



**NCAA MEN'S LACROSSE RULES INTERPRETATIONS, APPROVED RULINGS AND  
OFFICIATING MECHANICS**

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*[Note: Shaded areas indicate new or altered language from the February 10 interpretations and case play document.]*

Please note the comments, interpretations and approved rulings that appear below are intended to assist in clarifying situations that are not explicitly covered in the 2023 and 2024 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book for the 2023 season.

Rules Book Correction

Rule 1-17 – The following sentence has been included to provide additional context on protrusions. “The crosse shall not be able to hook on any part of the player’s body, equipment or helmet. The crosse shall not penetrate the lacrosse helmet face protector that has been certified to meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.”

Points of Emphasis – Flag-Down Slow Whistle at the End of the Game – The second bullet should reference Rule 5-14 not Rule 6-14.

Rule 4-15-a-6 – In a flag-down slow-whistle situation, the shot clock does not reset. However, once adjudicated, if the shot clock is at or below 60 seconds the reset shall be 60 seconds; if the shot clock is ~~at or~~ above 60 seconds the shot clock shall reset to 80 seconds.

Rule 4-16.b Note – The note should read, “**In ~~1 and 2~~ above, the offensive team does not have any obligation to re-clear the ball within 20 seconds and may use the entire field of play for the remaining time on the shot clock.**” In addition, the following clarification should be added at the end of the note. “**Should the offensive team re-enter the offensive half of the field in the time remaining, the over and back rules apply until the end of the current shot clock.**”

Appendix I – The penalty should read, “In (1), if one can see daylight between the top of the ball and the bottom edge of the sidewall, this is an illegal deep pocket. One-minute ~~nonreleasable~~ releasable foul on the offending player, and the crosse may return if corrected.” This is consistent with Rule 5-9.

### Rules Interpretations

Substitutions on a faceoff violation – On a faceoff, the player in white violates (goes early) and the ball is awarded to the team in Red.

**Ruling:** A faceoff violation is considered to be a live ball violation as per Rule 4-3. The faceoff starts on the command of "down" and ended as per the wording in Rule 4-3 at the top of page 29, even though the game clock has not yet started.

The 5-second count shall begin for the Team in Red to pick the ball up for the restart of play. In addition, substitutions shall be allowed, for only those players in the midfield area, as per Rule 4-23 Regular (Live-Ball) Substitution, which is found on page 50. All other players shall be confined, by rule, to their respective ends of the field until the whistle has sounded to restart play. Lastly, timeouts shall be allowed to the team in possession or entitled to possession. In this case, the Team in Red.

### Officiating Mechanics

**2023 Faceoff Procedure:** The faceoff procedure for the 2023 season has two items worth noting that are different from the 2021 and 2022 seasons where COVID-19 mechanics were used.

- 1) The faceoff begins at the command of “down” by the single side faceoff official.
- 2) Officials (single and helper) shall be stationary from the command of down, through the command of “set” and the sounding of the whistle to begin play.

Reminders for officials, players and coaches are as follows:

Player’s responsibilities:

- Getting into position as quickly as possible after the official conducting the faceoff says “down”.
- There is zero tolerance for players not positioned properly to begin the faceoff.
- Should a player(s) not be in a proper position, violations shall be called by officials.
- Players are reminded to play the ball.

The single side officials' responsibilities:

- When conducting the faceoff, begin in a position roughly 2-3 yards away from the ball when the command of "down" is given. Remain stationary through the entire process.
- Verbal communication to players for "down", "set" commands, and the sounding of the whistle.
- Ensure the players' positions are good after the "down" command.
- Vary the cadence as per Rule 4-3.7.
- The entire process should not take long.

Lead left official's (also known as the helper) responsibilities are unchanged and are as follows:

- Clock accuracy prior to the faceoff.
- Assist the single for violations and positioning of players.
- Attempt to set up 3-5 yards from the players and with a different viewing angle.
- Goal responsibility to the left end of the field.
- NOTE: Be aware of wing players' locations to avoid contact.

Lead right official responsibilities are also unchanged for the 2023 season and are as follows:

- Clearing the bench areas prior to the faceoff.
- Assist with clock accuracy prior to and during the faceoff.
- Get the overall big picture of the field.
- Wing area play coverage.
- Goal coverage to the right end of the field.

For the complete faceoff procedure, see Rule 4-3 in the 2023 and 2024 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book.

The online version of the NCAA 2023 and 2024 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book will be updated on RefQuest+ and the NCAA Publications website to reflect any changes. Please feel free to contact Willie Scroggs ([williescroggs@unc.edu](mailto:williescroggs@unc.edu)) or Tom Abbott ([laxstripes@hotmail.com](mailto:laxstripes@hotmail.com)) with any questions.