

To: CLOA Officials

Attached are the following

1. Bulletin 2016 #2
2. NFHS 2016 FAQs
3. NCAA – Feb 4 2016 - Memo – Rules Updates
4. NCAA - Feb 9,2016 – Memo - Over and Back Interpretation
5. NCAA – Feb 10, 2016 – Memo – Face off mechanics

Please review the Bulletin as it clarifies some misinformation stated at the annual clinic.

The NFHS and NCAA memos are FYI's to help you understand the rules.

Steven Hinchey, CIAC Interpreter; Lead Clinician

Clarification on two rules for both NCAA and NFHS

Diving: By rule, Team A can NEVER be in the goal crease as the ball crosses the goal line. The following situations apply **after** the ball crosses the goal line

1. NFHS: in all cases, an airborne player with or without the ball who lands in the crease before, during or after on his own or the result of a legal or illegal check – **NO GOAL**
2. NCAA:
 - a. An airborne player **in** possession of the ball – **NO GOAL**
 - b. An airborne player **NOT** in possession of the ball who catches and shoots or bats the ball across the goal crease and then lands in the crease as the result of contact (legal or illegal) – **GOAL**

Over and Back: This rule is the SAME for both NFHS and NCAA and will be enforced the same way for both games. I incorrectly interpreted the NFHS rule to you for which I sincerely apologize.

The original Bulletin that was sent to you last week was written correctly. The key word that I misread for you was the ball breaking the plane of the center line.

Once the ball has been advanced to the Attack/Goal Area, the Center Line (Midfield Line) now becomes an out of bounds line for the Attacking team (Team A). It is treated the same way as the endline or sideline for an out of bounds call with the EXCEPTION that players on the Defensive Half of the field may **prevent** the ball from crossing the center line (on the ground or in the air) by batting or kicking.

The following conditions apply to this call:

1. If the ball
 - (a) touches the center line **or**
 - (b) **crosses** the center line plane **AND** **contacts** the ground, player, or other object (crosse, official, goal, cone)– **IMMEDIATE WHISTLE/TURNOVER**
2. A ball that has NOT touched the center line **and** has NOT broken the center line plane can be batted or kicked by a player on the defensive half of the field – **PLAY CONTINUES – NO COUNT**
3. A ball that has **NOT** touched the center line but **HAS** broken the center line plane can be possessed or batted by a player on the attack half of the field - **PLAY CONTINUES – NO COUNT**

My thanks to Jon Bernon for helping me parse the words and clarify this for you.



2016 NFHS Boys Lacrosse - Frequently Asked Questions

1. **NFHS Rule 1-7-3** provides, in part, that: *“Any additional strings or laces (e.g., shooting strings, V channels) must be located within 4 inches of the top of the crosse.”*

ART. 3 . . . Any strings or leathers are limited to a hanging length of 2 inches. All hollow crosse handles must have their open end covered with an end cap manufactured for a lacrosse stick. In both cases, the crosse shall not be

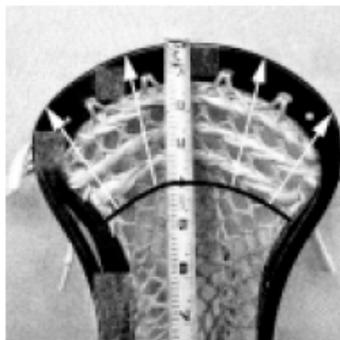


Figure 7

considered illegal; however, it shall be removed from the game until corrected. Any additional strings or laces (e.g., shooting strings, V channels) must be located within 4 inches of the top of the crosse. (See Figure 7)

Q. Does this restriction apply to the Goalkeeper’s crosse?

A. No. That part of the rule does not apply to the Goalkeeper’s crosse.

Q. What is the penalty for a violation?

A. Under Rule 5.5 - 3 minute non-releasable penalty and the crosse remains at the table for the remainder of the game.

2. NFHS Rule 4-3-3n

player taking a faceoff. The tape is to begin (but not be touching) the plastic at the throat of the crosse and continuing 6 inches down the handle. Tape must be of contrasting color to the head, gloves and shaft.

Q. Can paint be used in place of tape on the crosse?

A. No, tape **must** be used.

3. NFHS Rule 4-14-3

ART. 3 . . . Once the ball has been successfully advanced into the goal area, a team is provided the opportunity to run its offense in its offensive half of the field. If the offensive team carries, passes or propels the ball to its defensive half of the field and the offensive team was last in possession, and last touched the ball (except on shot), the result will be an immediate turnover or play-on.

If the ball does not touch or go over the center line, no infraction has occurred. Defensive players may legally bat the ball to keep it in the offensive half of the field; but if it is possessed and their feet are in the defensive half, it shall be a turnover.

Note: For all questions below, consider that Team A has cleared the ball and established possession in the box, ending the 10-second clearing count. A pass from A1 to A2 is missed, and the ball bounces toward the centerline without being touched by Team B.

Q. Is the center line treated as a *plane* so that if a ball crosses the center line it is an immediate violation?

A. No the ball must touch the center line, the ground on the defense half of the field or anything in defensive half.

Q. May a player in the defensive half of the field bat the ball with his cross or kick the ball so that the ball does not cross the centerline?

A. Yes.

Q. May a player in the offensive half of the field reach across the centerline and either catch the ball or bat the ball back over the centerline, so that it never touches the center line, the ground on the defense half of the field or anything in contact with the defensive half?

A. Yes

4. NFHS Rule 4-18-1 *SITUATION E:*

***4.18.1 SITUATION E:** Two or more defenders from Team B are standing in the crease in front of the goal with a clear intention of blocking shots, not defending another player. **RULING:** Conduct foul on Team B. If Team A was in possession, Team B in-home serves a 30-second penalty. A second violation by Team B should be enforced as unsportsmanlike conduct.

Q. Does the goalkeeper count as one of the two defenders referred to in the situation?

A. No the goalkeeper does not count as one of the two defensemen under this rule.

Q. Is this an immediate whistle?

A. The officials will stop play as soon as they notice the situation. However, if a shot is already in flight when this is noticed, the shot will be allowed to come to its normal conclusion before the whistle blows to stop play.

5. Restarts

Q. Where is the play restarted when there is a technical foul before the faceoff begins or while the faceoff players are down battling in the faceoff position?

A. The offended team is awarded the ball in its offensive side of the field at the center.

Q. If after the face off is started, the ball is directed or moves away from the Center if a player commits a loose ball infraction, e.g. a push or hold, where does the play restart?

A. The play is restarted where at the spot where the ball was when the whistle blew.

NCAA RULES MEMO

Memo:

February 4, 2016

TO: Head Men's Lacrosse Coaches and Officials.
FROM: Bob Scalise
Chair, NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee
Willie Scroggs
Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Rules Updates and Clarifications.

This communication is being distributed to alert the NCAA men's lacrosse community to a few important interpretations and clarifications as the 2016 season begins. These are not rules changes, but clarifications and clearer interpretations to existing rules. These clarifications will be included in the next edition of the rules and have been confirmed by the committee.

1. Rule 1, Section 19; Crosse – Prohibitions. In a few cases, coaches and officials asked if the prohibitions detailed in this rule apply to the goalkeeper's stick. The committee is clarifying that this section does NOT apply to the goalkeeper's stick.

2. Rule 1, Section 17; Crosse-Dimensions. In some cases, the spirit of the rules regarding the circumference of the crosse handle are being violated, specifically with faceoff players near the head of the crosse. To be clear, any material added to the stick (e.g., tape) must not cause the stick to violate the 3 ½" circumference limitation in this rule. Tape or other material added to the end of the handle (e.g., donuts) are permitted and traditional to the game.

3. Rule 1, Section 21; Personal Equipment. As stated in this section, "the altering of equipment is prohibited." Therefore, the removing shoulder pads, elbow pads, etc. or altering equipment to limit the amount of padding is not allowed. Institutions are reminded that players are to be equipped properly and to wear all required equipment as designed by the manufacturer.

4. Rule 2, Section 8; Approval of Score. Some questions were raised at the preseason clinics that dealt with when the game officials' authority begins and ends. To be clear, jurisdiction extends until the officials leave the facility, including their locker room and the parking lot, as it relates to unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials. This does not, however, mean that game officials are required to monitor the field and any incidents that might occur after the score is approved and the officials leave the field.

5. Rule 4, Section 27; Team Time Out and Rule 4, Section 28; Illegal Equipment – Head Coach's Request for Official's Inspection. During restarts within the field of play, a coach may not request an equipment or stick check. This clarification eliminates a means for teams to slow down what should be a quick restart.

6. Transfer of Video for Use During the Game. The committee was asked about the use of electronic devices in the coaching area (e.g., tablets, computers, etc.) to review/transmit video for coaching purposes. Current rules do not prohibit such devices. While the committee believes some additional discussion is warranted, for this season, the use of such devices shall be legal. The committee plans to add this item to the rules survey in the spring and will monitor the impact on the sport. A more definitive decision will be made during the August annual meetings.

7. New Stick Head Design. Members of the rules committee who attended the coaches association meetings in December were shown a new stick design from Warrior, Inc. that comes with the head and mesh sewn together. While the committee is unsure of the exact launch date of the product, we have received questions from several officials who have seen the new product in scrimmages, etc. Based on the prototype that was shared with the committee members, the stick/head meet all NCAA specifications. That said, officials should continue to conduct appropriate stick checks and ensure legality as normal.

The committee appreciates your attention to these clarifications and interpretations. They will be included in the next rules book, but are effective immediately.

The committee's rules survey will be distributed later this spring and will be an important part of the reference material for the next rules cycle. The response and participation with last year's survey was excellent. It is important to hear your thoughts, comments, and concerns in order for the committee to address the items to ensure our sport is safe, fair, and exciting to play, coach, watch and officiate for all involved.

Thank you for your attention to this _communication and good luck in the 2016 season.

Cc: Mr. Tom Abbott

Selected Staff Members

Please Do Not Reply to this email. Please contact your Assignor or system administrator with any (game/assignment related) questions. All ZebraWeb.org (system related support requests) should be submitted to support@ZebraWeb.org.

Thank you

NCAA RULES MEMO

Memo:

February 9, 2016

TO: Men's Lacrosse Officials.

FROM: Bob Scalise, chair NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee Willie Scroggs, secretary-rules editor NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Over and Back Interpretation.

The committee has received several questions regarding the over and back rule and more specifically a definition of exactly when the ball is considered to be over the midline. This specific aspect of the rule is not written in the current rule. Therefore, an interpretation is needed.

To be consistent with the definition of a ball being considered out of bounds (Rule 4-7 on pages 32 and 33 of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book), contact with something must occur for the ball to be considered over the line.

Therefore, the ball is not considered to be over the midline until it contacts something (e.g., playing surface, player, crosse, etc.) that is across the midline. The only exception to this rule is on a shot taken that goes out of bounds on the end line or sideline, as stated on Page 33. The committee appreciates your attention to this clarification. Good luck in the 2016 season.

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Thank you

NCAA RULES MEMO

Memo:

February 10, 2016

TO: NCAA Men's Lacrosse Officials.

FROM: Tom Abbott National Coordinator of Men's Lacrosse Officials.

SUBJECT: **Faceoff Mechanics.**

Welcome to the 2016 season. As usual, the majority of emails and calls I've received thus far have been about the faceoff. This communication has been sent to all coaches and officials and is intended to be a refresher course in clearing up a couple of issues regarding the faceoff.

In particular, I will cover two major items: 1) The length of time it takes to conduct the faceoff; and 2) What constitutes one step, which is part of the rule.

To start with, I think we would all agree, last year's changes in the rules regarding faceoffs has made a dramatic improvement in the way the ball has come out of the faceoff area. Generally speaking, once the whistle blows to start play, the ball is out and away much quicker than in previous seasons.

The officiating mechanics implemented in 2015, especially having two officials conducting the face off, has greatly improved the quality and fairness of the face off. While the ball has come out of the area quicker, after the sounding of the whistle, the competing players are in the "down" position for a considerable length of time before the "set" command.

It is always important to get the players into a proper and legal position, but it is just as important to not have them be in the "down" position for an inordinate amount of time. Officials have also been instructed to vary the whistle after the "set" command and are doing so with more regularity. The end result is the overall process has often taken longer than necessary.

For the 2016 season, I am directing officials to conduct this process in a more timely fashion and asking coaches to instruct their players to be in a legal position as quickly as possible. As the season moves along, I expect this whole process to become easier for everyone.

Secondly, there have been a few **questions regarding when the one step portion of** the rule start actually starts.

To be very clear, Rule 4-3.b.10, on Page 28 in the NCAA rules states: ***"It is still legal to clamp the ball with the back of the stick, but it must be moved, raked, or directed immediately. Immediately is defined as within one step."***

The rule continues with section 11: *"A player may not lie on the ball or trap it with his*

crossed longer than is necessary for him to control the ball and pick it up with one continuous motion, or withhold the ball from play in any other manner."

To assist with the enforcement of these rules, please note the following guidance notes:

- If a player gains control and does not move the ball immediately, a violation will be called.
- Dragging the ball on the ground and the shuffling of the feet, after gaining control, is considered to be a violation. (Note: The 2016 NCAA Rules Video covered this exact play.) Officials are instructed to call this as a violation and coaches are reminded to instruct their players to move the ball immediately upon gaining control.
- A ball that is clamped in the back of the stick and immediately released (before a step is taken) continues to be legal.

Thank you for your attention to these important aspects of the faceoff. Good luck to all during the 2016 season.

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Thank you