Ice Hockey Rules Changes - 2026-27

Wed May 27 2026

Rule 2-1-2c:

CHANGE:
c. The school's name, nickname, logo, mascot, and/or the player's name are permitted on the jersey.

RATIONALE: This is a NFHS Rules Review Committee recommendation that came out of discussions with the membership to create consistency with uniforms.

Rule 3-3-5

CHANGE:
ART. 5... If a goalkeeper's mask, helmet, neck laceration protector, flapper-style throat protector, ~~or~~ catching glove~~(s),~~ or blocker is displaced, or skate blade is broken or displaced, play shall be immediately stopped.

RATIONALE: Adding the words "catching" and "blocker" corresponds to the diagram included in the rule reference. This is a clarification on a risk minimization issue.

Rule 7-18-1

CHANGE:
ART. 1... No player shall check, cross-check, elbow, charge, trip or otherwise contact an opponent in such a manner that causes the opponent to be thrown ~~violently~~ into the boards.

PENALTY: MINOR. If thrown violently into the boards, MAJOR.

RATIONALE: There are instances where the definition of Boarding is met, minus the requirement to be "violently" throwing an opponent into the boards. Instead of reporting the penalty as roughing or some other minor offense, this change would allow a referee to accurately report the penalty. Note this does not change the current MAJOR penalty and additional MISCONDUCT or DISQUALIFICATION penalties for flagrant or headfirst actions in 7-18-2.

Rule 9-1-12 NEW

CHANGE:
By State Association adoption, the non-offending team may select the faceoff location for an infraction under Rule 9-1-11a (icing) or Rule 9-1-11k (penalty).

RATIONALE: This gives the non-offending team a subtle benefit from the icing and/or penalty infraction by the offending team.