



MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2025

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches and NCAA Registered Officials

FROM: Jeff Fulton, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee

SUBJECT: NCAA Ice Hockey Rule 89.3 Puck Unplayable – Puck on Top of Net

This communication is in response to a situation that has presented itself involving high sticking and the rules change approved for this season. The rules change adjusted the reference point for high-sticking the puck infractions to be "above the height of the player's shoulders" instead of four feet.

Video of the Play in Question: [Click Here](#)

This situation underscores a new wrinkle officials face when applying this rule. The NCAA Rules Committee is addressing this situation with this correspondence.

The committee's guidance to officials is **to have the ability to stop play immediately when the puck lands on the netting on the top of the net of either goal. Players are restricted from playing the puck on top of the net. If the puck bounces on the netting and comes off of the top of the goal, play may continue, but players are not able to play the puck while it is on top of the net. The goal netting around the sides and back of the net will still fall under rule 89.3 (See below, 3 seconds).**

89.3 Puck Unplayable - When the puck is shot, passed or deflected from inside the attacking zone and becomes lodged in the netting on the outside of either goal so that it is unplayable, the official shall stop the play and face off the puck at either of the adjacent faceoff spots.

The defending team or the attacking team may play the puck off the net at any time. However, if the puck remains on the net for longer than three seconds, play shall be stopped, and the faceoff shall take place in the end faceoff zone.

JF:th