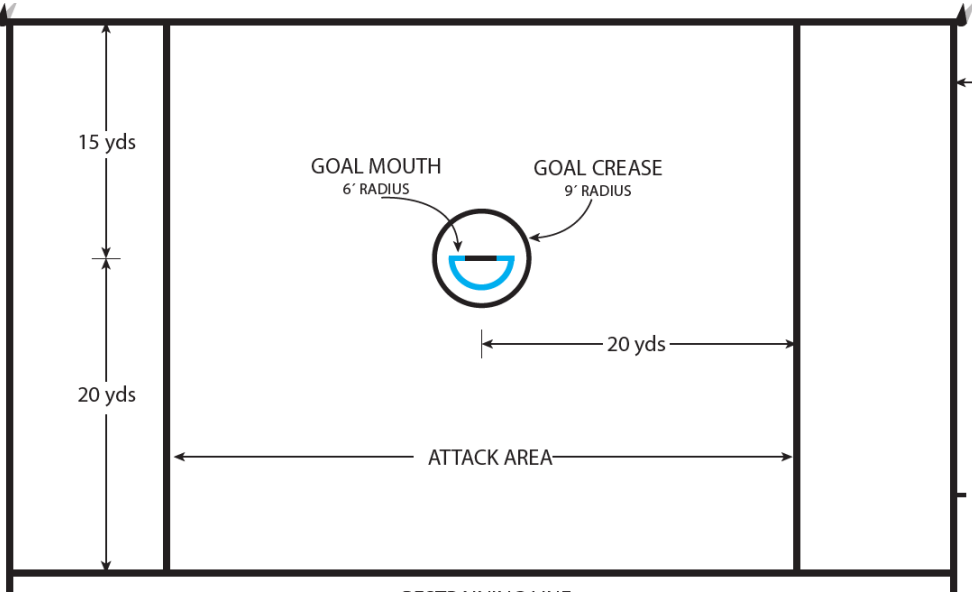




2020 Major Rules Changes for Men's Lacrosse

[Note: Although this is a non-rules change year for men's lacrosse, the procedures for making rules changes (as approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel) allow for changes in non-rules change years for various reasons including changes made in the previous year that had unintended consequences and for health and safety purposes. These rules changes have been approved by the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel.]

Rule	Rules Change and Rationale
<p>1-21-a Personal Equipment</p>	<p>Beginning January 2021, goalkeepers must use chest protectors designed for lacrosse certified to the NOCSAE commotio cordis protective device standard at the time of manufacture, or they must wear an alternative protective device certified to the NOCSAE commotio cordis protective device standard at the time of manufacture. Beginning January 2022, field players must wear shoulder pads protectors certified to the NOCSAE commotio cordis protective device standard at the time of manufacture, or they must wear an alternative protective device certified to the NOCSAE commotio cordis protective device standard at the time of manufacture.</p> <p>Rationale: Commotio cordis, though rare, is a typically fatal condition caused by the impact of a high velocity object (e.g., lacrosse ball) to the anterior chest causing cardiac arrest and death. Newly developed performance standards for chest protectors can mitigate or eliminate the risk of this preventable condition. The estimated financial impact per player is \$100-\$200.</p>
<p>4-21 Goal-Crease Prohibitions</p>	<p>To add a 2-inch-wide line that forms a half circle with a 6-foot radius, extending out from center of the goal line connecting three feet out from both goal lines extended.</p>  <p>The diagram illustrates the goal and attack area. The goal is 15 yards high and 20 yards wide. The goal mouth is 6 feet wide, and the goal crease is 9 feet wide. A 2-inch-wide line forms a half-circle with a 6-foot radius extending from the center of the goal line. The attack area is 20 yards wide.</p>

	<p>Rationale: Adding this field marking will clearly define the goal mouth. The previous definition of the goal mouth presented challenges for players, coaches and officials during dive plays last year. This field marking may be placed on the field with paint or chalk at minimal cost.</p>
<p>4-21-c, and d Goal-Crease Prohibitions</p>	<p>To amend the current goal-crease prohibitions rule to the following [note: strike through indicates language deleted; bold indicates new language added.]</p> <p>c. If an offensive player, in possession of the ball and outside the crease area, dives or jumps in a direction away from the goal mouth and lands in the crease outside the goal mouth, the goal shall be allowed. Provided the ball enters the goal before contact with the crease, goaltender or the goal.</p> <p>d. If an offensive player, in possession of the ball and outside the crease area, dives or jumps in a direction that is not away from the goal mouth and lands in the goal mouth crease, the goal shall be disallowed. In addition, the player shall be penalized with a 1-minute foul should the offensive player initiate contact with the goalkeeper within the goal mouth. Landing in the goal mouth without contact with the goalkeeper shall result in a loss of possession. In addition, the player shall be penalized with a minimum of a 1-minute foul. The penalty may be releasable or non-releasable based on the severity of the contact. at the discretion of the referee. Contact is not required for a foul to be called under this rule. Defensive contact legal or illegal may have an effect on this play.</p> <p><i>Note: The “Goal Mouth” is the 2-inch wide line that forms a half circle with a 6-foot radius, area directly in front of the goal cage with a radius of 6 feet from the center of the goal line extending out from center of the goal line connecting three feet out from both goal lines extended, including the goal line, where the goalkeeper is located and plays his position.</i></p> <p>Rationale: This clearly defines the traditional area where the goalkeeper plays, affording added protection to the goalkeeper. Previous crease infractions were adjudicated as technical fouls resulting in no goal and a loss of possession. With the defined goal mouth, offensive initiated contact with the goalkeeper will result in a personal foul, however, landing in the goal mouth with no contact with the goalkeeper will result in a loss of possession which is a change to the current rule that would require a minimum of a 1-minute foul.</p>