

NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Changes 2025-2026

August 14, 2025

3-8: CHANGE:

ART. 8...Electronic devices shall not be used by team personnel or spectators to communicate with on-ice players or goalkeepers during play. No player or goalkeeper shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the game.

RATIONALE: No player participating in the game will be allowed to wear any type of audio or video device to record or transmit audio or video.

5-4: CHANGE:

SECTION 4 DUTIES OF THE LINESMAN LINESPERSON

RATIONALE: The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules book has already replaced gender-specific language throughout the book. This specific title now needs to be changed as well.

“Linesperson” has transitioned into several of the other rules bodies and hockey organizations and will no longer be gender specific, which now creates consistency in the hockey world.

9-8-4 NEW: CHANGE:

ART. 4...A puck on the outside of the goal netting below the crossbar shall be considered in play by both teams. A puck resting on top of the goal netting between the crossbar and goal frame shall be considered unplayable, resulting in an immediate stoppage.

*Note – current Rules 9-8-4 and 5 move to Rule 9-8-5 and 6.

RATIONALE: A puck on the goal netting is covered in all other rules books. A puck on top of the netting creates too many problematic scenarios if it is considered playable (high stick, closing hand, goalkeeper contact, player in goal crease, etc.).