

## Rules Interpretations - November 2017

Dear NCAA Ice Hockey Head Coaches, Commissioners, Coordinators of Officials and Game Officials:

The NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee is aware of a few recent situations and was asked to provide clarification. This communication is intended as a reminder and to ensure proper adjudication of NCAA rules.

**1. Delayed Penalty Situations - Goal Scored.** The first topic discusses situations when a delayed penalty is being called and a goal is scored during the delay. In order to provide appropriate relief, below are situations that demonstrate how the delayed penalty rule impacts a penalty already in effect.

**Situation 1:** Team A is serving a major penalty. During the penalty, Team A is assessed a minor penalty and Team B scores during the delayed penalty. **Question:** What is the ensuing on-ice strength?

**Ruling:** Team B remains on a 5-on-4 power play and the delayed minor penalty is not served by Team A. **All major penalties must be served in their entirety. The rule requiring enforcement of delayed penalties in these situations only applies to minor penalties. Team A receives relief when one or more major penalties are in effect.**

**Situation 2:** Team A is serving a major penalty. During the penalty, Team B is assessed a minor penalty and Team A scores during the delayed penalty. **Question:** What is the ensuing on-ice strength?

**Ruling:** Team B will be assessed with the minor penalty and on-ice strength will be 4-on-4 until the expiration of penalty time.

**Situation 3:** Team A has two major penalties, one on A1 at 1:00 and one on A2 at 2:00. At 3:30, during a delayed minor penalty against Team A, Team B scores a goal. **Question:** What is the ensuing on-ice strength?

**Ruling:** The minor penalty is not served by Team A. Both major penalties must be served in their entirety. **The rule for delayed penalties only applies to minor penalties. Team A receives relief when a major penalty already is in effect.**

**Situation 4:** A1 commits a minor penalty infraction. During the delayed whistle, A2 commits a minor penalty infraction. Team B scores during the delayed whistle. **Question:** What is the ensuing on-ice strength?

**Ruling:** A1 and A2 must be penalized. On-ice strength will be 5-on-3. The intent of the rule is to enforce minor penalties when they occur in these situations, except when major penalties are already in effect.

**2. Slashing Standard.** Further, we had numerous requests to clarify the NCAA's position on slashing. As you are likely aware, the NHL has implemented a much stricter enforcement standard on slashing.

**NCAA Guidance:** Although the NCAA enforcement standard for slashing is currently not zero-tolerance. Slashing, as with any of the other violations of NCAA rules, is a referee judgement call. Slashing must be enforced anywhere on the ice particularly when players use this illegal act to take away a legally-gained advantage from an opponent, or when a player becomes reckless with use of the stick in a forceful, aggressive manner on an opposing players hands, body, stick, etc. Additionally, a focused area of attention for officials should be in the "Grade-A" scoring areas where these illegal acts often take place and take away a legally-gained advantage.

To be clear as possible, this commentary is not a directive to call more slashing penalties. This guidance is meant to continue to raise officials' awareness to certain illegal tactics, but also to note the difference between the NHL directives and the NCAA standard of enforcement.

**3. Timeouts - Change of Players.** Several questions have been raised regarding the use of a timeout during situations in which a team may not change its players (e.g., icing). The applicable rules language reads: "A team will be permitted to use its timeout for rules that do not allow a substitution of players. The team that is prevented by rule from substituting its players must call the timeout to be allowed to change." (Rules 85.4 and 92.1.)

**Situation 1:** Team A ices the puck. Before the next faceoff, Team B calls timeout. **Question:** Are both teams allowed to change players?

**Ruling:** No. Only the team that calls timeout (in this case Team B) can change its players in this situation.

**Situation 2:** Team A ices the puck. Team B calls timeout and tells the referee they do not want to utilize the full one-minute timeframe. **Question:** Should the referee allow Team B to reduce the amount of its timeout?

**Ruling:** No. By rule, all team timeouts are one minute in duration.

Thank you for your attention to these clarifications. Please contact secretary-rules editor Steve Piotrowski ([spiotrowski@bigten.org](mailto:spiotrowski@bigten.org)) with any questions.

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NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee