ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee approved three rules change proposals for the 2023 season. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

   a. Crosse head (Rule 1-18).

      (1) **Recommendation.** No protrusions or sharp edges to the head of the crosse shall be permitted.

      (2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

      (3) **Rationale.** The roughly triangular shape of the head of the crosse has been an integral part of the game of lacrosse since its inception. This change will help promote and maintain the integrity of the crosse head in the future.

      (4) **Estimated budget impact.** Minimal based on limited use of heads that would now be illegal.

      (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.


      (1) **Recommendation.** Illegal contact that propels an offensive player into the goal mouth due to illegal contact by the defender would not negate a goal provided that the ball is in the goal prior to the offensive player making contact with the goal crease/mouth.

      (2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

      (3) **Rationale.** While maintaining the goal mouth will provide the space for the goalkeeper to play their position, addressing the illegal contact by the defensive team is necessary. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee saw a concerning trend where defensive teams were being rewarded for illegal contact in an attempt to take an otherwise good goal by the offensive team off the scoreboard.

      (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

      (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
c. Contact to the head and neck (Rule 5-3).

(1) **Recommendation.** To establish the following penalty structure for players who contact opponents in the head or neck area:

- Players who make indirect contact to an opponent's head or neck would receive a one-minute penalty.
- Players who make direct contact to an opponent's head or neck would receive a two-minute penalty.
- Players who make excessive contact to an opponent's head or neck would receive a three-minute penalty.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** Under the present rules, when players are contacted in the head or neck, it is left up to the referee's discretion whether to award a one-, two- or three-minute penalty. Establishing clearer expectations on how the rule is applied will help promote a safer playing environment. Lastly, the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee will establish a clearer definition of direct, indirect and excessive contact to the head or neck area than what is presently in the rules book.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome, introductions and announcements.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee chair and staff liaison welcomed the committee and thanked them for their time.

2. **Review schedule, agenda and committee operations manual.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed the schedule, agenda and the committee operations manual. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee operations manual includes important policies for committee services, such as document retention, confidentiality, conflict of interest, rules writing and voting procedures.

3. **Review 2021 annual meeting report and the April 14, 2022, videoconference report.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed and approved the 2021 annual meeting and the April 14 videoconference reports as written.
4. **Review PROP directive.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed a directive from PROP regarding facility changes that include a financial element. The directive reminds playing rules committees to provide plenty of lead time (at least a one-year delay) when making such changes.

5. **NCAA injury surveillance data and report.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed the 2022 NCAA injury surveillance report. It was noted that the lack of participation from member institutions was related to athletic training staffs given additional responsibilities related to COVID-19 which limited their additional time to submit injury data to the surveillance program. Work is being done to increase participation to pre-pandemic levels.

6. **USA Lacrosse report.** A representative from USA Lacrosse joined the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee and shared several initiatives and updates. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee appreciated US Lacrosse's participation in the annual meeting and hearing about the continued effort to grow the sport at the youth level. USA Lacrosse addressed some concern about treatment of officials and will begin an initiative to help curb this behavior by mostly parents at the youth level.

7. **National Federation of High School State Associations boy's lacrosse report.** Unfortunately, the NFHS representative was unable to attend this year's annual meeting.

8. **Active official's report.** The active official provided an update to the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee. There were certainly some challenges again this year in providing preseason rules education virtually due to COVID-19. The active official noted that PJ Calello was selected as the next president of the National Intercollegiate Lacrosse Officials Association.

9. **Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association representative's report.** The IMLCA representative provided an update to the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee and provided insight to the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee on behalf of the coaches. It was noted that 88 percent of head coaches supported the changes to the faceoff. The coaches also continued to express some concerns over plays around the crease area. The four areas that the coaches wanted the committee to address were the following:

   a. The faceoff mechanic that officials would be used moving forward;

   b. Concerns with defensive players using illegal contact to force the offensive player into the goal mouth to negate a goal;

   c. The possibility to play without a stick; and

   d. Provide additional rules education on legal screens.
10. **Secretary-rules editor's report/review of correspondence.** The secretary-rules editor provided a report to the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee the most significant rules topic secretary-rules editor also reviewed this past year. This was a quiet year overall for rules related issues and questions, but the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee did address remote coaching waiver for the second time in two years. The secretary-rules editor noted how beneficial it has been to have moved the annual meeting up to June rather than in August.

11. **National coordinator of officials’ report.** The national coordinator of officials reviewed a thorough report to the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee noting several items during the season, including evaluations of officials. The in-season training videos are a great tool for officials, coaches and this year media partners also received them. The national coordinator noted that due concerns related to COVID-19 in the preseason as an additional challenge to providing rules education. The national coordinator recommended to make the COVID-19 faceoff officiating mechanic the permanent faceoff mechanic moving forward.

12. **NCAA championship updates.** NCAA men's lacrosse championship staff joined the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee for portions of the meeting and provided updates on the NCAA championships. It was noted that the Division I championship was the highest rated men's lacrosse game since 2013.

13. **Review of statistical trends.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed the statistically trends for the 2022 season. It was noted that scoring numbers were up this year, likely due to the implementation of the new 60 second reset when the offensive team retains possession in the offensive half of the field.


   The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee also discussed plays around the crease area. There was significant concern with illegal contact by the defensive team forcing the offensive team into the goal mouth to negate a goal. This tactic became increasingly common throughout the season. Under the recommended proposal, provided the ball is in the goal prior to making contact with the goal mouth/crease, the goal will stand and the defensive player will be penalized accordingly.

   The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee and the membership at large have been pleased with the faceoff this season. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee felt strongly that the COVID-19 faceoff mechanic which has the official place the ball down first and then instructs the faceoff players down has been a positive impact. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee agreed that this should be the primary faceoff mechanic moving forward. In addition to this mechanic, the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee is recommending that officials
communicate better what the faceoff violation was so that the faceoff player and coaches have a better understanding of violation.

The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee discussed contact to the head and neck area under the current rules and felt that additional direction was needed for players, coaches and officials. Under the current rule, the definition of contact to the head and neck area is limited and provided officials greater latitude in assessing penalties to those who violate the rule. The NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee supported any change that would create increased consistency in calling the penalty, provides clearer expectations on how the rule is applied and provides continuing deterrence for unsafe play. The goal of the recommended rules change is to continue to promote a safe environment for play.

Lastly, the Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee discussed the current trend they are seeing in the shape of the crosse head. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee felt it important to protect the integrity of the traditional triangular shape of the crosse head. The recommended rules change would prohibit protrusions or sharp edges on the crosse head.

The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee discussed shots from the defensive half of the field. There were a few comments within the rules survey suggesting that a valid shot should only occur in the offensive half of the field goal line extended. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee had some reservations about modifying the current rule.

15. **Identify 2022 points of emphasis.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee is recommending the following the points of emphasis from the 2022 season:

   a. Equipment is required to be worn properly which includes but is not limited to helmets, arm pads and mouth pieces.

   b. An alarming trend occurred this season where in tied or one goal games, teams were committing flag down slow whistle penalties in a way to prevent opposing teams from a scoring opportunity. It is noted that both players and coaches will face penalties for this type of behavior. There is no room in our sport for this unSporting conduct.

   c. There was some concern about legal screens as more offenses continue to use screens in creating space. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee will provide rules education on legal offensive screening, illegal offensive screening and illegal defensive contact used to disrupt a legal screen.

   d. Bench decorum continues to be a concern throughout the sport of men's lacrosse. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee will again remind coaches and players to promote sportsmanship through their words and actions as the image of the sport is at risk. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee will work alongside IMLCA to help continue to promote the positive image of the game.
16. **Future meeting dates.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee will meet for next year's annual meeting June 5-7, 2023.

17. **Other business.** The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee thanked Jay Artinian, John Hind and Mike Murphy for their service on the committee. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee conducted no other business.

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**Committee Chair:** Jon Hind, Hamilton College.

**Staff Liaison(s):** Andy Supergan, NCAA Championships and Alliances.

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<tr>
<th>NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Artinian, Hofstra University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Fink, University of St. Joseph (Connecticut).</td>
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<td>Jon Hind, Hamilton College.</td>
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<td>Alec Jernstedt, Grove City College.</td>
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<td>Michael Murphy, University of Pennsylvania.</td>
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<td>Willie Scroggs, Secretary-Rules Editor.</td>
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<td>Alex Smith, Saint Michael’s College.</td>
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<td>Chad Surman, Mercer University.</td>
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<td>John Tillman, University of Maryland, College Park.</td>
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**Guests in Attendance:**

Brian Abbott, active official; Tom Abbott, national coordinator of officials; Al Lattell, US Lacrosse; Scott Musa, PROP Men’s Lacrosse Liaison; and Dave Pietramala, IMLCA.

**NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:**

Andy Supergan.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**

Will Hopkins, Bri Rigney and Ryan Tressel.