



2026-28 ACHA Regular Season Overtime and Shootout Requirements

NCAA Rules State Tied Games:

If the score is tied at the end of three regulation periods, the following shall take place:

NCAA Rule 91 - Tied Games

91.1 Tied Games - Regular Season - All regular-season games that remain tied after 60 minutes of play shall conduct a sudden-victory overtime period of five minutes. No alternative systems (e.g., reduced manpower, shootouts, etc.) are permitted, with the exception of regular-season tournaments that require a team to advance. The following procedure shall be followed:

1. There shall be a two-minute intermission.
2. The teams shall change ends at the end of each period.
3. NCAA Rule, five-minute period shall be played (3-on-3).

See ACHA Specific Rules below

4. The team that scores first wins and the game is ended. If a goal is not scored in the five-minute period, the game shall be declared a tie.

If either team declines to play in the necessary overtime period, the game shall be declared a loss for that team.

91.2 Tied Games - Regular Season - Conference Policy Formats - If the game remains tied after the provisions used in Rule 91.1, by conference policy only, a three-player shootout may be used immediately after the mandatory five-minute sudden-victory overtime.

See NCAA rule book Appendix B for the shootout protocol and listed below. Non-conference games may not use this provision.

91.3 Tied Games - Penalties - Any overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in force.

If either team declines to play in the necessary overtime period, the game shall be declared a loss for that team.

Note:

Goalies will switch ends for overtime period. If shoot-out is used, goalies will switch ends returning to their home-bench end.

5-on-4 OT Note 1:

When regulation time ends and the teams are 5-on-4, teams will start overtime 4-on-3. Once the player's strength reaches 4-on-4, at the next stoppage of play, the player's strength is adjusted to 3-on-3.

5-on-3 OT Note 2:

When regulation time ends and the teams are 5-on-3, teams will start overtime 5-on-3. Once the player's strength reaches 5-on-4 or 5-on-5, at the next stoppage of play, the player's strength is adjusted to 4-on-3 or 3-on-3 as appropriate.

4-on-4 OT Note 3:

When regulation ends and teams are 4-on-4, teams will start overtime 3-on-3. Once the player's strength reaches 4-on-4, at the next stoppage of play, the player strength is adjusted to 3-on-3 as appropriate.

OT Note:

At no time will a team have less than three players on the ice. This may require additional players to be added and at the next stoppage of play, player strength is adjusted as appropriate.



2026-28 ACHA Regular Season Overtime and Shootout Requirements ACHA Specific Rules

Men's

Division 1:

In case of tie games at the end of regulation time, a five-minute, 3-on-3, overtime shall be played. In the event of a tie after an overtime period, a shootout shall take place. 3-player shootout required followed by sudden death shootout. All games where the Men's Division 1 team is the home team shall use a shootout at the conclusion of a tied game. The shootout format to be used is in Appendix B of the NCAA Rulebook.

Division 2:

If tied after Regulation, teams remain on ice for 2-minute timed rest period followed by 5 minute (3-on-3) sudden death overtime.

All intra-divisional games (M2 vs. M2) will have a shootout if the game remains tied after the 5-minute OT. All cross-divisional games (M1 or M3 vs. M2) will be listed as a tie if no team scores in the OT period.

Shootouts will be 3 players from each team. The home team has the choice of going first or second. After that, it will be sudden-death rounds until a winner is determined. All rostered skaters must participate before a player can shoot for a second time.

Players serving a penalty in OT that has time remaining on the penalty clock will not be permitted to participate in the shootout.

This OT rule only applies to the ACHA regular season. Postseason play will be governed by rules determined for Regional and National play.
(ACHA rule, Part Five, Article II, Section 3N thru R).

Division 3:

In the event a game is tied at the end of regulation time, a five minute, sudden-death overtime shall be played. If the game remains tied at the end of the five-minute overtime, the game shall be recorded as a tie for the purpose of ACHA D3 rankings. Teams will play the NCAA regulations 3-on-3.

(ACHA rule, Part Six, Article III, Section 1C).

Shootout:

Teams may have a shoot-out as part of local conference rules or when playing a non-D3 team.

Woman's:**Division 1:**

All Women's Division 1 team must play mandatory 3-on-3, five-minute stop-time overtime in the event of a tie after regulation play in all regular season games unless there is a written exception on a signed game contract.

(ACHA rule, Part Seven, Article III, Section 2F)

If tied after overtime, games will be ACHA scored tie.

Teams may elect a shootout, but it does not count for rankings.

Division 2:

All Women's Division 2 team must play mandatory 3-on-3 five-minute stop-time overtime in the event of a tie after regulation play in all regular season games unless there is a written exception on a signed game contract.

(ACHA rule, Part Eight, Article III, Section 2G)

If tied after overtime, games will be ACHA scored tie.

No shootout option.



NCAA Ice Hockey Shootout Protocol

91.2 Tied Games - Regular Season – Shootout

If the game remains tied a mandatory three-player shootout must be used immediately after the mandatory five-minute sudden-victory overtime.

Appendix B

NCAA Ice Hockey Shootout Protocol

This protocol is only to be used in accordance with Rule 91.2.

1. At the conclusion of the five minute (3on3) overtime, one referee will instruct the timekeeper to put two minutes on the clock and immediately start the clock.
2. The referees will meet at the referee's crease with the captains to explain the protocol during the two-minute period.
3. The goalkeepers will defend the goal closest to their bench.
4. It is recommended that the ice surface be dry scraped in the middle of the ice through both creases.
5. The home team has the option of shooting first or defending first. If Team A's first two players score, while none of Team B's players score, the shootout is over and Team A wins the shootout.
6. If the shootout remains tied at the end of this round, each coach will select a different shooter, this time in a sudden-victory situation. The first three shooters are ineligible until all other bench players have attempted a shot, if necessary. Each team has an equal number of chances to shoot before a winner is declared.
7. The goalkeeper may attempt to stop the shot in any manner except by throwing his or her stick or any object, or by deliberately dislodging the goal, in which case a goal shall be awarded.
During the shot, should the goalkeeper, in an attempt at making a save, dislodge the goal accidentally, the referee shall make one of the following determinations:
 - (i) Award a goal if he or she deems the player would have scored into the area normally occupied by the net had it not been dislodged.
 - (ii) Allow the shot to be re-taken if he or she does not score or it could not be determined if the puck would have entered the area normally occupied by the net.
 - (iii) If the goal becomes dislodged after the puck has crossed the goal line thus, ending the shot, the above determinations do not apply, the shot is complete.

Notes

- All players are eligible to participate in the shootout unless they are serving a ten minute misconduct or have been assessed a game misconduct or game disqualification penalty. When a goalkeeper has been assessed a misconduct, the player designated to serve the misconduct penalty becomes ineligible for the shootout. If the misconduct is assessed to the goalkeeper during the course of the shootout, the player designated to serve the misconduct must be a player who has yet to shoot and thus becomes ineligible to shoot.
- Goalkeepers may be substituted, but no warm-up time will be allowed.
- If a goalkeeper is injured in the shootout, the goalkeeper may be immediately replaced by a goalkeeper off the bench. The injured goalkeeper may reenter the shootout.
- All players not participating in the shootout must remain on their bench.
- If video replay is available, it may be used to confirm shootout goals.
- The spin-o-rama type move when the player completes a 360-degree turn as the player approaches the goal for a penalty shot or shootout, shall not be permitted.
- The lacrosse-like move whereby the puck is picked up on the blade of the stick and “whipped” into the net shall be permitted provided the puck is not raised above the height of the crossbar at any time.
- All rules governing a penalty shot (Rule 25.2) shall be in effect.
- No player may shoot twice until everyone who is eligible has shot. If, however, because of injury or penalty, one team has fewer players eligible for the shootout than its opponent, both teams may select from among the players who have already shot. This procedure would continue until the team with fewer players has again used all eligible shooters.