



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

January 29, 2021

TO: Senior Woman Administrators and Head Women's Lacrosse Coaches.

FROM: Kathy Railey, chair  
NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee  
  
Stefanie Sparks Smith, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee

SUBJECT: NCAA Women's Lacrosse COVID-19 Playing Rules Waivers.

In light of the challenges resulting from COVID-19, the following playing rules waivers were granted. The NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee encourages you to consult the [NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport documents](#) for COVID-19 guidance in coordination with applicable government and institutional policies and guidelines.

1. COVID-19 Waiver to Rule 1, Sections 10-11. The substitution box shall be split into two areas, each 1 yard away from the 50-yard line. The substitution box for each team will extend 1 yard into the team's bench area and into the space referred to previously as the penalty area. Players who have been issued a card will serve their penalty at the rear of their team's individual substitution box. The new substitution boxes must be marked by temporary spray paint, cones, or pylons. See [this diagram](#) for a visual depiction. This waiver was issued to enhance physical distancing and mitigate the risk of the spread of germs.
2. COVID-19 Waiver to Rule 1, Section 12. The team bench area for each team will extend outward 10 additional yards toward the goal line extended. See [this diagram](#) for a visual depiction. This waiver was issued to enhance physical distancing and mitigate the risk of the spread of germs.
3. COVID-19 Waiver to Rule 2, Sections 6 and 7. When the clock is at 0:00, teams must lay **all sticks** on the field and within the team bench area, at the 45-yard line closest to their team bench. Officials will select 8 sticks per team to conduct a full inspection. The

sticks will be examined at the table. This waiver was issued to enhance physical distancing and mitigate the risk of the spread of germs.

4. COVID-19 Waiver to Rule 3.2. The pregame head coaches meeting that takes place with 10 minutes showing on the pregame clock will be limited to the head official and one head coach per team. This waiver was issued to enhance physical distancing and mitigate the risk of the spread of germs.

\*\*As a reminder, at this meeting, the head coach for each team will verbally certify to the head official that all equipment is legal under the rules and meets the applicable standards required by the rules, including goalkeeper helmets, chest protectors, and other goalkeeper personal equipment, mouthpieces, eye protection, balls, and all other personal equipment.

5. COVID-19 Waiver to Rule 3.6. The pregame meeting that takes place between captains and officials with 5 minutes showing on the pregame clock will be limited to the head official and one captain per team. This waiver was issued to enhance physical distancing and mitigate the risk of the spread of germs.

6. Artificial Crowd Noise Interpretation. Due to COVID-19, institutions may have restrictions on fan attendance at games during the 2021 season. Therefore, the Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee approved piped-in artificial crowd noise with the following stipulations:

- Bands, amplified music, or artificial noisemakers are permitted only during pregame, postgame, timeouts, and intermissions.
- Artificial noisemakers including, but not limited to, whistles, bells, and horns may not be part of the artificial crowd noise.
- The noise level must be consistent throughout the game for both teams.
- No artificial boos or other negative crowd reactions shall be permitted.
- No loudspeakers or amplifiers shall be placed in close proximity to team benches.
- Artificial crowd noise shall not disrupt the officials' ability to manage the game. The head official is authorized to regulate or eliminate artificial crowd noise in the event that the head official determines that the noise is interfering with the reasonable conduct of the game.
- Conferences are encouraged to approve the crowd noise being used by its institutions and it is recommended that all institutions' artificial noise be similar.
- None of these restrictions shall prevent a conference's or institution's media partner(s) from adding artificial crowd noise to their broadcasts provided it is inaudible where the game is being played

Thank you for your attention to this memorandum. If you have any questions, please contact the women's lacrosse secretary-rules editor, Stefanie Sparks Smith at [ssmithsre@gmail.com](mailto:ssmithsre@gmail.com).

KR/SS:jf

cc: Divisions II and III Conference Commissioners

Division I Conference Women's Lacrosse Commissioners  
NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee  
NCAA Registered Women's Lacrosse Officials  
Selected NCAA Staff Members