Goal Video Review Protocol
NIHL National 2026/27

Overview

- Goal reviews are **Referee-initiated only.** No Coach's Challenge
- Review **must** happen **before** the first face-off following a stoppage in play involving a potential goal, and only after making an on-ice decision
- The facility is for goal decisions **only** per IIHF Rule 37.3, except scenarios *iii* and *x*
- No penalty, offside, icing or other review scenarios are permitted

Club Representatives

Pre-game action for home club representative (Club Admin/Team Manager):
The home club representative shall confirm with the Replay operator that the Goal Video Review system is available, that the rink-side monitor and two-way communication work, that the minimum recording standard of at least main camera and both behind-goal cameras are operational, and that the replay operator is ready.

They shall inform the Referees prior to Warmup of the system status.

If the system is **not** operational, they shall ask the Scorekeeper to comment in the WhatsApp support chat and make a note on the official game record.

Replay operators

Pre-game, the Replay operator shall coordinate with Club Admin/Team manager to confirm that the system is operational so that they can then inform the Referees.

Once a review request has been made, the Replay operator shall coordinate with the Referees to review the available footage. Reviews may use all available official camera angles.

The Replay operator shall show footage only and may offer no opinion as the goal decision outcome.

Arena Screen/Stream operators

Whilst a review is in progress, if applicable, a holding graphic on-screen is recommended, e.g. "Goal under review".

The review interactions **must** remain private: operators must not show review replays on the live stream or arena screens whilst the review is in progress, nor should the audio interaction between Referees and Replay operator be shared with other parties.

Once the Referees have concluded the review and the decision confirmed on-ice, clubs are free to show replays as normal.

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Stream commentators

If clubs have the facility, the reason for review may be communicated to the Stream commentator and that reason may be shared on-air. It is recommended that commentators not speculate on outcomes.

Please do **not** refer to this system as "VAR". There are no additional officials offering advice. This is purely video review by the on-ice officials.

Scorekeepers

Pre-game: If the review system is not available, record a comment to this effect in the Referee's Comments field on the Completion tab of the game management system. e.g. "Goal review system inoperative". Also, comment in the WhatsApp league operations support chat.

Per review: Note the period, time, initial decision (Goal/No-goal), final outcome, and the reason for review as stated by the referee in the Referee's Comments field of the Completion tab of the game management system. The full set of reviewable situations is provided below.

Examples:
1/13:12 Goal review Home. Decision upheld: Goal. Review for whether puck was kicked in
2/02:41 Goal review Away. Decision overturned: No-goal. On review, puck batted-in by a high stick
3/10:00 Goal review Home. Decision upheld: Goal. Review for puck properly entering goalmouth

Rink Game Announcers

If the initial on-ice decision was goal but the Referee indicates a review, please stop any goal music and announce "**The Referee has initiated a video review**."

Please treat the intermission similar to a time-out and do not play-out music or make announcements whilst the review is in progress.

Once the review is complete and the Referee has pointed to centre ice (Goal) or issued a wash-out signal (No-goal), you may resume normal announcements.

Recommended wording:

- After video review, the initial decision of Goal is confirmed.
- After video review, the initial decision of Goal is overturned: XXX.
- After video review, the initial decision of No-goal is confirmed.
- After video review, the initial decision of No-goal is overturned.

… where XXX is the reason communicated by the Referees.

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Referees

Pre-game: The Referees shall officially communicate to each team whether the goal review system is in operation.

In-game: If the system fails at any point, revert to the normal on-ice officiating process.

Review process

1. Give the agreed review signal: **use both hands to illustrate a square box**
2. Inform the scorekeeper of the initial on-ice decision and the reason for review
3. Go to the monitor, communicate with the replay operator to request the angles, speed or zoom needed
    a. The original on-ice call stands unless clear and conclusive video evidence overturns it. If inconclusive, the original decision stands
    b. In a four-official system, if the two referees cannot agree on a conclusive decision, the original decision stands
    c. The review process must not take longer than three minutes. If no conclusive decision can be made in that time, the original decision stands
4. Once a decision is confirmed, inform the scorekeeper, then return to the ice and make a clear signal of outcome before resuming play
    a. If **goal**, blow whistle, point at centre ice, and face-off at centre ice
    b. If **no-goal**, blow whistle, issue wave-out signal, and face-off in end zone

IIHF Rule 37.3

GOAL SITUATIONS SUBJECT TO VIDEO REVIEW

The following situations are subject to Video Review:

i. Puck crossing the goal line
ii. Puck in the net prior to the goal frame being dislodged or if the criteria for allowing a goal after a dislodged net is met.
iii. *(not applicable to NIHL National GVRP)*
iv. With the use of a foot/skate, a “distinct kicking motion” was evident
v. Puck deliberately directed, batted, or thrown into the net by an attacking Player by any means (and with any part of their body) other than with their stick – excl. foot/skate.
vi. Puck deflected directly into the net of an on-ice Official
vii. Puck struck or deflected into the net with a high stick, above the height of the crossbar
viii. Puck entering the net in a proper manner through goal mouth (ensuring puck did not enter net improperly through net meshing or underneath the net frame, etc.)
ix. Puck entering the net as the culmination of a continuous play where the result of the play was unaffected by any whistle blown by the Referee upon their losing sight of the puck;
x. *(not applicable to NIHL National GVRP)*
xi. Scoring plays involving potential “Interference on the Goalkeeper”.

Note: (III) and (X) are not applicable to NIHL National GVRP.