



November 26, 2025

NFHS Ice Hockey Weekly Rule Interpretations

Welcome to Week 3 of the 2025-26 NFHS Ice Hockey Rule Interpretations! This week we visit Rule 9-3-3, which lists when a goal shall not be allowed. A situation on this rule was added to the rules book this year (9.3.3 SITUATION E).

Situation 1: Player A1 skates with the puck from the defensive zone toward the neutral zone. The goal cage that Team A is defending was dislodged. “Image 1” represents a dislodged goal cage.

RULING: Play shall continue.

Comment: The goal is to have play continue. Most times, the goalkeeper and/or the official can quickly place the goal cage back in its proper place and play can continue.

Situation 2: Player B1 skates with the puck from the defensive zone toward the neutral zone. The goal cage becomes dislodged, and the official has trouble getting it back in its proper position.

RULING: Play shall continue unless the official is distracted enough to not be able to track play. Once that is the case, play shall be stopped.

Comment: The goal is to continue play if possible. As mentioned, if the goal cage needs more attention and/or takes the attention of the official away from play for too long, play needs to be stopped. If any kind of scoring opportunity is forming and the goal cage is not in its proper place, play shall be stopped. There are rules on how to handle intentional dislodging of the net in Rule 8-2-3.

