

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY RULES COMMITTEE
JUNE 2-4, 2014, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative Items. The NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee agreed to the following rules change proposals for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 season. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Points of Emphasis.

- (1) Recommendation. To enforce three points of emphasis for this rules cycle: Diving and Embellishment; Delaying Tactics; and Goalkeeper Interference.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. These three items were identified as most significant in the annual rules surveys and the committee spent a significant amount of time refining its rules interpretations and education surrounding these issues. It was determined that major rules changes were not needed to address these items, but a more focused enforcement of the rules dealing with these issues.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. This focus will positively impact the game and student-athlete experience.

b. Goal Pegs. (Rule 2.1)

- (1) Recommendation. Effective with the 2016-17 season, all institutions must have a goal anchoring system with 10-inch pegs in place.
- (2) Effective Date. 2016-17 season.
- (3) Rationale. To reduce the number of stoppages for the goal cage becoming dislodged. Most NCAA institutions already use some anchoring system, but allowing some time to prepare and work with off-campus facilities is needed.

- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. Limited; anchoring systems are available for less than \$1,000 for both goals.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

c. Faceoff Location – Offensive Scoring Opportunity. (Rule 81.2)

- (1) Recommendation. When the attacking team is attempting to score a goal and the puck goes out of play as a result, the faceoff shall remain in the attacking zone. The puck must have been shot/passed from the attacking zone and be a clear attempt to score for the faceoff to remain in the zone.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Rewards the offensive team and eliminates the sometimes difficult determination of which team the puck deflected off of before leaving the ice.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

d. Faceoff Location – High Stick/Hand Pass. (Rule 81.2)

- (1) Recommendation. When play is stopped due to a high stick or hand pass violation, the ensuing faceoff will take place one zone closer to the offending team's goal.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Previously, the faceoff was always in the offending team's defending zone, which the committee believes is too punitive.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

e. Video Review: Sequence of Penalty and Goal. (Rule 93.2)

- (1) Recommendation. The video criteria will be changed to review if a goal was scored before a penalty infraction occurred.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Provides officials with another opportunity to correctly administer the game.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

f. Video Review: Offsides/Too Many Men. (Rule 93.2)

- (1) Recommendation. The time sequence for review of an offside or too many men infraction ends when the puck leaves the attacking zone. Previously, the review was to take place only if the infraction led directly to a goal.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Clarifies the allowable amount of time/play that can occur with the review still being in effect.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

g. Video Review: General. (Rule 93.1)

- (1) Recommendation. Any video that is available for review purposes will be allowed. Previously, only games that were televised were eligible for review purposes.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Clarifies the allowable use of video.

- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

h. Video Review: NCAA Championship. (Rule 93.4)

- (1) Recommendation. During the NCAA Division I Men's Championship **only**, the rules committee has authorized officials in the tournament to use video replay during the game to review penalties that would result in the removal of a student-athlete to ensure proper enforcement.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The quality and availability of video replay in the Division I Men's Championship is consistent and will enhance the game officials' effort to properly penalize actions on the ice immediately.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

i. Interference: Blindside hits. (Rule 59.1)

- (1) Recommendation. A category of penalty in the interference rule will be added to separate a severe blindside hit from the contact to the head penalty. In these cases, a major penalty may be called for blindside contact when the head is not contacted.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Allows officials to appropriately designate these penalties. The NHL has taken a similar approach in this area.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

j. Faceoffs: Dropping the Puck. (Rule 81.3)

- (1) Recommendation. Linesmen shall “present” the puck; current mechanic is to drop the puck from the beltline.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. More in line with mechanics used in most other areas of hockey.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

k. Faceoffs: Closing the Hand on the Puck. (Rule 81.2)

- (1) Recommendation. If either faceoff player closes the hand on the puck during the immediate action after the puck is dropped, it shall be an automatic minor penalty.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Eliminates an unfair tactic and forces faceoff players to use their stick/skates to win the faceoff.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

l. Faceoffs: Official's Error on Icing. (Rule 81.2)

- (1) Recommendation. All faceoffs in this situation will be moved to center ice. Previously, the officials could conduct a faceoff at a place that did not unduly penalize one team; that led to some inconsistencies and the consensus was to move to the center ice faceoff.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Eliminates inconsistent rulings and is as fair as possible to both teams.

- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

m. Faceoffs: Attacking Team Stick Down Last in Zone Line. (Rule 81.3)

- (1) Recommendation. In faceoffs in the attacking zone, the defending team will put down the stick first during the faceoff. In all other faceoffs, the visiting team will put the stick down first.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. To provide the attacking team some advantage during offensive zone faceoffs.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

n. Penalty Shot/Shootouts: Goal Dislodged. (Rule 25.2)

- (1) Recommendation. During a shootout or penalty shot, if the goal becomes dislodged by the goalkeeper, the referee shall either award a goal (if intentional or if the goal was obvious and imminent) or allow the team to shoot again.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This guarantees the offensive team the opportunity to shoot, whether the dislodgement was intentional or not.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

o. Penalty Shot: Injured Player. (Rule 25.2)

- (1) Recommendation. If a player that is awarded a penalty shot is injured and unable to take the shot, one of the players on the ice at the time of the infraction shall be chosen to shoot.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Clarifies and makes NCAA rule consistent with most other levels.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

p. Intermissions: Allowable Time During NCAA Championships. (Rule 82.1)

- (1) Recommendation. Intermissions in the NCAA championship may be as many as 18 minutes.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Allows the NCAA championship committees to adjust timing for better ice conditions and broadcasting concerns.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

q. Overtime Period: Stoppage Under 10 Minutes. (Rule 91.4)

- (1) Recommendation. In these cases, at the first stoppage of play under the 10 minute mark, ice maintenance shall be allowed, if available. Note: The allowable stoppages are the same as the NCAA TV Timeout protocol (e.g., stoppage for icing does not qualify).
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Will provide better ice conditions and a brief timeout for both teams.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

r. Uniforms: Contrast Between Number and Jersey. (Rule 9.1)

(1) Recommendation. Uniform numbers must be a light color number on dark sweaters and a dark colored number on light colored jerseys.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Eliminates any confusion on numbering and provides manufacturers/teams with clear direction.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

s. Uniforms: Numbers on Helmets Recommended. (Rule 9.4)

(1) Recommendation. The committee recommends that teams add numbers to the front of student-athlete helmets.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Will assist with proper identification of student-athletes.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

t. Goal Nets: NHL-Style Nets Allowed. (Rule 2.2)

(1) Recommendation. Note that the new NHL nets are considered to be legal for NCAA play.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. Editorial clarification.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

u. Two Goalkeeper Requirement. (Rule 5.3)

- (1) Recommendation. To remove the requirement for a waiver to start the game with one goalkeeper. A delay will not be allowed if the goalkeeper is penalized or otherwise incapacitated.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Removes unneeded paperwork to a rare situation.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

v. Women's Hockey: Experimental Rule – High Sticking the Puck. (Rule 64)

- (1) Recommendation. For the next two seasons, in women's ice hockey, players shall be allowed to legally high-stick the puck. This experimental rule will be allowed in exhibition games and by conference request only; any non-conference and NCAA championship games will continue to enforce the current high-sticking rule.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Strong support in the women's ice hockey community exists to allow play to continue in these cases. Rules remain that protect student-athlete safety and will continue to be strictly enforced.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

w. Look-Up Line. (Rule 1.1)

- (1) Recommendation. The committee approved the use of a warning-track style line. The use of this line will not be mandatory, but is permissible.
 - (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. Potential enhancement to student-athlete safety; USA Hockey has formed a task force to study its use and implementation.
 - (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited, but could enhance student-athlete safety.
- x. Feedback Requested – Rules Governing Participation.** The Committee requests a review of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel's policy relating to rules that impact participation in a contest. There is some support at the Division III level in ice hockey to allow a greater number of student-athletes to be in uniform during a contest. Division I institutions were generally not supportive of this concept due to competition concerns and strategy of the game. Division III institutions, however, would like to allow more student-athletes to participate, even for limited playing time, instead of being forced not to be in uniform. If available, the committee would like to consider having different allowances for Division I and Division III institutions.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening Remarks.** The committee and invited guests were welcomed to the meeting. All individuals introduced themselves and stated their background and experience in ice hockey.
- 2. Overview of schedule, agenda, new committee members, mission, conflict of interest and speaking agent policies.** The committee reviewed the schedule, agenda and committee mission, and made no adjustments. The NCAA conflict of interest and speaking agent policies were also reviewed and emphasized.
- 3. Review of rules change procedures and timeline.** The committee received a summary of the NCAA playing rules process and what is involved in a typical cycle.

4. **Reminder of actions from the 2013 in-person meeting.** The committee reviewed meeting report from its 2013 in-person meeting and approved the report as submitted.
5. **Review of the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel directive.** The committee reviewed the directive and addressed several items in its rules as a result.
6. **Review of trends in scoring, penalties, game misconduct and overtime outcome data.** The committee received an extensive report compiled by the NCAA staff and noted several trends. The committee noted in particular that the number of game misconducts and disqualifications overall is relatively small and that overtime games are decided about one-third of the time.
7. **Review of rules communications.** The committee reviewed the numerous rules communications and clarifications distributed during the last season.
8. **Review of rules survey results.** The committee thoroughly reviewed the rules survey and it helped guide its discussions and eventual proposals.
9. **Review of the National Officiating Program with Frank Cole, NCAA national coordinator of men's officials, and Tom DiFusco, national coordinator of women's officials.** The committee heard a report from Mr. Cole and Mr. DiFusco, detailing the activities of the officiating programs from the summer months with educational clinics through the selection of officials for the NCAA championships. It was noted that the plan moving forward is to schedule and hold more consistent calls with the conference coordinators of officials – previously these had been on an as-needed basis.
10. **Report from Mike Murphy, National Hockey League.** The committee heard a report from Mr. Murphy that focused on the NHL's research and continued development of the game at the highest level. Mr. Murphy noted that the NHL's focus is similar to the NCAA's when it comes to the health and safety of the players and the league faces many of the same problems the committee does. Mr. Murphy noted that this continued communication and relationship with the NCAA helps the NHL and hockey in general.

- 11. Joint meeting with NCAA championship committees.** A joint session was held to discuss major rules topics and concerns of the championships committees.
- 12. Meeting with conference commissioners.** The committee met with the conference commissioners in attendance and identified several issues raised by the conferences for review and consideration.
- 13. Review of injury surveillance data.** The committee heard a report from Zack Kerr of the Datalys Center, the NCAA's collection agency, and noted several trends for men's and women's ice hockey. The continued support of the rules committee has increased the amount of schools reporting into the system which makes the data more reliable.
- 14. Discussion of visors for men's ice hockey.** The men's committee members discussed the possible use of visors in the sport and continued to identify the need for properly collected data with the United States Hockey League, which mandates the use of a $\frac{3}{4}$ visor for its players, most of whom will play NCAA ice hockey. The committee understands the strong support from the men's ice hockey coaching community, but also must weigh all aspects of making a proposal. The focus in the next season will be to continue working to collect data and review all aspects of this piece of equipment.
- 15. 2015 meeting dates.** The committee plans to meet in a similar timeframe (June 2015).
- 16. Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Committee Chair: Tom Anastos, Michigan State University, Big Ten Conference

Staff Liaison: Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances

June 2-4, 2014	
Attendees	Absentees
Tom Anastos, Michigan State	Michael Lynch, Boston University
Joe Bertagna, Hockey East Association	
Bruce Delventhal, Plattsburgh State	
Josh Fenton, National Collegiate Hockey Conference	

NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules

Committee Annual Meeting Report

June 2-4, 2014

Page No. 13

Jim Fetter, St. Cloud State	
Gary Heenan, Utica College	
Mark Hudak, Dartmouth	
Aaron Kemp, Mercyhurst	
Michelle McAteer, Augsburg College	
Ann Ninnemann, Wisconsin-Stevens Point	
Steve Piotrowski, secretary-rules editor	
Doug Schueller, St. John's (Minnesota)	
<p>Other Participants: Frank Cole, NCAA national coordinator of men's officials; Tom DiFusco, NCAA national coordinator of women's officials; Jack Doherty, National Ice Hockey Officials Association; Ty Halpin, NCAA; Zack Kerr, Datalys Center; Kevin Langseth, men's active official; Mike Murphy, National Hockey League; Artie Poitras, UMass-Lowell, National Athletic Trainers Association; Pat Silva, women's active official; and Brad Woodward, NCAA.</p>	