



LACROSSE

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

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[Note: Shaded areas will indicate new or altered language from previous interpretations and case play documents.]

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 2025 and 2026 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book for the 2025 season.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct Reminders:

As the season reaches its midway point, the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee would like to clarify and emphasize two areas of the rulebook:

First, the committee would like to remind coaches of their responsibility to ensure that their teams conduct themselves in accordance with the rules of Rule 5, Section 4 at all times. The committee would also like to call specific attention to points "a" through "c" in Section 4.

No player, substitute, nonplaying member of a squad, coach or anyone officially connected with a competing team shall:

- a. Enter into an argument with an official (maligning) as to any decision that has been made or in any way attempt to influence the decision of an official.
- b. Use threatening, profane or obscene language or gestures at any time before, during or after the game.
- c. Bait, taunt, call undue attention to oneself, or commit any other act considered unsportsmanlike by the officials. Baiting and taunting are a one- to three-minute nonreleasable fouls in all cases.

The committee has noticed an unacceptable level of baiting and taunting, and the officials have been reminded that such gestures and actions, if observed or heard, will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and a penalty will be called without a warning. Also, unsportsmanlike

conduct is a reviewable item for officials only by Rule 4, Section 34, though it is only reviewable if an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty has been called on the field.

Video Review Clarifications:

A coach may throw a challenge flag to initiate a video review if he believes that an offensive player, whether in possession of the ball or not, has made contact with or landed in the crease before the ball crosses the goal line AND no call by the official has been made. Again, this coaches' challenge can only be initiated throughout the duration of the goal-scoring play and all other applicable video review rules shall apply.

As a reminder, Rule 4-33-7 says this as it relates to what is permissible to be reviewed: "to determine if an offensive player's body made contact with or landed in the crease prior to the ball crossing the goal line."

In addition, the committee would like to remind coaches of the changes to video review procedures that were enacted for this season:

* until there are four minutes or less remaining in the fourth quarter of a game, only a coach's challenge can trigger a video review for items 1-11 in Rule 4, Section 33 ... The officials may NOT initiate a review for these reasons in the first 56 minutes.

1. To correct the game clock and/or shot clock when there is a malfunction or timing error;
2. To review the release of a shot at the end of a period in relation to the expiration of time for the game clock or the shot clock;
3. To review if a shot at the end of a period is deflected off of a defensive or offensive player before it enters the goal; and 56 RULE 4 / Play of the Game
4. To review if a shot hits the camera mounted inside the goal cage.
5. To determine if a loose ball crosses the goal line.
6. To determine if the ball crosses the goal line before the dislodgement of the goal cage.
7. To determine if an offensive player's body made contact with or landed in the crease prior to the ball crossing the goal line.
8. To determine if an offensive player landed in the goal mouth prior to or after the ball crossed the goal line as a result of illegal contact by the defense.
9. To determine if an offensive player landed in the goal mouth as a result of illegal contact by the defender.
10. To determine if a goal was scored as a result of the head of the shooters crosse coming off during the shot or follow through.
11. To determine whether a valid shot deflected off the goalkeeper or goal pipe to determine if the shot clock should be reset.

* the officials may initiate video review for items 1-11 below in the final four minutes of regulation and throughout any overtimes

* coaches may challenge items 1-11 at any point of the game, provided they have a timeout remaining and have not already had a failed challenge in that half

SECTION 34. Contact to the head and/or neck area may only be reviewed if the on-field official makes a call of contact to the head and/or neck area.

1. Officials may only use this procedure if a contact to the head and/or neck area is called on the field.
2. Officials will notify coaches before starting the review.
3. Officials have four penalty options to consider under this review:
 - a. Indirect contact to the head and/or neck area.
 - b. Direct contact to the head and/or neck area.
 - c. Excessive or flagrant contact to the head and/or neck area with possible expulsion.
 - d. May assess the appropriate releasable penalty (illegal body check, unnecessary roughness, etc.).

* officials may, at any time during the game, initiate a review for the items in Section 34, while coaches may NOT challenge for these items.

Rules Book Corrections/Clarifications

The following clarification has been added to Rule 4-4:

- e. Delay of game prior to a faceoff is never a faceoff violation, unless committed by a player unable by rule to take the faceoff after the command of "down."

The following clarification has been added to Rule 4-33:

The television provider may provide a burn-in view of the game clock and shot clock, which are the official timing devices. In order for plays involving timing to be reviewed, the game clock and/or shot clock are required to be visible in the replay feed. If only one clock can be embedded, only that clock can be used in a review.

The following clarification has been added to Rule 6-10:

A player in possession or not in possession of the ball may not use the player's free hand or the arm of their hand not on the crosse, to hold, push or control the direction of movement of the crosse or body of an opponent.

The following should be added to Rule 4-36:

Should there be a technical issue with the video review system (i.e., the video review technology is not functioning, or the camera(s) is not positioned on the goal) a coach shall not lose their challenge. However, if the result of the review is inconclusive and the call on the field stands, the coach shall lose their challenge.

Rules Interpretations

There has been an increased rise in a defense move called the "crowbar" where a defensive player uses the force of the crosse into the side of the player in possession of the ball to obtain leverage

to either bring the player in possession down or to set the crosse free. It should be noted that if more than equal pressure is exerted by the defensive player, a hold or cross check may occur. However, this is only permissible move if there is equal pressure exerted and that pressure is quickly released.

As a friendly reminder, for games played in indoor facilities, the following interpretation shall be in place for any ball passed, thrown, shot, or redirected, striking any part of the structure directly above the playing field, including score/video boards, lights, rafters, and or cameras, possession will be determined by the rules of alternate possession. Similarly, for balls traveling outside the boundaries of the playing field, possession will be determined by the rules already in place.

Officiating Mechanics

With the introduction of video review for the 2025 season, prior to the game, officials will discuss with the host if video review is available. If available, officials will review the system to ensure understanding of what angles they may have access to. It is important for officials and coaches to discuss video review during their pregame meeting so that all parties understand what will be available during the game.

To view the entire 2025 men's lacrosse video review parameters, please click [here](#).

The NCAA 2025 and 2026 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book is currently available on RefQuest+ and the NCAA Publication website. Please feel free to contact Willie Scroggs (williescroggs@unc.edu) or Tom Abbott (laxstripes@hotmail.com) with any questions.