VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2014

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

FROM: Tom Anastos, 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 Guidance, Materials and Interpretations.

During recent preseason officiating clinics and coaches meetings, several key situations were discussed. The committee is providing the following communication to further assist in the understanding of the rules as officials and teams prepare for the season.

For additional clarification, please be sure to view the 2014-15 NCAA Ice Hockey Rules and Officiating video, which was distributed to conference commissioners, supervisors of officials, head coaches, administrators and on-ice officials. The rules videos (men’s and women’s) may be viewed or downloaded here:

Men’s Video

Women’s Video

Additionally, the rules book is available for download here.

At this link, you may download several formats for your computer/tablet/phone, etc. or also a PDF free of charge.

Thank you for your time and attention to this preseason guidance communication. Hopefully, this will assist the entire college ice hockey community with a further understanding of our renewed focus initiative this season.

TA/SP:bw

Enclosure

cc: NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members
1. **GOALTENDER INTERFERENCE – VIDEO REPLAY.**

**Issue:** Rule 93.4, Video Replay Criteria does not specifically allow the use of video to assist officials in reviewing all aspects of Rule 73, Goaltender Interference. A technical reading of the criteria would only allow reviews when the goaltender is in the goal crease with the attacking player.

**Question:** Was the committee’s intent to allow officials to use video replay in these situations?

**Answer:** Yes. Plays of this type (Rule 73) are reviewable through the use of video replay.

2. **USE OF HAND BY FACEOFF PLAYER TO WIN FACEOFF.**

**Issue:** Several situations were discussed during the clinics and several play situations were developed and approved by the committee.

**Officiating Guidance:** When applying this new rule, it is important to try and keep the scope and intent of this rule clear. Essentially, the new rule says that the two players facing-off are not permitted to play the puck with their hand without incurring a penalty, unless a third player (from either team) has at least touched the puck. Once the faceoff is complete, hand passes shall be enforced as per hand pass rule.

**Situation 1:** During a faceoff, the Team A center kicks the puck off the draw to his/her stick then directly falls to ice and without any other player touching the puck the Team A Center bats the puck with his hand back to a defensemen on his team. **RULING:** Minor penalty delay of game. This is a violation since the Team A center played the puck with his hand before a third player (from either team) touched the puck.

**Situation 2:** When one of the faceoff players uses the hand to win the faceoff, is this considered to be a delayed penalty? **RULING:** No. There shall be an immediate whistle as soon as the officials determine a violation has taken place.

**Situation 3:** The linesman dropping the puck is viewing play, but does not see one of the players use the hand to play the puck and win the faceoff. The referee sees this infraction and blows the whistle to administer the penalty. Is this the proper mechanic? **RULING:** Yes. Any of the officials are able to call this penalty when detected.

**Situation 4:** During a faceoff, the puck is dropped and a Team A winger skates into the faceoff circle. Both centers are tied up and battling for the puck. No Team A or Team B players touch the puck. As the Team A winger skates into the faceoff circle he/she falls to the ice and then directly bats the puck with his hand to a teammate. **RULING:** A hand pass violation shall be enforced using the usual mechanics. The faceoff violation minor penalty only applies to the two players facing off.

**Situation 5:** During a faceoff, the Team B faceoff player wins the draw with his stick directly to a defenseman. The Team B defenseman mishandles the puck and it ends up back in the faceoff circle near the dot. The Team B center falls to his knees and plays the puck with his hand directly to a winger on his team. Is this a penalty? **RULING:** No, since a third player (the Team B defenseman) has touched the
puck, the faceoff is considered to be complete. In this situation a hand pass violation would be enforced with the usual mechanics.

**Situation 6:** A faceoff is conducted in Team A’s offensive zone. During the faceoff, the Team A faceoff player drops to the ice and attempts to hand pass the puck to a teammate. A Team B intercepts the pass and controls the puck. How should this be handled? **RULING:** When the hand pass occurs by the Team A faceoff player, the linesman shall blow the whistle to stop play and indicate that a hand pass has occurred. This shall be a minor penalty on the Team A player for delay of game, regardless of which team actually gains control of the puck.

**Situation 7:** A faceoff is conducted in Team A’s offensive zone. During the faceoff, the Team A player drops to the ice and hand passes the puck to a teammate, who shoots and scores a goal. The officials do not detect the hand pass violation and the game has video replay capability. How should this be handled? **RULING:** This play is reviewable and if there is indisputable evidence that a hand pass occurred and directly led to the goal, the goal must be disallowed. However, it should be noted that a penalty may NOT be assessed through the use of video replay.

**Situation 8:** When a faceoff violation penalty is assessed, should the game clock be reset to the time when the faceoff was conducted? **RULING:** No. The penalty shall be enforced immediately, but no reset of the clock shall take place.

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### 3. FACEOFF LOCATIONS AFTER A HIGH STICK/HAND PASS.

**Issue:** In the preseason clinics there were some questions about the location of the faceoff after a high-sticking or hand pass violation. As a reminder, the new rule governing the faceoff location reads that the faceoff will take place “At the nearest faceoff spot one zone closer to the offending team’s defensive zone from the point of the violation.”

*Here are several play situations to assist in the implementation of this new rule:*

**Situation 1:** A Team A player is in his/her defensive zone. Player A1 catches the puck out of the air and skates with the puck without dropping it immediately. This causes a stoppage of play. Where is the faceoff and is a change of players permitted? **RULING:** The faceoff shall take place in Team A’s defensive zone and a change of players is permitted.

**Situation 2:** A Team A player is in his/her defensive zone and either high sticks or bats the puck directly into the player bench. Where is the faceoff and is a change of players permitted? **Ruling:** The faceoff will take place in Team A’s defensive zone and a change of players is permitted.

**Situation 3:** A Team A player is in the attacking zone and high sticks the puck to a teammate that is in the neutral zone. Where is the faceoff? **Ruling:** The faceoff will take place in the neutral zone at the spot nearest to where the infraction occurred. Play is stopped in the neutral zone, but the infraction occurred in the attacking zone.