

2005-06 NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Changes

Editorial Changes

Rule 4-5-a, Disqualification. The committee decided to highlight the penalty for disqualification to be sure officials understand that a major penalty is automatically attached to the disqualification.

Rationale: Clarification.

Rule 4-7-e, Goalkeepers Privileges. Goalkeepers are not allowed to freeze the puck (unless to prevent a goal) outside of the crease. The committee feels there are too many unnecessary whistles in situations where a shot is not taken and the goalkeeper freezes the puck.

Rationale: The committee does not believe this rule is being enforced properly. The committee is not suggesting any changes to this rule, but plans to focus on it on the rules video and in the rules book.

Rule 6-27-f. Add to the end of this rule: “unless, in the opinion of the referee, the center ice faceoff unduly penalizes either team.”

Rationale: This was a rule change in 2004, but this reference was not changed inadvertently.

Rule 6-58-b-Note, Tripping. “Control of the puck” is defined as the act of propelling the puck with the stick, hand or skate.”

Rationale: This puts this language in line with a rule approved in 2004.

Rule 8-1, Game Protocol. “4:00 – Home team personnel notifies teams and officials that three ~~two~~ minutes remain before the teams are to take the ice.”

Rationale: Correction of incorrect time in rule.

Appendix, Two-referee, one linesmen officiating system diagrams. The committee voted to add diagrams for this system in the back of the rules book. This is the system most used in Division III ice hockey. The system most used in Division I (one-referee, two-assistant referees) has diagrams in the rules book currently.

Rationale: Education of officials using this system.

Major Changes

Rule 3-3, Goalkeeper's equipment. The committee noted it plans to change the goalkeeper's equipment to be in line with the National Hockey League's new specifications beginning in the 2006-07 season.

Rationale: Manufacturers will adjust to these specifications and the committee is in favor of limiting the size of the pads that are not related to safety (blocker, glove, leg pads).

Rule 4-9-c, Calling of Penalties (Possession and Control). "The last player to touch the puck, other than the goalkeeper, is the last player to be deemed in possession of the puck. Control of the puck is defined as the act of propelling the puck with the stick, hand or skate.

Possession and control is not a rebound off the goalkeeper, an opposing player, the goal or the boards or any incidental contact with the body or equipment of an opposing player. Batting the puck with the hand or kicking the puck is considered to be controlling the puck. Touching the puck (e.g., poke check or deflection) is not considered control of the puck.

During a delayed penalty, a goal may not be scored by the penalized team as a result of a deflection off of a penalized team player."

Rationale: In many cases, there is a wide discrepancy in the interpretation of this rule. The group felt it was important to focus on the most common areas and clarify that play should continue unless control of the puck is gained, particularly in delayed penalty situations.

Rule 5-2-a, Referee Uniform. The committee voted that all on-ice officials wear the NCAA crest on their uniforms. A conference or other affiliation patch may be worn as well, and the conference may determine where best to place each crest.

Rationale: The committee feels that all officials on the ice are NCAA officials. While the committee does not want to limit conference identity, the group believes having the NCAA crest on the officials is a positive unifying step. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel decided to allow conferences to place the crests where they feel they fit best.

Rules 6-3 and 6-6-a, Boarding and Charging. These two rules were redefined to note that these penalties may be called only "from the front or the side."

Rationale: In an effort to make sure the more severe penalty for Hitting From Behind (Rule 6-23) is called appropriately, the committee defined these penalties to limit officials to calling Hitting From Behind anytime a check is delivered from behind. This was also made as a point of emphasis for the 2006 season.

Rules 6-5 and 6-48, Butt-ending and Spearing. The option of a game misconduct or game disqualification was given at the discretion of the referee.

