

2018 NCAA RULES CHANGES

College Hockey East



PROCEDURES

Players in Uniform

- The new NCAA rule increases the maximum number of skaters on the game roster to 19 (up from 18). Since teams can already dress up to 3 goaltenders, this increases the maximum number of players in uniform to 22.
- The CHE & ACHA already permitted 19 skaters but previously had a maximum of 21 for players in uniform. So the new rule allows for CHE & ACHA teams to have up to 19 skaters and up to 3 goaltenders, matching the NCAA rule.

Overtime

- The NCAA made significant changes to the formats available for overtime, but this rule does not apply to the CHE. Overtime in the CHE consists of a 5-minute, sudden-death period of 4-on-4 play, with teams switching ends to start the period. There are no shootouts in College Hockey East games.
- Each team is granted one timeout in regulation time and one timeout in overtime. A team cannot take two timeouts in overtime if it did not use its timeout in regulation time.

Center-Ice Faceoffs

- In the 4-Man System (2 referees, 2 linesmen), all faceoffs shall be conducted by the linesmen at all locations and at all time, including center-ice faceoffs at the start of periods and after goals.
- The referees should line up on opposite sides at opposite blue lines on center-ice faceoffs, and the linesman not conducting the faceoff should be positioned on the red line, facing his partner.

PENALTIES

Handling the Puck

- A player who catches the puck out of the air and does not immediately place it straight down to the ice is now to be given a minor penalty for Delay of Game.
- There was previously an option of making this situation simply a stoppage and a faceoff one zone closer to the offending team's net if no territorial or positional advantage was gained by the act. That option has been removed; it is now a minor penalty.

Slashing

- The wording of the slashing was modified to provide clarification that a forceful chop to the stick can be called as slashing, even if there is no contact made with the opponent's body or hands.
- The new wording is essentially how the rule has already been called in recent seasons; the change just defines it clearly in the rulebook.

Change of Players / Too Many Players

- The wording of the Change of Players rule was adjusted to provide a delineation of 5 feet on the distance a player must be from the bench before a substitute player can enter the ice surface.
- The previous delineation was "at the player's bench and out of play," which was often unclear and arbitrary. The distance of 5 feet has largely been the standard being used otherwise.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Respect for the Game

- Diving and embellishment have increased in recent years, and the responsibility to curb this behavior must be shared by players, coaches, on-ice officials, and administrators. The referees should be penalizing all attempts to deceive an official by diving or embellishing.

Student Athlete Protection

- Continued diligence is needed with regard to player safety rules, particularly contact to the head, contact against defenseless or unsuspecting players and hitting from behind.
- There has been an increase in late hits (men) and slashing (men & women) in higher levels of hockey, and referees must maintain a rigid standard to prevent these tactics from becoming common in college hockey.

Faceoff Protocol (men)

- Enforcement of the rules governing faceoffs have been loosened in their enforcement, particularly in regard to encroachment and to centers who do not abide by the instructions of the officials. The lines on the ice are clear, and stringent enforcement of these rules is the expectation

Allowable Contact (women)

- The wording of NCAA Rule 94 (Body Checking & Angling) was adjusted for clarity, as it was felt some player contact was being penalized too often when there were no elements of body checking.
- Body contact that occurs as a result of angling is permissible if the defending player is attempting to play the puck. If there is a distinct and definable moment of impact with an overt action of contact, it is body checking.