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HOCKEY EAST ISSUES STATEMENT ON THURSDAY'S BC AT UMASS GAME

The NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Committee issued a rules clarification (attached) on Friday, November 15, as a direct result of an incident that occurred in the Boston College vs. Massachusetts game played in Amherst on Thursday, November 14. The clarification addressed that section of the rule book that deals with video replay (pg. 83, section 93.4), specifically those limited circumstances when video can be used to determine whether an offside or too many men on the ice leads directly to a goal.

On Thursday night, Massachusetts, trailing 2-1, scored a goal to ostensibly tie the game at 2-2. After a request from Boston College to the on-ice officials, the play was reviewed and the goal was called back due to an apparent offside. Game officials mis-applied the rule in three different ways.

First, coaches can only request reviews of those specific situations listed under page 83, section 93.2 of the rule book. Second, offsides can only be reviewed in games that are televised, an expansion of the existing rule that previously limited review of offside and too many men on the ice to post-season championships only. The rule was extended to cover regular season televised games per a July memo from the NCAA (attached.) This game was not televised. And third, the offside situation must be "egregious" in nature, which this situation was not.

While the Massachusetts goal should not have been called back in the manner that it was, there is no league protocol by which the situation can be overturned.

Future assignments of the on-ice officials who worked Thursday's game will be reviewed by the league office.

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