To: Women's Lacrosse Community

From: Ericka Leslie, USL Rules Interpreter
Cathy Russo, USL Youth Rules Interpreter
Lissa Fickert, Rules Chair
Laurette Payette, WGOSC Chair

Issuance Date: January 27, 2012

Subject: Convention Clarifications, Rule Interpretations and Season Reminders

Thank you to all umpires who participated in the 2012 US Lacrosse Convention and attended the general and youth rules interpretation sessions. Included in this memorandum are several rules and procedure reminders and clarifications that officials and coaches should pay particular attention to as the 2012 season begins. Please note that some information applies to only USL rules and some information applies to both USL and NCAA rules.

We remind everyone that information regarding all rules, both USL and NCAA, is posted throughout the season on the US Lacrosse web site:
http://www.uslacrosse.org/TopNav2Right/Rule/WomensRules.aspx

Carding procedures: The carding rules for NCAA and US Lacrosse are different this year. Officials should be sure to review the USL carding policies and rules:

- A player receiving a yellow or red card will serve the penalty in her team area.
- All penalties are non-releasable.
- A team receiving its fourth card will play short for the remainder of the game.

Restraining Line Violation/Illegal Substitution (USL/NCAA):

(See Umpire Manual: Section 5:9, Section VI, Special Situations)
Blue attack has the ball below the restraining line in their attacking end of the field. The official realizes that Blue is offside and blows her whistle to stop play. The officials then discover that Blue has too many players on the field, thus committing an illegal substitution foul.

The officials should call time out. Correct the offside and illegal substitution by removing the attack player who is closest to and below the restraining line from the field. Award the ball to the closest defender at the spot of the ball and move the attack player, who had possession, 4m directly behind. This free position should be no closer than 8m to the goal circle.

Though not stated in the manual, if the same situation occurs (offside and illegal substitution) but the defense is the team in violation, the officials should correct the off side and illegal substitution as outlined above. The free position set up will follow the procedures outlined for defensive offside in Rule 7, Sections 7 and 8.

8m arc Free Position mechanics (USL/NCAA):

Have all players "STAND"…and instruct players where to position by taking the shortest route out while maintaining relative position to players in close proximity.

- NCAA only – Call Time Out
- USL – Call Time Out ONLY IF penalty administration is taking too much time

8m arc Free Position mechanics after a Slow Whistle (flag)(USL/NCAA):

a. Rulebook, Rule 7, Section 22 – "The offending or nearest defense player is penalized according to major foul conditions. The next nearest defense player may move to 4m relative to the player with the ball."

b. Rulebook, Rule 7, Section 23 – "During a slow whistle situation, if there are additional major or minor fouls by the defense, the attack will be awarded the ball at the 8-meter hash mark nearest to the most recent foul at the end of the unsuccessful scoring play."

Signals: We remind officials about the importance of using clear and visible foul signals each time a foul is called. Give the signal out and away from the body; make the signal big; hold the signal long enough to be seen; and position your body in such a way that your partners, the coaches, and the players can see the signal. It is a good technique to give the signal more than once if possible.

Pregame field/goal check: When possible the officials for each game should check the field set up and the goals immediately upon arrival at the game site. This will allow time for corrections that will not interrupt team warm ups. If this early check is not possible and problems are identified closer to game time, every effort should be made to wait until after team warm ups are completed before making corrections.

USL Youth Rules (U-15 and below):

Women's Rule Book, page 86, Fouls, #5: No Deputy will be allowed in the goal circle for all levels of youth play (major foul).

Women's Rule Book, page 87, Fouls, #6: On an 8M free position, a player may shoot provided there is a goalkeeper or a modified goal (i.e. shooting net) is being used. If there is not a goalkeeper or it is an open net, then the 8M free position shall be indirect (major foul).

We provide the following additional clarifying information. This will apply to all levels of play:
All goal circle rules (except deputy) will apply at all youth levels, U15 and below, when a goalkeeper is used. Without a goalkeeper, the defense may not deliberately put the ball into the goal circle.

If an 8M free position is awarded where the goalkeeper will serve the penalty 4M behind leaving an open net, the player taking the free position may shoot. Alternatively, if a GK is on the field, but not in the goal by rule or circumstance, then the player taking the free position may shoot.

US Lacrosse First Edition Youth Rules & Best Practices Guidebook Edits:

Page 31 - Equipment - Goalkeeper; abdominal and pelvic protection must also be worn by the youth level goalkeeper

Page 34 - Roles – Team - It should be corrected that girl's lacrosse is a team sport; there are 11 field players and a goalie when playing on a regulation field.

Page 67 - Minor Fouls - Inside the 12M Fan - during an indirect free position no shot may be taken by the player awarded this free position until the ball has been 'played' in a full check game (U15) or the ball has been 'passed' in a modified or no checking game (U9, U11, U13).

Page 73 – Umpires – Arm Signals – Offside is a MAJOR foul