

March 8, 2022

Clarification on Rule 5, Section 1

This communication is intended to clarify understandable confusion regarding whether 12 players are required to be on the field during the administration of the draw, whether that be at the start of the quarter, overtime period, or following a goal. Per Rule 5, Section 1: "There may be up to 12 eligible players on the field before the start of each 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." **A team is not required to have 12 players on the field during the administration of the draw at any point during the game.**

During the administration of the draw, players may not be in the Substitution Area until possession has been gained. Once possession is gained, players may enter the field through the Substitution Area.

For those officials who had been requiring teams to have 12 players during the administration of a draw at the start of each quarter, I take responsibility for that incorrect application of the rule during the beginning of the season. I answered a question at the end of my presentation at the USA Lacrosse Convention that confirmed the requirement of 12 players during the administration of the draw at the start of each quarter. I expressed some reservation in my response and said that I would check the wording of the rule and follow up if I was incorrect. Other rules matters took precedence and I didn't take a close look at this question again until now. I have consulted with the Chair of the Rules Committee and confirmed this interpretation of Rule 5, Section 1.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Stefanie Sparks Smith

Secretary-Rules Editor

NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee