

NHL Board of Governors Amends Tie-Breaker

Written by Matthew Coller
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[ProHockey Talk](#) 's Joe Yerdon reports that the NHL Board of Governors approved a by-law which eliminates shootout wins from being used as a factor in tie-breakers in figuring playoff placement.

The move is an attempt to increase the importance of winning in regulation or in the first overtime. Earlier this off-season, a debate waged over whether the shootout should continue to exist.

According to ProHockey Talk, here's how the rule book reads now:

NHL By-Law 27.3 now reads as follows (with the approved revision in underlined italics):

At the conclusion of the regular Schedule of Championship Games the standing of the teams in each Conference shall be determined in accordance with the following priorities in the order listed:

- a) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ First place in each of the three divisions seeded 1, 2 and 3.**
- b) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ The higher number of points earned by the Club.**
- c) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ The greater number of games won by the Club (*excluding games won in the Shootout*).**
- d) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ The higher number of points earned in games against each other among two or more Clubs having equal standing under priorities (b) and (c).**
- e) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ The greater differential between goals scored for and against by clubs having equal standing under priority (d).**

The change seems to be more of an attempt to appease the shootout haters, and somewhat of a weak one at that. The question is will we really see teams fight to score against non-conference opponents or, when the game is tied, will they sit back for the guaranteed two points? Fringe teams may play a little harder, but locks for the playoffs will take the one point.

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