



MEMORANDUM

December 17, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II, and III Men's Lacrosse Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics and Head Coaches.

FROM: Rob Randall, Chair
NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee

Willie Scroggs, Secretary-Rules Editor,
NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Men's Lacrosse Playing Rules Update.

During the recent IMLCA Convention and National NILOA Clinics held in Baltimore, December 5-7, 2019, a question was asked about the momentum of an offensive player on a dive play. It was stated that an offensive player, while diving or jumping, may NOT allow their momentum to carry into the goal mouth area after the offensive player lands. This statement is expanded upon and clarified below.

Rule 4-21-d, states: "If an offensive player, in possession of the ball and outside the crease area, dives or jumps and lands in the goal mouth, the goal shall be disallowed. In addition, should the offensive player initiate contact with the goalkeeper while the goalkeeper is within the goal mouth, he shall be penalized with a minimum of a 1-minute foul. The penalty may be releasable or nonreleasable at the discretion of the referee. Defensive contact legal or illegal may have an effect on this play."

The intent of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee is to allow an offensive player a way to **avoid** contact from a sliding defensive player, or goalkeeper, and not to initiate the contact. It is also the intent of the committee to allow a defined space for the goal mouth where a goalkeeper can safely play the position. The offensive player, on a dive, **must** stay outside the goal mouth from the beginning of the play until the end of the play. The goal mouth is for the goalkeeper only and is off limits to offensive players. On a dive or jump, offensive players should use the perimeter of the crease area as the targeted landing zone. Should an offensive player's direction and/or momentum carry the offensive player into the goal mouth, even after scoring, the goal shall be disallowed. If the offensive player initiates contact with the goalkeeper, while the goalkeeper is within the goal mouth, it will result in a penalty.

Illegal contact by a defender does make a difference during this play. Rule 4-21 AR 79b, covers this scenario. "If the airborne shooter lands in the goal mouth, **solely due to the illegal contact by the defender**, the goal shall count.

We hope this eliminates any confusion on the issue of how this play will be officiated.

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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Men's Lacrosse Balls:

As a reminder, Rule 1-16 requires that the ball must meet the current National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) lacrosse ball standard. If you are planning to purchase new lacrosse balls for the upcoming season, please review the Safety Equipment Institute's (SEI) [certified products list](#) for NOCSAE lacrosse balls that meet the current NOCSAE production standards.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the men's lacrosse secretary-rules editor, Willie Scroggs (williescroggs@unc.edu) or the men's lacrosse national coordinator of officials, Tom Abbott (laxstripes@hotmail.com).

WS/AS:bh

cc: NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee
NCAA Registered Men's Lacrosse Officials
NCAA Selected NCAA Staff