

## 2004-05 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Major Rules Changes

--**Rule 1-2, A.R. 3, Playing Field. New A.R. 3:** "Officials arrive at the game sight and notice that field markings in Rule 1-2-a do not conform to the "Lacrosse Field of Play" diagram or are of incorrect dimensions. RULING: Officials notify Team A head coach. 1. No penalty will be assessed if corrections are made prior to designated game time; 2. Technical foul (visiting team awarded ball) will be assessed if corrections delay the start of the game; 3. Three minute full-time penalty (no face-off) if Team A coach is unable or refuses to make corrections. Officials should notify their district assigner."

--**Rule 1-10, Table Area, Team Benches.** Add: "It is recommended that this table be elevated."

--**Rule 1-19, Note 2, Crosse Construction.** Change to read: "All hollow crosse handles must have their exposed ends adequately covered with plastic, rubber or tape to prevent injury. The use of metal caps (e.g., bottle caps) are prohibited."

--**Rule 2-11, Chief Bench Official.** The committee voted to remove this position from the rules book. It was removed from NCAA championships last season and the position is rarely used in college games.

--**Rule 2-12, Timekeeper and 2-13, Scorer.** Add that the timekeeper and "are recommended to be at the field 20 minutes prior to the start of the game."

--**Rule 4-3, Facing Off.** Reworded this section to read: "The official first shall place the ball on the ground in the center of the 4-inch-wide line. The players shall stand on the same side of the field as the goal each is defending. The official shall indicate to both players to assume their respective positions at the same time by saying "down." The crosses shall rest on the ground along the edge of the center line, be placed parallel to each other up to, but not touching, the line."

The official shall make certain that the reverse surfaces of the crosses match evenly and are perpendicular to the ground. Each player must have both hands wrapped around the handle of his own crosse, touching the ground. The right hand may not touch any part of the head of the crosse. The player's feet may not touch his crosse. Both hands and feet of each player must be to the left of the throat of his crosse. Each player must be positioned so his entire body is to the left of the throat of his crosse. It is legal to lean over the center line.

Once the players facing off have assumed their positions, the official shall say "set." The players may not back out or reset their positions once the official has said "set." Once this signal is given, both players must remain motionless until the official sounds the whistle for play. The official shall sound the whistle promptly. At the sound of the whistle, each player may attempt to direct the

course of the ball by the movement of his crosse in any manner. It is illegal to kick or step on the opponent's crosse.”

The committee will also add a diagram clearly showing examples of this procedure. The concern of the committee is, in part, for the safety of officials (this moves the players apart slightly, allowing more room to see potential violations) and gives a clear separation between players.

**--Rule 4-5-g, Note, Play of the Ball – Ball in flight.** Changed to read: “...have **not** been in possession during the flight of the ball, **regardless of whether or not the ball is caught by a teammate.**”

**--Rule 4-5-h, A.R. 26, Play of the Ball – Clear.** Changed to read: “A1 passes to teammate A2. While the ball is in flight, B1 commits (1) technical foul or (2) personal foul. **RULING:** (1) Technical foul, play on mechanics. (2) Slow whistle is used. When the whistle is blown, the ball is awarded to Team A and B1 serves the proper penalty time (treat as possession foul).”

**--Rule 4-14, Advancing the Ball Beyond the Defensive-Area Line.** The committee voted to alter this rule to read: “Upon gaining possession of the ball inside the defensive **half of the field**, a team must advance the ball beyond the **midfield line within 20 seconds.** Failure to do so will result in a turnover, and the ball will be awarded to the opposing team.”

**--Add new Rule 4-19-e, Goalkeeper Privileges:** “During the course of play if a goalkeeper's stick becomes broken or any other required equipment becomes broken or dislodged, play shall be suspended immediately.”

### **Editorial Changes**

--Rule 1-3, Goals and Goal lines. Reword note at the end of Section 1-3 to read the same ruling as Rule 1-2, A.R. 3.

--Delete Rule 1-16, with the exception of A.R. 11, and add new wording as written in Rule 1-2, A.R. 3. Move A.R. 11 to Rule 1-2 and list it as A.R. 4.

--Rule 1-17, A.R. 13, The Ball. “A white ball shall be used unless both coaches agree to use a different colored ball.”

--Rule 1-17, The Ball. Change wording to be: “...or lime green **smooth** solid ball...”

--Rule 1-18, Crosse-Dimensions. Add reference that goalie equipment requirements must be met in Rule 6-6, A.R., 19-21.

--Rule 1-21, A.R. 21, Helmet, Face Mask and Mouthpiece. Delete “or other required equipment.” Also, reword the ruling to read: “Goal counts, the game restarts with the ball being awarded to Team B at the center line.”

--Rule 1-22, Personal Equipment. Separate to clarify this section into two parts: “Protective Equipment” and “Jerseys.”

--Rule 4-3, A.R. 8, Facing Off. Add: “Faceoff restrictions do not apply.” This is already in practice, but this was necessary for clarity.

--Rule 4-3, A.R. 16, Facing Off. This A.R. will be changed to be a play on, to coordinate correctly with the rule.

Rule 4-3, A.R. 18: After a faceoff, but before possession has been declared, a player loses any of the required equipment in the scrimmage area, the player (1) Continues to play; (2) Stops playing; (3) Is, in the opinion of referee, in danger of injury. RULING: (1) Technical foul. (2) Faceoff again if the whistle is blown while the ball is in the area between the defensive-area lines. (3) Referee must blow the whistle immediately and award the ball according to the alternate-possession rule if the ball crosses the defensive-area line.

--Rule 4-6-a, Out of Bounds. Add “...the ground **or any object** on or beyond...”

--Rule 4-6-b (2), Out of Bounds. Add “...go directly out of bounds on a face-off, **when it is not known which team caused the ball to go out-of-bounds, or who touched it last before going out of bounds,** it shall be re-faced.”

--Rule 4-6-b, Out of Bounds. Add new (4), to clarify: “A player who is legally in bounds may catch a shot or pass after the ball has crossed the plane of the end line or sideline.”

--Rule 4-6-c, Out of Bounds. Add new (7) to clarify: “Illegal entry will result when a player in possession of the ball outside the defensive clearing line steps on or inside the defensive clearing line.”

--Rule 4-7, Ball Stuck in Crosse or Equipment. Added wording: “Neither situation applies to the designated goalkeeper if he is within the goal crease area at the time the ball becomes stuck. In this case, a defensive player shall be awarded the ball 20 yards laterally from the goal.”

--Rule 4-7-b, Ball Stuck in Crosse or Equipment. Editorial addition, which was accidentally omitted from the 2004 rules book, but was in the 2003 rules book: “Neither situation applies to a designated goalkeeper if he is within his goal-crease area at the time the ball becomes stuck. In this case, a defensive player shall be awarded the ball 20 yards laterally from the goal.”

--Rule 4-20, A.R. 112, Goal-Crease Prohibitions. Delete “As he is coming out of the crease” to this A.R., because a defensive player may be checked in the crease.

--Rule 4-24, A.R. 115, Special Substitution. Add to ruling to clarify the intent: “This does not remove the responsibility of a team to adhere to the offsides rule.”

--Rule 4-27, Official Timeouts. A player loses equipment in a scrimmage area and continues to participate in the play while that equipment is missing. RULING: Technical foul.

--Rule 4-27, Official Timeouts, A.R. 116. Add to the ruling for clarification: “If possession is not clear, award the ball by the alternate-possession rule.”

--Rule 4-28, Team Timeouts. It was VOTED: “During play, official team timeouts may be called by a field player of a team in possession of the ball or by that team’s head coach only when the player in possession of the ball has contact with the ground **with one foot** in that team’s **attack area.**”

Rationale: The committee would like to eliminate timeouts that are called simply to save a possession and those that are called after a faceoff, especially when possession is not easy to determine. These timeouts slow the game and are difficult to officiate in many cases. This change makes it clear when possession is gained and in the attack zone, a timeout may be called.

--Rule 5-4-b, Illegal Body Check. Delete: “The avoidable body check of an opponent after he has passed or shot the ball.” The committee believes this is redundant and already covered elsewhere in the rules.

--Rule 5-6, Use of Illegal Equipment. Add A.R. 12: “A1 scores a goal. Before the faceoff, it is noticed that A1 is not wearing a piece of required equipment (e.g., shoulder pads, arm pads). RULING: Goal counts, A1 is assessed a one-minute non-releasable personal foul.

--Rule 5-9-c, Unnecessary Roughness. Remove “avoidable” in this rule. The committee feels almost any body check is avoidable and this is misleading to officials.

--Rule 5-13, Fighting. Possibly make this section “Flagrant Misconduct” and define these situations.

--Rule 6-6-b, A.R. 26, Illegal Procedure. Add editorial change to denote an exception to this ruling to coincide with new Rule 4-19-e.

--Rule 6-11, A.R. 46, Stalling: Agreed to change to: “Team A brings ball into its attack area (without a warning), and (1) Team B is playing the ball or (2) Team B is not playing the area. Can Team A be warned to “keep it in?” **RULING:** (1)

Yes, if it is obvious to the officials that Team A is not attempting to attack the goal. (2) No. Team A has fulfilled its obligation by entering the attack zone and Team B must play the ball.

--Rule 6-11, A.R. 50, Stalling. Should read "Same situation as in A.R. **49.**"

--Rule 7-2, A.R. 5, Penalty Time. "No, B1 **must wait for possession to be called and may then enter the field...**"

--Rule 7-3, A.R. 8, Resuming Play After Penalty. Reword to state: "At the spot where the ball was when the whistle blew, **at least 20 yards from the goal cage.**"

--Rule 7-11, Enforcement of Play-On Technique. In the second paragraph, reword to include the wing lines: "The play-on technique shall be used for loose-ball infractions at the center line, the defensive-area lines **and the wing lines.**"

### **Experimental Rule**

--**Rule 7-9, Slow Whistle.** Experimental Rule: In a slow whistle situation where a flag is down for a foul, play shall not be stopped unless the ball leaves the offensive end of the field, the non-penalized team scores or the penalized team gains possession of the ball.

Rationale: The committee would like to see if this creates more shots and more offense. Also, this does not penalize the offense, which did not commit a foul and, the committee feels, deserves the advantage in this situation.

### **Discussion of chest protection and shot blocking tactics**

The committee VOTED to:

1) Recommend that NCAA resources, with the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport, work with medical personnel and manufacturers to develop as safe a shoulder pad/chest protector for men's lacrosse and participate in a study of this. There are some pieces of equipment that are addressing this and we will work to learn more about this.

2) Strongly discourage coaches to teach field players to block shots with their bodies or assume the position of the goaltender.

### **Stick issues**

--Ball becoming dislodged. The current specifications only mandate a width at the top of the stick, not in the pocket or middle of the stick.

--Different areas to measure on the stick head. The committee will continue to review possible measurements in this area.

--Safety. The committee believes players are taking more hits with the stick from opponents attempting to dislodge the ball from the pocket. In the past, the ball came out more easily.

--Grace period for manufacturers.

We would like to discuss these issues with the manufacturers at the coaches meetings in Orlando in December. We want to give every opportunity to be innovative with this; however, the committee feels some more adequate specifications are needed for the betterment of the game.

### **Discussion of Shot Clock**

#### *Positives:*

Subs would be lessened

Create more offense

#### *Negatives:*

Bad offense and bad shots

The committee will put the idea of having a shot clock on the rules survey with some parameters.