



MINUTES
2019 BOYS LACROSSE RULES COMMITTEE

Hyatt Regency Downtown

Indianapolis, IN

7/15-17/2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tommie Neubauer	Chair
Eric Klein	Section 1
John Titus	Section 2
Tommy Whittle	Section 3
Thomas Cummings	Section 4
Matthew Dempsey	Section 5
Jeffery Young	Section 7
Robert Gilmore	NFHS Coaches Association
Jason Neely	NFHS Officials Association
David Seidman	US Lacrosse
Walt Munze	US Lacrosse – Ex Officio
Rick Lake	US Lacrosse – Ex Officio

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Committee members introduced
- B. Meeting schedule reviewed
- C. Expense Form reviewed
- D. Conflict of Interest Statement/Emergency Forms completed

2. Bob Colgate – Discussed NFHS Injury Surveillance Study for Spirit

NFHS Director of Sports and Sports Medicine, Mr. Bob Colgate, presented a detailed summary of the Boys' Lacrosse section of the 2017-18 NFHS Injury Surveillance Study – RIO Report. He highlighted that the results continue to be instrumental in the rule writing process and the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) continues to review the data. This study reported that although the lacrosse season is very short, injuries are taking out student athletes for long periods of time despite surgery rates being very low for Boys Lacrosse injuries. The highest prevalence of injuries has occurred to juniors and seniors, which is rare. There was a discussion regarding injuries that are brought over from student athletes playing club/travel lacrosse into the high school season and how this affects injury rates. Doctors who continued to this report have been very pleased with the smaller injury numbers, which have been helped out a lot thanks to risk minimization efforts, working with coaches and Points of Emphasis. Mr. Colgate remarked that injury rates have continued to go down thanks to the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee. The committee thanked Mr. Colgate for his report.

Two questions were raised at the meeting by committee members:

1. Can the "Defensive Area", "Goal Area", and "Crease Area" be combined in the RIO reports in the future?
2. Is there a one page flyer available to recruit trainers to submit injury reports?

3. Rick Lake from US Lacrosse presented a report showing continuing growth of the sport at the youth level. Girls Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the country. Mr. Lake brought up the shoulder pad verse chest pad conversation as well as mentioning how he wanted to hear conversations about the pace of play, restarts, and clarification of the slow whistle technique. There was also a review of the rule changes passed at the youth level.
4. Andy Supergan from the NCAA prepared and sent in a report that was reviewed by the committee. This focused on the disparity between the number of officials at both the college and HS levels.
5. Committee Chair, Tommie Neubauer, presented an overview of the meeting charge and procedures and highlighted the rules and guidelines for discussion and voting procedures.
6. The committee discussed the submitted rule proposals, situations, editorials changes to the rule book, and 2019 test questions that were missed by 25% or more of all test takers. Items below include the proposals that have passed the committee:
7. **Rule proposals passed by the committee:** 10 Approved Proposals

1-9-1	<p>ART. 1 . . . Mandatory equipment. Each player shall wear the following pieces of equipment which shall be professionally manufactured and not altered:</p> <p>d. Shoulder pads <u>designed for lacrosse</u> (optional for goalkeepers). <u>Note: Beginning January 1, 2022, field players must wear shoulder pads that meet the NOCSAE ND200 lacrosse standard for chest protection</u> at the time of manufacture.</p> <p>j. Goalkeepers may wear:</p> <p>2. Chest protector <u>designed for lacrosse</u>. Beginning January 1, 2021, goalkeeper chest protector <u>protection</u> designed for lacrosse that <u>meets incorporates</u> the NOCSAE ND200 at the time of manufacture shall be used by all goalkeepers.</p> <p>Rationale: NOCSAE ND200 protection will be available for field players and goalies in the fall of 2019 by 3 separate companies. This change will provide Commotio Cordis protection for all lacrosse players.</p>
2-7-2f	<p>ART. 2... The CBO shall supervise and have complete jurisdiction over the timekeeper, penalty timekeepers, scorers, coaches, substitutes and any other persons within the bench areas, the substitution area, and the penalty box. The assigned chief bench official also shall be empowered to count crosses when requested and call the following:</p> <p>a. Violations of the coaches-, bench- and table-area rules.</p> <p>b. Any unsportsmanlike acts that occur within the coaches, bench and table areas.</p> <p>c. Any illegal-crosse exchange.</p> <p>d. A player who has been substituted for not leaving the field of play at the table area or bench area.</p> <p>e. Offsides.</p>

	<p>f. Too many or too few players on the field.</p> <p>g. Delayed substitutions.</p> <p>Rationale: A team with fewer players on the field is not gaining an unfair advantage by having fewer players. If they do gain an advantage by a player running on the field later during play then it is a delayed substitution. By removing “or too few” an increase pace of game should occur.</p>
<p>4-5-1</p> <p>4-5-2</p> <p>4-5-3</p> <p>4-5-6</p> <p>4-5-7</p>	<p>ART. 1 . . . Restart – Whenever a player has been awarded the ball for any reason. Under such conditions, no player may take a position closer to him than five yards.</p> <p>ART. 2 ... <u>Player Possession</u> – When aA player who can perform any of the normal functions of control, such as carrying, cradling, passing or shooting-, <u>the player and team have possession.</u></p> <p>ART. 3 ... Team possession – When a player of that team meets the definition in paragraph Art. 2 or Art. 7 of this section.</p> <p>ART. 43 . . . Loose ball – A ball not in the possession of a player.</p> <p>ART. 54 . . . Pass – Movement of the ball caused by a player in possession throwing or bouncing the ball to a teammate.</p> <p>ART. 6 ... Completed pass – When a pass is caught by a teammate.</p> <p>ART. 7 ... Ball in flight – A ball in flight from one teammate to another is a ball in possession if the ball is caught by a teammate.</p> <p>Rationale: The concept of "Ball in Flight" is no longer needed to conform to past rules changes. For purposes of technical fouls, a "ball in flight" is treated as a loose ball. Without the "Ball in Flight" article, the "Team Possession" article is not needed as Team Possession and Player Possession are the same thing.</p>
<p>4-22-1</p> <p>Other Rules affected:</p> <p>4-22-4 (Delete)</p> <p>4-22-5 (Delete)</p>	<p>ART. 1... On all restarts, once the official has signaled determined that the ball is ready for play, the official shall <u>restart play as quickly as possible. All players shall be 5 yards or more away from the player in possession of the ball. Play may be resumed immediately after the ball is signaled ready for play if a player of the team awarded the ball is in position outside the goal area (Articles 2 and 3) and the officials are in position to officiate the restart. (4-6-3a)</u></p> <p>a. <u>Play may be restarted when a defensive player is less than 5 yards from the player in possession of the ball if the defensive player:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>allows the player in possession of the ball a direct path to the goal, and</u> 2. <u>does not defend the player in possession of the ball until that player reaches a distance of 5 yards from the defending player.</u> <p>Penalty: <u>delay of game technical foul</u></p> <p>b. <u>Play may not be restarted when an offensive player is less than 5 yards from the player in possession of the ball.</u></p> <p>c. <u>The goalkeeper shall be given a maximum of 5 seconds to reenter the crease on any restart.</u></p>

	<p>Rationale: Create a faster restart for the offensive team and increase the pace of play for the overall game. Defensive players can and have been intentionally positioning themselves within 5 yards of a player to delay the start of play. This is a legal way of slowing down the game and creating an advantage for the defense that is unnecessary.</p>
<p>4-24-6 (New)</p> <p>Other Rules Affected:</p> <p>4-25-7 Delete</p>	<p><u>ART. 6 . . . Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. This time-out, if not charged, is an official’s time-out. (See NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion.)</u></p> <p>ART. 67</p> <p>ART. 78</p> <p>ART. 89</p> <p>ART. 910</p> <p>Rationale: We already have 4-24-5 that tells us a timeout for injury is an officials' timeout and a player with symptoms consistent with a concussion should be treated the same - officials' timeout not a team timeout. Rather than appending it to the list of Articles in 4-24, it seems to fit best with the Article 5 which says an injured player is an official's timeout. If adopted, there is one situation from 4-25 that would move to 4-24 but remain unchanged.</p>
<p>5-5</p>	<p>SECTION 5 ILLEGAL CROSSE</p> <p>A player may not use a crosse that does not conform to the required specifications. Use of an illegal crosse carries a two-or three-minute, nonreleasable penalty. A crosse found illegal due to a deep pocket will carry a one-minute, non-releasable penalty. A player using a crosse found illegal for not meeting any required specification other than a deep pocket will receive a three-minute, non-releasable penalty</p> <p>(EXCEPTION: hanging string length and end caps as in Rule 1-7-3). A player using a crosse found illegal because it was altered to gain an advantage will receive a three-minute, non-releasable penalty. Any crosse ruled illegal and resulting in a three-minute penalty will remain in the table area for the remainder of the game.</p> <p>Every crosse on a team is subject to inspection, and the crosse need not have been in the game to be inspected.</p> <p>Rationale: All illegal crosses should be the same penalty to simplify the rule and create consistent enforcement of the rule. The player has the opportunity to fix the stick or any other stick they plan on using in the game. If the player does not fix the stick and is found to have an illegal stick a second time, it will result in a second penalty. This rule change would simplify the existing rules and allows players the opportunity to correct the issue.</p>
<p>5-10</p>	<p>SECTION 10 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT...</p> <p>No player, substitute, nonplaying member of a squad, coach or anyone officially connected with a competing team shall:</p> <p>a. Enter into an argument with an official as to any decision that has been made or in any way attempt to influence the decision of an official.</p>

	<p>b. Use threatening, profane or obscene language or gestures at any time during the game.</p> <p>c. Bait or call undue attention to oneself, or any other act considered unsportsmanlike by the officials.</p> <p>d. Deliberately use his hand or fingers to play the ball or grab an opponent’s crosse with the open hand or fingers on a faceoff. NOTE: Inadvertent touching of the ball when the hand is grasping the stick on a faceoff should not be called as an unsportsmanlike conduct foul.</p> <p><u>e. Throwing a crosse at the ball, at a player, or other game personnel.</u></p> <p>PENALTY: Items above are one- to three-minute non-releasable penalties in all cases.</p> <p><u>fe.</u> Be a coach who is on the field and obstructs play.</p> <p><u>gf.</u> Repeatedly commit the same technical foul.</p> <p><u>hg.</u> As a player, deliberately fail to return immediately to the field after leaving the field of play while legally in the game.</p> <p><u>ih.</u> As a substitute, deliberately fail to comply with the rules for entering the field of play.</p> <p>PENALTY: Items above are one- to three-minute releasable penalties in all cases.</p> <p>Rationale: Current wording for throwing a crosse state, it can be unsportsmanlike yet it is not listed under the foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. Throwing a crosse at a shot, pass, or another player is most commonly unsportsmanlike conduct and is sited under 7-9-2 Enforcement After a Slow Whistle.</p>
<p>6-1-1 PENALTY</p>	<p>PENALTY: Awarding a technical foul:</p> <p>a. <u>If the team fouled has possession of the ball or there is a flag down on the offending player’s team, the penalty shall be 30-second suspension of the offending player.</u></p> <p>b. <u>If the ball is loose and there is no flag down, award the ball to the team that was fouled.</u></p> <p>PENALTY: The penalty for a technical foul shall be either a 30-second suspension of the offending player from the game (if the team fouled had possession of the ball at the time the foul was committed) or simply the awarding of the ball to the team fouled (if the team fouled did not have possession of the ball at the time the foul was committed).</p> <p>Rationale: This updates the language to be consistent with the 2018 change in Rule 7.8.2 SLOW-WHISTLE TECHNIQUE.</p>
<p>6-2-1</p>	<p>ART. 1 . . . When the defensive team has possession of the ball, infringements of the rules involving the crease shall be penalized as follows (rather than under the general rules for technical fouls):</p> <p>a. <u>If there is no existing flag down, A</u>ny crease violation or interference with the goalkeeper of a technical nature while the ball is in possession of the defensive team outside of the crease shall result in a slow-whistle, flag-down situation.</p> <p>b. <u>If there is no existing flag down, A</u>ny crease violation or interference with the goalkeeper while he and the ball are in the crease, whether or not he has possession of the</p>

	<p>ball, shall be a play-on. If the goalkeeper has possession and fails to run the ball out of the crease or successfully complete an outlet pass, the ball is awarded to his team in its offensive side of the field at the Center. If the ball is loose in the crease and the goalkeeper gains possession, the play-on is over.</p> <p><u>c. If there is an existing flag down on a team that commits a crease violation or goalkeeper interference, it shall be an immediate whistle for the second foul whether there is possession or not and regardless of ball location. Both the initial foul and the crease violation or goalkeeper interference shall be time serving.</u></p> <p>Rationale: This updates the rule and situations to be consistent with the changes to Rule 7-8-2 SLOW WHISTLE TECHNIQUE made in 2019.</p>
<p>6-5-2</p>	<p>ART. 2 . . . The following are examples of illegal procedure:</p> <p>a. Touching the ball – A player shall not touch the ball with his hands while it is in play. The exception is the goalkeeper while both he and the ball are inside the crease.</p> <p>b. Illegal actions with crosse – A player shall not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Throw the crosse <u>other than at a ball, other player, or game personnel</u> 2. Take part in the play of the game in any manner without his crosse. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Should <u>If</u> a player loses his crosse in any legal way, so that repossession of the crosse would cause him to violate a rule, the slow whistle shall be employed by an official. (b) Should <u>If</u> the crosse be is in the crease so as to possibly interfere with the goalkeeper’s play of an attempted shot at the goal, play shall be suspended immediately. 3. Intentionally kick an opponent’s crosse. 4. Exchange his crosse with that of a teammate during live play while the ball is in either crosse. <p>Rationale: Current wording may contradict the actual rule. Throwing a crosse at a shot, pass, or another player is most commonly unsportsmanlike conduct. Under 7-9-2 Enforcement After a Slow Whistle.</p>

8. SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

Committee members were divided into subcommittees to work on: Points of Emphasis, Situations and Rulings, and Test Questions on Tuesday, July 16th. The committee members were divided into subcommittees to work on: Comments on the 2019 Rules Revisions, Review Changes and the Questionnaire on Wednesday, July 17th.

9. 2019 MEETINGS

A. Committee members were reminded that the NFHS In-Person Boys’ Lacrosse Rules Interpreters’ Meeting is set for January 7, 2020.

B. The dates for the 2020 NFHS Boys’ Lacrosse Rules Meeting will be July 18-20, 2020 in Indianapolis.

10. TERM EXPIRATIONS

Tommie Neubauer (Chairperson), Jeff Young and Jason Neely were recognized for their outstanding service and were presented with gifts in recognition of representation on the committee.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on July 17, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.