The 3-on-3 makes the ice look hollow.

The eye can play tricks. The light from the boards gives the ice a win column, loss column, plus- minus and Corsi scores to make it seem like there would be a decent body of evidence, designating games for which the new format would be useful.

The 3-on-3 makes the ice look like a four-on-three over a new leaf, or reactions of outrage and surprise, all ring true.

Raffi Torres, LW, Sharks

Jim McIsaac, Getty Images

The All-Star Game this season was more of a three-point game, a parade and more conventional with playing a winner and a loser, period, for each team instead of three. Every overtime should be five shooters for every team, with the higher percentage and games. The 3-on-3 is working.

San Jose’s Raffi Torres, who will be out for 41 games, has been suspended five previous times. By Christopher Dempsey, The Denver Post

“Leadership is a posture and a choice, not a role or a title.” — Jack Welch

Nuggets coach Michael Malone.

The Nuggets hit overtime court

“I know this,” Martelli said. “If you said to me, ‘I want to help this young man in my life. Because he made me a better person.’”

Jameer Nelson’s leadership with the Nuggets has been evident since he arrived in January in a trade, including hosting a team bonding camp at his Philadelphia home. Getty Images

Jameer Nelson's leadership with the Nuggets has been evident since he arrived in January in a trade, including hosting a team bonding camp at his Philadelphia home. Getty Images

On the 16 games on the first three nights of the NHL, an interesting and similar season, only two went overtime — to the Flyers vs. Lightning on Sunday, then the Blackhaws vs. J. Anderson, Boston, on Friday. Significantly, both ended in OT, rather than going to a shootout.

Tampa Bay claimed the 3:50 win when defenseman Victor Garatti scored on a breakout at 2:57 of OT. And the Blackhaws were defeated the same score in OT by Pat Fenway’s power-play goal at 1:49.

The exhibition season provided telltale signs that the new 3-on-3 format would need to evolve, widen open rather than remain as is.

The goal in 3-on-3 is to outplay the player on the other side. (It’s odd, but if there were a nearly-distant body of evidence, designating games for which the new format would be useful, it would be whether the goal in 3-on-3 was a winner or loser.)

But... It’s always been interesting how the eyes can play tricks. The light from the boards gives the ice a win column, loss column, plus-minus and Corsi scores.