VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2014

TO: NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Coaches, Conference Commissioners and Supervisors of Officials.

FROM: Steve Piotrowski, secretary-rules editor
       NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Goalkeeper Equipment Guidance and Clarification

The rules committee has received several requests for clarification regarding goalkeeper pads and how this equipment is monitored for legal compliance in NCAA ice hockey competition. It has been requested that the rules committee provide some guidance in this area.

Current NCAA Rule 11.1 specifies: “The goalkeeper cannot wear any garment or use any contrivance that would provide undue assistance in keeping goal. Aprons or webbing extending more than three inches below the crotch are not permitted. All inner knee/thigh protection, whether attached to the leg pad or not, must be tightly wrapped around the leg. Thigh boards are illegal.”

To further clarify, each goalkeeper shall be responsible for his/her leg protection and any item, whether attached to the leg pad or not, shall be tightly wrapped around the leg. Should officials observe a goalkeeper whose leg protection is not tightly wrapped around the leg, the officials shall not allow the goalkeeper to participate in the warm-up or the game until the equipment has been corrected or removed. For the second offense by the same goalkeeper in the same game, a misconduct penalty shall be assessed. A third offense by the same goalkeeper in the same game will result in a game misconduct penalty being assessed. This guidance and enforcement applies to all aspects of the goalkeeper’s equipment, not just leg pads (e.g., catching glove, blocker, etc.).

Additionally, some clarification was requested regarding leg coverings for goalkeepers. In some rare cases, goalkeepers have taken the ice without lower leg coverings. By rule, this is not permissible for obvious safety reasons. However, some questions were raised about whether or not sweat pants or other coverings are permitted for goalkeepers instead of traditional hockey socks. To clarify, if goalkeepers choose to use sweat pants or other lower leg coverings, this is considered to be in compliance with NCAA rules. The rules that govern uniformity of the team are intended to apply to all skaters and those rules remain...
in full effect.

It is important to point out that it is the responsibility of each member institution coach, athletic trainer, and equipment manager to determine, within the rules, what is appropriate equipment and how it must be worn. NCAA institutions must be knowledgeable and informed of the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules that govern all protective equipment and uniforms. Student-athlete safety is of the utmost importance. Institutions must be diligent in properly equipping the student-athletes to be fully compliant with all NCAA rules and regulations.

Thank you for your time and attention and good luck this season.

SP: ep

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