



## Ice Hockey Post-Season Meeting Minutes March 19, 2026 - 10:00am - Cody Arena

1. Attendance:
  - Present: Cory Robinson, Jack Lally, Chip Bruce, Ryan Carter, Mike Oppido, Colin Nilson, Steve Ruggiero.
2. Review of the regular season (Positive / Negative)
  - The only topic discussed was the proposal to move the competition start date one week earlier. This proposal did not advance, as similar requests have been denied in the past. The NJSIAA approved an adjustment to move the practice start date one week earlier; however, it declined to modify the competition start date. This determination was made in response to feedback from member schools indicating insufficient practice time, particularly due to reliance on third-party facilities.
3. Review of the post-season (Positive / Negative)
  - The committee discussed concerns regarding unclear wording related to tournament dates and ice time when schools are hosting. The NJSIAA proposed revised language and adjusted the tournament dates to provide better clarity on deadlines, taking into account the complexities associated with securing ice time. Committee unanimously approved the new structure and dates.
  - There was some confusion regarding which schools would be designated as the home team. Currently, across all four groups, home team status is assigned to the school with the higher power points, as outlined in the tournament regulations. This rule was applied consistently, even in cases where the #1 seed did not have the highest power points, which led to some controversy. However, as the regulations were already in place, they could not be changed mid-tournament.  
  
Looking ahead, the committee has unanimously voted to revise this policy for next year. The #1 seeds in the non-public divisions and girls divisions will be designated as the home team. For public schools, the current system will remain in place, with the team holding higher power points continuing to receive home team designation.
4. Review of dates for next season (See Handout)
  - Dates were reviewed and approved.
5. Review of current regulations and any proposed changes for next season.
  - Last year, the committee approved a new penalty for not wearing a neck guard. Since the rule was implemented this past year, it has resulted in an extremely positive outcome with very little opposition.

- Last year, the committee approved a point of emphasis (POE) for officials regarding line changes. Players have been anticipating their line changes by sitting on top of the boards, which can create a dangerous situation for both officials and players skating by. Since the implementation of this POE, the situation appears to have improved; however, this will continue to be a point of emphasis in the future.

#### 6. New Business

- The PowerPoint structure for ice hockey, along with other proposals, was discussed. Increasing the number of games ("N" Number) is being considered for all sports, which should further improve the system. Due to the nature of the sport, the seeding committee has been a valuable addition for determining the placement of qualified teams in the bracket. The PowerPoint system will continue to be used to qualify teams, while the seeding committee will handle team placement. This process will remain in place until a better method for the sport is identified.
- The committee discussed excessive celebrations after goals, specifically banging on the glass. While reasonable celebrations will be tolerated by officials, banging on or jumping into the glass will not and may result in a delay-of-game penalty. This will be a point of emphasis (POE) for officials next season.
- Taunting the opposing bench will also be a point of emphasis (POE), and a two-minute minor penalty will be assessed immediately with no warning.

#### 7. Old Business

- Banging the sticks on the boards
  - Officials will continue to monitor.
- Helmets for coaches during practices
  - Although the committee unanimously agrees with this, as do most levels of hockey, the NJSIAA must review its jurisdiction before making it mandatory. We will look into this and communicate as warranted. At a minimum, the NJSIAA agrees that it is best practice for coaches to wear helmets during practices.

#### 8. Correspondence (See Attached)

- See # 6 (PowerPoints)

#### 9. Good of-the-order.

- It was announced that five members of the committee will be rolling off and thanking them for their service.