



February 12, 2014

To: NCAA Ice Hockey Coaches and Officials.

From: Steve Piotrowski, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

Subject: Icing and Unnecessary Delays Caused by Offending Team

After watching numerous games this season I wanted to share my thoughts, observations, and guidance regarding unnecessary delays being caused by teams who are in violation of our icing rule. **Please also refer to Rule 85 – page 75 in the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Book for additional information on Icing.**

Our icing rule is clear - A team in violation of the icing rule is not permitted to change its players unless it takes a timeout. A team that is in violation of this rule shall not be permitted to make any player substitutions before the next faceoff. A team shall be permitted to make a player substitution to replace a goalkeeper who had been substituted for an extra attacker, to replace an injured player, or when a penalty is assessed that affects the on-ice strength of either team.

Where a referee generally creates issues and challenges for himself/herself during the course of a game is by tolerating unnecessary delays throughout the game following an icing violation. These delays include, continued attempts by teams to stall by way of trying to change players, teams who keep players at the bench area rather than moving to the faceoff location, or other delay tactics. These unnecessary delays continue to present problems and challenges for those officials not taking control of delay tactics immediately once they appear in a game.

The intent of our rule is good. Officials, players and coaches need to work together to stop the chaos with the unnecessary stall tactics at the bench, referees trying to figure out numbers, etc. Remember, the onus is on the team to comply and conform to the rule.

Should these delay tactics occur in a game, officials are encouraged to enforce rules that are currently in place by way of first warning the offending team and then penalizing as appropriate any subsequent violations with a bench minor for delay-of-game. I can assure that once you penalize the unnecessary stalling and delay tactics this will stop in the game.

Understand my guidance to you is to not call more bench minor penalties for delay-of-game but, to ensure you make a commitment to enforcing this rule consistently from the first icing violation called in each and every game you are assigned and take control of the unneeded and unnecessary delays.

Should you have any questions regarding this communication or, if you feel you need further clarification, please feel free to contact me.

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