



MEMORANDUM

February 27, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men's Lacrosse Conference Commissioners 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.

The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee is providing reminders and observations after the first few weeks of the season.

Player Helmets:

It has come to the attention of the rules committee that helmets are coming off during play at a level that is concerning. Common knowledge being that the chin straps are not being used in the manner designed for the helmets. All institutions and coaching staffs are reminded to ensure that all players are equipped properly and that the helmets and chin straps are used as designed.

Stringing of Crosses:

It has been observed that several crosses have been strung in a manner leaving gaps, as well as not fully attached to either the side, top or bottom of the crosse. No sticks should be strung leaving gaps large enough for a ball to pass through.

Goal Mouth:

As a reminder, Rule 1-4 requires that the goal mouth is marked with a 2-inch wide line. The rules committee has been made aware that some fields are lined with a 4-inch wide line for the goal mouth. Please ensure that the goal mouth is a 2-inch wide line.

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 lacrosse ball standard. If you are planning to purchase new lacrosse balls for the upcoming season, please review the Safety Equipment Institute's [certified products list](#) for NOCSAE lacrosse balls that meet the current NOCSAE production standards.

NCAA Faceoff Central Hub – Coach Access:

The home of the NCAA's officiating education and guidance is open to all coaches and conference administrators for free. You are encouraged to sign up for credentials by going to the link below and clicking on the "REGISTRATION" tab. All educational materials that are distributed to officials will be posted here, including testing, in-season training videos and other guidance. By clicking the "Video" tab across the top banner on the Central Hub, you can access the in-season rules training videos. As

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Men's Lacrosse Faceoff Central Hub: <http://ncaamenslacrosse.arbitersports.com/front/107528/Site>

Sportsmanship:

The rules committee would like to remind players, coaches and officials that sportsmanship is of the upmost importance. Rule 2-4 states the following: "Only the head coach will communicate with officials." This rule continues: "Coaches shall assist the officials in keeping the game under control. It shall be their duty, upon the request of an official, to control effectively actions of spectators not in conformity with standards of proper conduct."

Obviously, respectful communication is expected from both officials and head coaches. This channel of communication should always be open and professional. However, it must take place at the bench area and never on the field of play. Assistant coaches do not have the same luxury. Those who are determined to continually question calls, use threatening language, use unsportsmanlike gestures or enter the field of play to express their displeasure will be penalized appropriately.

Rules Change Year Timeline:

As a reminder, this is a rules change year for men's lacrosse. As such, the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee is accepting your rules change proposals. Please use this [link](#) to record your proposal and rationale. This form must be fully completed in order for the proposal to be accepted. All proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, April 13.

The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee's annual meeting will take place May 26-29, 2020. Please be aware that this meeting has normally occurred in August. By moving the meeting to May, the rules committee will have all rules changes implemented well before the start of the next academic year and fall ball. Also, the committee will distribute its annual rules survey in late April or early May.

Two Shot Clocks:

As a reminder, in September 2018 the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved a rules change that requires all men's lacrosse institutions to have two visible shot clocks with the ability to set/reset to two different times by the start of the 2021 season.

Thank you for your attention to this memorandum. If you have any questions, please 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).

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