did raise questions about current equipment and enforcement procedures. Currently, a team may not challenge a goalkeeper’s equipment for an in-game penalty. Conferences are encouraged to measure goalkeeper’s equipment in the preseason to ensure compliance.
Additionally, the committee has been asked if a waiver would be provided for taller goalkeepers who would prefer to utilize a longer paddle (the current limit is 26 inches). Appeals must be sent to the secretary-rules editor in writing no later than Monday, October 16.

7. **NCAA Center Ice Hub – Coach Access.** The home of the NCAA’s officiating education and guidance is open to all coaches and conference administrators. You are encouraged to sign up for credentials by going to the link below and clicking on the “REGISTRATION” tab. All educational materials that are distributed to officials will be posted here, including testing, videos and other guidance. As coaches and administrators, we hope you will take advantage of being a part of this important training tool.

   Center Ice Hub site: [https://ncaaicehockey.arbitersports.com/front/](https://ncaaicehockey.arbitersports.com/front/)

8. **Overtime.** In the coming months, the rules committee will be asked to make a decision regarding the overtime procedure that is best for our brand of hockey. The intent will be to consider all areas of this decision, including the impact on NCAA championship selections, and move forward with a proposal at the June 2018 annual meetings. As it stands now, there are several overtime options in the rules book that may be used. Several conferences are using different procedures and the experience gained should provide some good feedback for the committee moving forward. Much more to come on this topic, but the intent is to make a decision in June and move ahead.

Thank you for your time and attention to this preseason guidance. Hopefully, this will assist officials and coaches in understanding our rules changes for this season.

JB/SP:as

cc: Selected NCAA Staff