



MEMORANDUM

September 27, 2012

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TO: Women's Lacrosse Head Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Celine Cunningham, chair  
NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee.

Pat Dillon, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Experimental Rule – 2012 Fall Season.

The NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved an experimental rule for the 2012 fall season. **While teams are not required to play by this rule, the committee is asking for every institution's cooperation in testing this potential rule change.** At the conclusion of the fall season, an online survey will be sent to both coaches and officials requesting feedback which will assist the committee in making informed decisions at their next meeting.

**Experimental Rule: RULE 5 - Play of the Game**

**To allow any defender to move through the goal circle below goal line extended. Only the defender marking the player with the ball may remain in the goal circle below the goal line extended.**

The committee has received the following questions about the experimental rule:

1. *If the ball is held directly behind the goal could a defender stay in the goal circle rather than passing through?*

Yes, one defender may remain in the goal circle as long as the player she is "marking" is in possession of the ball. Please refer to Rule 8, Definition of Terms – Marking is guarding an opponent within a stick's length. Once the attack player is no longer in possession of the ball, or she moves away and the defender is no longer within a stick's length, the defender in the goal circle must exit.

2. *If the attack player with the ball behind the goal was being double teamed, could both defenders run through the goal circle below the goal line extended?*

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Yes, both defenders could move through the goal circle to continue double teaming the attack player with the ball. Only one could legally remain in the goal circle if the player with the ball stopped and stayed within a stick's length. There is no limit to the number of defenders who may move through the goal circle below the goal line extended, nor does a defender have to be moving through while marking the player with the ball. Any defender may move through the goal circle at any time as long as she is below the goal line extended.

3. *Do we have to add a line to the field connecting the goal line inside the circle with the goal line extended outside?*

No, a line does not have to be added.

A defender who violates this rule should be penalized for a defensive goal circle foul per Rule 7, Section 10. The free position will be taken 8 meters out to either side, level with the goal line. The offending player will be placed 4 meters behind the player taking the free position.

Please note again that this is an experimental rule change to be used ONLY during the fall season. This change will NOT be used during the regular 2013 season. Contact Pat Dillon at [pdillon656@aol.com](mailto:pdillon656@aol.com) if you have any questions regarding this communication.

CC/PD:bw

cc: NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members