



December 3, 2025

NFHS Ice Hockey Weekly Rule Interpretations

Welcome to week 4 of the 2025-26 NFHS Ice Hockey Weekly Rules Interpretations! Two years ago, neck laceration protectors were required by both players and goalkeepers. Multiple rules were impacted:

Rule 3-3-1: **“neck laceration protector”** was added to the list of required equipment for goalkeepers. This language was also added to 3-3-1: **“The neck laceration protector and the flapper-style throat protector must be separate pieces of equipment, shall not be modified for their original manufactured state, and shall be worn as intended by the manufacturer. The flapper-style throat protector shall be properly attached to the helmet or face mask.”**

PENALTY: MINOR.

Rule 3-4-4: **All players shall properly wear a neck laceration protector that shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn as intended by the manufacturer.**

If a player’s neck laceration protector is not being worn, or comes off while play is in progress, an official shall order the player to return to the player’s bench and play may continue. If the player does not comply, play shall be stopped and that player shall be penalized.

PENALTY: MINOR.

Situation 1: Goalkeeper A is properly wearing a neck laceration protector, however, is not wearing a flapper-style throat protector.

RULING: PENALTY: MINOR.

Comment: Goalkeepers are required to wear both a neck laceration protector and a flapper-style throat protector. They are both required pieces of equipment, and a penalty shall be assessed if either or both is not being properly worn.

Situation 2: Player A1's neck laceration protector falls off during play. Player A1 skates toward bench to get off the ice.

RULING: Play Shall continue.

Comment: The spirit of this rule is not to create additional stoppages in play. The intent is to have neck laceration protectors on all players and minimize risk of injury to the neck area.



Situation 3: Player B1 approaches the faceoff spot without wearing a neck and laceration protector.

RULING: Official directs the player to the player's bench. The player may return when properly equipped.

Comment: The intent of the rule is not to increase penalties. The intent is to have neck laceration protectors on all players and minimize risk of injury to the neck area. Coaches, players, and officials need to all be a part of the solution and promote safety for all.