MEMORANDUM

October 2, 2017

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 Interpretations and Guidance.

During the 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.

New Rule: Video Review of Offsides/Too Many Men. As a reminder, the committee made 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.

Interpretations

Video Review Situations – Offsides 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 8:02 mark of the 2nd period, Team A enters the attacking zone (on a close play at the line, but offside). The linesman rules the play to be onside. Team A chips the puck into the
corner and Team B gains possession and control of the puck. In an attempt to clear the puck from its zone, Team B turns the puck over to a Team A player, who shoots and scores a goal. Can this play be reviewed by the on-ice officials to determine if the initial play was offsides and if the defending team gained possession and control of the puck?

**RULING:** Yes, both scenarios are eligible to be reviewed because they are in criteria for review. However, Team B must use its timeout to challenge this play, because it is not in the last 10 minutes of the game or any overtime period. If the play is overturned on the subsequent review (regardless of the requested replay criteria), Team B will retain its timeout. However, should the request not result in an overturn of the initial on-ice call the timeout is lost. In this case, because possession and control is clearly gained by Team B, the play would stand as a legal goal due to the rules change made this year.

**Situation 2:** At the 12:00 mark of the first 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 a 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 coaches’ challenge for an offside play. **Question 1:** 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? **Question 2:** Is a team able to challenge the offside portion of the play after the review for the high stick?

**RULING:** **Question 1:** 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. 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, offside and too many players infractions are part of the criteria for review without a coach’s challenge.” **Question 2:** Yes. In order to have the offside portion of this play reviewed, a team must use the coach’s challenge and this request must be made before play is resumed.

**Situation 3:** At the 9:20 mark of the third period, Team B enters the attacking zone (on a close play at the line but offside). The linesman rules the play to be onside. Team A gains possession and control momentary and turns the puck over to Team B who scores on the subsequent turnover. Following the goal, the on-ice officials discuss the play and all agree that Team A acquired possession and control and are not planning to use video to review the play. Is it permissible for the officials to advise the coach that they are sure possession and control was acquired by the defensive team and do not plan to review the play? If the coach still wants to challenge the play, is that permitted?

**RULING:** Yes is the answer to both questions. It is possible for the officials to advise the coach that as a crew, they are certain they observed possession and control and do not plan to review the play. Regardless of the officials informing the coach they are certain that they
observed possession and control occur, it is permissible for a coach to utilize their timeout to request the officials use video review to determine if the goal is allowed to stand.

**Situation 4:** Team A enters the attacking zone in an offsides position with 10:08 to play in regulation time. The linesman rules the play to be onside. Play continues until the scoring of a goal at the 9:57 mark of the third period. The linesman immediately approaches the referee and communicates that his/her view of the play was obstructed and the play may have been offside. What procedure should the officials follow?

**RULING:** A referee-initiated review is possible according to Rule 93.4 as the goal is scored in last 10 minutes of the game. In this situation guidance should be that officials identify what time on the clock the goal was scored as the determining factor for when it is permissible for officials to initiate video replay of an offside play. The referees should review this play and, if undisputable video evidence shows that the play was offside, the goal shall be disallowed. In that case, the game clock shall be reset to 10:08 and a faceoff conducted in the neutral zone outside of Team A’s attacking zone.

**Guidance**

It is important to note, as with any of the other criteria in Rule 93, officials, at their discretion may use video to determine the outcome of an initial on-ice call. Coaches also have the right to utilize their timeout to challenge any of the criteria in Rule 93. Prior to the last 10 minutes remaining in the third period or anytime overtime period, coaches must use their timeout to challenge an offside or too many men situation the leads to a goal.

Officials are guided 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.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact NCAA liaison Ty Halpin (thalpin@ncaa.org) or me (spiotrowski@bigten.org). Good luck as the season starts.

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.

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