

2015 Boys Lacrosse Rules Changes

GHSA Rules Clinic
Spring 2015



State Rules Interpreter

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2015 NFHS Points of Emphasis

1. Contact
2. Equipment Inspection
3. Lacrosse Helmet Fitting



Contact

This POE seeks to balance how the game is played with the recent emphasis on concussions and to reduce the risk of injury to players.

The penalty for illegal hits to the head and neck have been revised and those for blindside hits and hits to defenseless players have been added.



Equipment Inspection

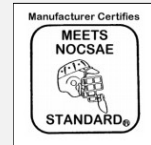
It is recommended that officials when conducting random equipment inspections during a game, ensure that they assess the legality of any player's sticks, including those using faceoffs.



Lacrosse Helmet Fitting

Lacrosse helmets must meet the latest NOCSAE standard, be fitted and properly worn.

- Padding shall give firm and uniform pressure and the skin on the forehead should move as the helmet is moved.
- There must be a four point chinstrap, tightened so there is no slack.
- Helmet fitting must take hair style into account. A haircut may require a refitting.
- A properly fitted helmet should not cause headaches.



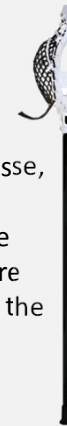
2015 Changes

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|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| • Crosse Inspection 90° Test | • Running Clock Clarification |
| • Crosse Specifications: Strings & Leathers | • Restarts by Defensive Team in their End |
| • Illegal Crosse Clarification | • Illegal Screen |
| • 2016: Shooting Strings | • Four Balls at Scorers Table |
| • Minimum Number of Players (7) | • Leaving Penalty Early |
| • Chief Bench Official (CBO) Responsibilities | • Diving/Feigning Slash |
| | • Faceoff: Crosse and Man Down |



Crosse Inspection

Rule 1-6-2: With the ball in the crosse, horizontal to the ground at the deepest point of the pocket, tip the crosse forward 90 degrees to ensure that the ball rolls out of top end of the head.



Strings and End Caps

Rule 1-7-3: 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.



Get off and Fix



Illegal Crosse

Rule 5-5: ART. 5 A player may not use a crosse that does not conform to required specifications.

This clarifies that an illegal stick will result in a penalty for not meeting specifications, even if unaltered.

Every crosse on a team is subject to inspection, and the crosse need not have been in the game to be inspected.



Illegal Crosse



Shooting Strings

Starting in 2016, Any additional strings or laces (e.g., shooting strings, V channels) must be located within 4\"/>



Minimum Number of Players

Rule 2-1-3: ART. 3 If, because of injuries, players out on ejection fouls, penalties or any other reason, a team cannot keep 10 players in the game, that team may continue the game with fewer than 10 players, with onside and stalling rules remaining in effect. However, a game shall not continue if a team has fewer than seven on-field players. The result of the game shall be determined by the state association or appropriate sponsoring authority.

**Start with 10
Minimum of 7**



Chief Bench Official

Rule 2-7-1 & 2: SECTION 7 ART.

1 When assigned by an assigning authority, an official acting as the chief bench official shall have supervision over the timer's table and complete jurisdiction over the timer, scorer, coaches area and both benches.



- a. Violations of the coaches-, bench- and table-area rules.
- b. USC that occur within the coaches, bench and table areas.
- c. Illegal-crosse exchange.
- d. Substituted player not leaving the field of play at the table area or bench area.
- e. Offside.
- f. Too many or too few players on the field.
- g. Delayed substitutions.
- h. Time-outs.
- i. Count crosses when requested.
- j. Violations related to substitution.



Running Clock

Rule 3-1-2: ART. 2 After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 10 goals or more, starting with the whistle resuming play.



The clock will only be stopped for a team time-out, official's time-out or an injury time-out.



If the score differential is reduced to fewer than 10 goals, then normal play will resume.



In a running time situation, all penalties that are running time and begins with the next whistle resuming play.



Defensive Restarts

Rule 4-22-1, 2, 3: ART. 3 Any violation on the offense that occurs while the ball is in the goal area will result in the ball being awarded to the offended defensive team laterally outside the goal area. The defense may restart play with the ball in the goal area or in the crease.

This is not the NCAA quick whistle and there are instances where the ball will be moved outside of the box:

- Ball mired in the mud in the crease (4.20.1)
- Ball stuck in the goalies uniform in the crease (4.20.2)
- Restarts following a Time Out (4:29)
- Inadvertent whistles or flags (7:13 Art. 2-3)



Illegal Screen

Rule 6-4: No offensive player shall move into and make contact with a defensive player for the purpose of blocking a defensive player from the man he is playing, nor shall the offensive player hold his crosse rigid or extend his crosse rigid to impede the normal movements of the defensive player.



If contact is made between offensive and defensive players as a result of the offensive player's setting a screen, the offensive player shall be stationary before the contact occurs, with his feet no wider than shoulder-width apart.



Leaving Penalty Area Early

Rule 6-5 Art. 2e: Entering the game from the penalty area before authorized to do so by the timekeeper. The player shall be returned to the penalty area to serve his remaining time, plus 30 seconds.

If the ball is loose or in possession of the player's own team, it shall be awarded to the opposing team and the player leaving the penalty area early serves the remaining penalty time but does not have to serve an additional 30 seconds.

In the event that a goal is scored by the opponent, the unexpired penalty time is nullified and the 30-second penalty is erased.



Dive/Feigning Slash

Rule 6-5 Art. 2w: Taking a dive or feigning a slash to the head or body in order to deceive the official and draw a penalty is illegal procedure.



Four Balls at Scorers Table

2-10-1: ART. 1 The home team shall supply an adequate number of balls on each end line. At the start of each period, a minimum of four balls should be spaced equidistant from each other 5 yards beyond the end lines and four on both sidelines the sideline opposite the benches. On the bench side, a minimum of four balls should be placed at the scorer's table.



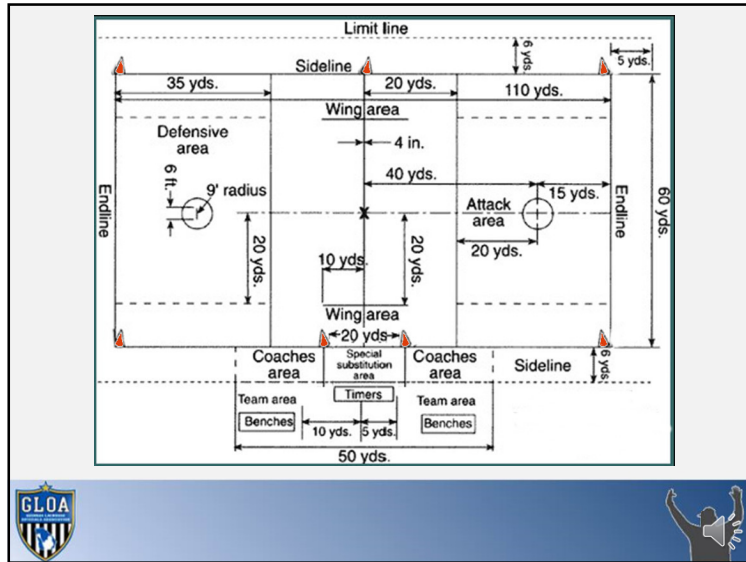
Per the 2014 rule change, all balls must be marked with the NOCSAE logo.



Reminder of 2014 Rules Changes

- Expanded Substitution Area
- Field Marking Rules
- NOCSAE Ball Requirement
- Offsides
- Checks involving Head and Neck
- Targeting Defenseless Player
- No Tape on Faceoff Head
- Man Down Faceoff
- Eye Black
- **Player Numbers (2016)**





Field Marking Rules

Rule 1:2 Art. 1 Note It is the responsibility of the home administration to provide a legal sized playing field that is marked correctly.

Preferred field width is 60 yards, but football lines (53½ yards) may be used.

Soccer lines (63') are illegal.

Failure to have a clearly marked center line is Illegal Procedure.



Ball

Rule 1-5 Note All game balls must include labeling which states "Meets NOCSAE Standard. NFHS."



Offsides

Rule 4-10 A team is NOT considered offside when it has too few players on a side, but only when it has too many!

No longer a free clear.



Checks Involving the Head/Neck

Rule 5-4 Art. 3 The penalty for Checks Involving the Head/Neck was made a mandatory two or three minute non-releasable penalty.



2-3 Minute



Targeting a Defenseless Player

Rule 5-4 makes it illegal to body-check:

- “blind side” hits
- player whose head is down playing a loose ball
- “buddy pass”



2-3 Minute



Faceoffs Crosse

Rule 1-7 Art. 5 No player taking a faceoff may have tape on the throat of their crosse.



Man Down Faceoff

Rule 4-4 Art. 3 During a man-down faceoff, teams serving a penalty will no longer be allowed to move a player up from either the defensive or offensive area to the wing.



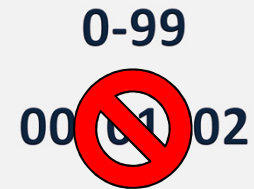
Eye Black

Rule 1-10 Art. 1h Eye shade that is not a solid stroke or includes words, numbers logos or other symbols within the eye shade is prohibited.



Player Numbers

Rule 1-9-1 Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, legal numbers are 0-99. This would prohibit double-digit numbers from zero through 9 (00, 01, 02, etc.).



NOCSAE De-Certification

On November 20, 2014, after a detailed and independent investigation, NOCSAE determined that the Cascade R and Warrior Regulator helmets did not meet the NOCSAE standard as certified by the manufacturers.

Consequently NOCSAE voided the manufacturers' certifications for these two models, directed the manufacturers to notify owners and sellers of the voided certification, and suspended its license agreements with each company.



Cascade Helmet



A tamper-resistant sticker will be placed on all modified helmets as well as on newly manufactured Cascade R-M helmets to differentiate them from non-certified Cascade R models. Model R helmets that have not been officially modified by Cascade do not meet NOCSAE standards and certification will remain void.



Warrior Helmet

Warrior Sports, Inc was notified by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) that their Regulator lacrosse helmet no longer complies with the applicable NOCSAE standards and is contesting the decision..

Until NOCSAE certified this helmet, the Warrior Regulator is illegal for use in 2015.

REGULATOR

