



MEMORANDUM

February 12, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Women's Lacrosse Head Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Stefanie Sparks Smith, Secretary-Rules Editor
NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee

Melissa Coyne, National Coordinator of Officials.

SUBJECT: 2019 Season Reminders, Rules Interpretations and Clarifications.

This memorandum is being distributed to assist coaches and officials in preparation for the start of the 2019 Season.

2019 Forms

For access to the 2019 Women's Lacrosse Carding/Score Verification Form and the 2019 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Table Reference Sheet, click [here](#).

2019 Rules Change

Substitutions

The rules change that was approved by the NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel this past summer essentially permits substitutions when the game clock is stopped outside of a few specific exceptions. Pursuant to the rules change, the lists below outline the **new** times during the course of play when substitutions are permitted and the circumstances when substitutions are **not** permitted.

Substitutions are **now** permitted:

- During the issuance of a card (red, yellow, or green).
 - Substitutes do not have to wait for the carded player to leave the field of play.
- During the penalty administration for offensive and defensive fouls in the Critical Scoring Area (see exception below for the player awarded the free position and the offender).
- During the administration of a 90-second possession clock violation.
- During the administration of an alternate possession.
- During the administration of a re-draw.
- During the penalty administration for an offside violation.
- During a stick check.
- Immediately following a goal and before the completion of the official's mandatory pocket depth check.

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- Following the first three-minute half of any sudden-victory overtime period (when teams change ends).
- Other times when the clock is stopped unless specifically outlined below.

NOTE: Prior to commencing play, the only time there must be 12 eligible players on the field is before the start of the draw (unless a team does not have 12 eligible players in uniform or is playing with fewer than 12 as a result of a card or cards being issued).

Substitutions are **not** permitted:

- During an injury timeout for players other than the injured player(s). Substitutions are permitted after play commences on the official's whistle.
- During a team timeout for the player awarded a free position in the Critical Scoring Area and the offender.
- When a player enters the field of play without going through the substitution area.
- When a player enters the field of play prior to her teammate leaving the field of play.
- If there is an extra player on the field of play.
- If the player enters the field of play after the official's hands are on the drawers' sticks.
- If a player who receives two yellow cards enters the field of play.
- If a player who receives a red card enters the field of play.
- If a player is not listed or incorrectly listed on the roster and/or in the scorebook at the start of the game. A player not listed by name and uniform number before the game may be added to the roster and/or scorebook when the error is discovered and a penalty is imposed against their team.

Electronic Devices

Per the March 27, 2018 Memorandum, electronic devices may be used during the course of a game by coaches on the sideline or within the coaches' area, and non-playing team members, athletic trainers and/or other individuals connected with the team; **however, electronic equipment shall not be used to communicate with players on the field of play or any other coach not present on the team sideline or coaches' area.** Additionally, while electronic devices may be utilized to video the game, neither electronic devices nor video displays on scoreboards may be used to challenge or protest an officiating call. Coaches may not request that officials review video footage during the course of a game. Coaches are encouraged to share video footage with officials following the game for educational purposes as well as your institution's assignor, Stefanie Smith (ssmithsre@gmail.com), or Melissa Coyne (macoyne3@gmail.com).

Clarifications Regarding Electronic Devices

A coach may use electronic devices from the sideline or within the coaches' area to show a player on the field of play a video clip and/or draw something on an electronic device. The player on the field of play may not possess any electronic device while on the field of play that communicates

information to them from individuals on the sideline or within the coaches' area and/or any other individual not present on the team sideline or coaches' area.

Regarding the section bolded above, electronic equipment not on the sideline or within the coaches' area may be used to send video footage or video clips to electronic devices on the sideline or within the coaches' area.

If due to medical reasons or similar extenuating circumstances, a coach may not be physically present on the sideline or within the coaches' area, please contact Stefanie Smith (ssmithsre@gmail.com), and the Rules Committee will review the request for accommodations.

Repetitive False Starts on 8-Meter Free Positions

Pursuant to Rule 6-7.p and Rule 6-7.q, once a team commits two false starts within the administration of the same free position and is issued a green card, all subsequent false starts on free positions within 8m of the goal circle above goal line extended will result in the issuance of a green card.

False Start Scenarios

Scenario #1

Blue defender #23 illegally checks Red attacker #5 in the 8-meter arc. Red attacker #5 is awarded a free position on the 8-meter arc. Blue defender #23 is placed 4m behind the free position on the 12m. During the administration of the free position, Blue defender #7 false starts. Blue defender #7 is placed 4m behind the free position on the 12m. Blue defender #23 must also remain 4m behind the free position. The Blue team is warned that a second false start will result in a green card (Rule 6-7.q). Blue defender #7 false starts a second time. Blue defender #7 is issued a green card and must leave the field to serve the one-minute releasable penalty. Blue defender #23 must remain 4m behind the free position. Additionally, another defender on Blue must go 4m behind. If a Blue defender does not go 4m behind and replace Blue #7 in a timely manner, then the official will move the closest Blue defender to the free position 4m behind. All subsequent false starts by the Blue team during an opponent's free position at the hash mark nearest to the spot of the ball on the 8-meter arc, or if outside the 8-meter arc, on the hanging hash mark will result in the issuance of green card.

Scenario #2

Blue defender #23 illegally checks Red attacker #5 in the 8-meter arc. Red attacker #5 is awarded a free position on the 8-meter arc. Blue defender #23 is placed 4m behind the free position on the 12m. During the administration of the free position, Blue defender #7 false starts. Blue defender #7 is placed 4m behind the free position on the 12m. Blue defender #23 must also remain 4m behind the free position. The Blue team is warned that a second false start will result in a green card (Rule 6-7.q). Blue defender #23 false starts. Blue defender #23 is issued a green card and

must leave the field to serve the one-minute releasable penalty. Blue defender #7 must remain 4m behind the free position. Additionally, another defender on Blue must go 4m behind. If a Blue defender does not go 4m behind and replace Blue #23 in a timely manner, then the official will move the closest Blue defender to the free position 4m behind. All subsequent false starts by the Blue team during an opponent's free position at the hash mark nearest to the spot of the ball on the 8-meter arc, or if outside the 8-meter arc, on the hanging hash mark will result in the issuance of green card.

Scenario #3

The Blue team was issued a green card for repetitive false starts on an 8-meter free position earlier in the game.

Blue defender #23 is called for shooting space. Red attacker #5 is awarded a free position on the 8-meter arc. Blue defender #23 is placed 4m behind the free position on the 12m. During the administration of the free position, Blue defender #23 false starts. Blue defender #23 is issued a green card and must leave the field to serve the one-minute releasable penalty. Another defender on Blue must go 4m behind. If a Blue defender does not go 4m behind and replace Blue #23 in a timely manner, then the official will move the closest Blue defender to the free position 4m behind. All subsequent false starts by the Blue team during an opponent's free position at the hash mark nearest to the spot of the ball on the 8-meter arc, or if outside the 8-meter arc, on the hanging hash mark will continue to result in the issuance of green card.

Scenario #4

The Blue team was issued a green card for repetitive false starts on an 8-meter free position earlier in the game.

Blue defender #23 is called for shooting space. Red attacker #5 is awarded a free position on the 8-meter arc. Blue defender #23 is placed 4m behind the free position on the 12m. During the administration of the free position, Blue defender #7 false starts. Blue defender #7 is issued a green card and must leave the field to serve the one-minute releasable penalty. Blue defender #23 must remain 4m behind the free position. In this situation, it is not required that another defender on Blue go 4m behind. All subsequent false starts by the Blue team during an opponent's free position at the hash mark nearest to the spot of the ball on the 8-meter arc, or if outside the 8-meter arc, on the hanging hash mark will continue to result in the issuance of green card.

Key: If the player who commits that false start that results in the issuance of a green card committed a prior foul (either causing the initial free position to be awarded or during the administration of the free position) then a player from the team who was issued the green card must replace their carded teammate 4m behind.

Formations on 8-Meter Free Positions

Several questions have been raised about a stack like formation of multiple players on the attacking team in the Critical Scoring Area during the administration of an 8-meter free position.

The bullet points below should provide clarification regarding these formations.

- The stack like formation is not illegal under the current Rules.
- During the administration of an 8-meter free position, the first attacker or defender to establish their position at a legal spot is entitled to that spot (except that the offending team is entitled to the two adjacent hashes).
- Officials will watch to see which player is the first to establish their position where the restricted area meets the 45-degree-angled line on either side of the 8-meter arc. If a stack of players displaces that individual so that they are moved into the restricted area, the official will reposition the stack of players so that the player who established their position first is above the restricted area.
- If a player tries to establish their position after the stack is formed (or someone has already established the lowest position) and is in the restricted area, the official will instruct that player to relocate rather than repositioning the stack.
- While the stack like formation is not a foul, if the players within the stack like formation commit another foul within the Rules, the foul will be penalized.
- The Rules Committee recommends that you use a temporary substance to mark where the restricted area meets the 45-degree-angled line on either side of the 8-meter arc.

Offside Foul Question

Question: The goalkeeper has possession of the ball in the goal circle. The goalkeeper's team is called for an offside foul. Where is the free position awarded to the non-offending team administered?

Answer: The free position is administered at the dot nearest to the spot of the ball.

SSS:bh

cc: NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff