ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel for the following items:

   a. Pregame Stick Check (Rules 2-6, 2-7 and 2-10).

      (1) **Recommendation.** To eliminate the pregame stick check.

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

      (3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will allow for a more efficient administration of the game. Pursuant to Rule 2-1, the head coach will continue to verbally certify that all of their team's equipment is legal under the rules. Additionally, teams will still be permitted to request stick checks during the game, and officials will still perform a pocket-depth check on the goal-scoring stick. Lastly, at any point during the game, officials will still be permitted to check a stick at their discretion.

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

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

   b. Team Requested Stick Check (Rule 2-13).

      (1) **Recommendation.** Following the first team requested stick check where the stick is deemed legal, the team who requested the stick check will lose possession. Following a second team requested stick check where the stick is deemed legal, the team will lose a timeout. If the team who requested the stick check has no timeouts remaining, the stick check will not be permitted.

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

      (3) **Rationale.** The current rule which results in the loss of a team timeout when the first team requested stick check is deemed legal has practically
eliminated the team requested stick check. This proposed change will deter team requested stick checks aimed at delaying the game while still providing the opportunity to address the utilization of illegal sticks. The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee believes this is an important change in light of the elimination of the pregame stick checks.

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

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

c. **Team Requested Stick Check (Rules 2-13 and 2-18).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To eliminate the ability of teams to request a stick check during their own timeout.

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

(3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will improve the pace of play, allow for better game administration, and address any concerns related to the duration of the game when a stick check is still being conducted at the expiration of a timeout.

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

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

d. **Illegal Stick (Rules 2-14, 2-19 and 2-20).**

(1) **Recommendation.** If a stick is deemed illegal as a result of pocket depth, the stick head disconnecting from the shaft, or another equipment malfunction, it may be reinspected during the two minute break in between quarters. There will be no change in the time period when sticks that are deemed illegal and result in the issuance of a card are permitted to be reinspected.

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

(3) **Rationale.** The current rule as applied to pocket depth permits a reinspection during halftime or prior to an overtime period. The current rules as applied to the stick head disconnecting from the shaft permits a reinspection at the next team timeout, halftime, or prior to an overtime period. This proposed change permits players to reacquire use of their stick at an earlier time for pocket-depth violations and equipment malfunctions.
e. Malfunction or Breakage of Equipment (Rules 2-20, 2-27 and 2-28).

(1) **Recommendation.** To require the official to blow the whistle immediately and call timeout if a malfunction or breakage of equipment occurs below the restraining line and the ball is positioned below the restraining line as well. Additionally, the official will blow the whistle immediately and call timeout if a malfunction or breakage of equipment occurs between the restraining line and the ball is positioned between the restraining line and that player is carrying the ball, defending the ball within 2m of the ball.

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

(3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will allow for a more consistent, objective, and efficient administration of the malfunction and breakage of equipment.

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

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

f. Speaking Captain (Rules 3-6 and 5-17).

(1) **Recommendation.** To add a section to Rule 3-6 stating that the speaking captain is responsible for communicating officials’ clarifications and messaging to teammates. Additionally, to add a second section stating that the speaking captain be a player who is expected to play at least half of the game.

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

(3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will allow for more consistent and clear communication between officials and teams and better administration of the game.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
g. **Duration of Play (Rule 4-1).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To change the regulation playing time from two 30-minute halves to four 15-minute quarters with two-minute breaks between the quarters. Players will change ends to begin each quarter. The two-minute time period between quarters shall be visible on the game clock.

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

(3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will improve the pace of play, contribute to the growth of the game, permit periodic breaks for coaching staffs to implement strategic adjustments and officials to communicate with each other, and provide players with additional breaks from physical play and for hydration.

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

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

h. **Timing Efficiencies (Rules 4-1 and 5-40).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To allow the game clock to continue following a foul in the critical scoring area below goal line extended by the defense, a goal circle foul committed by the defense, following an offside foul. The possession clock will continue to reset if there is a change of possession. *At the discretion of officials, timeout may be taken. Officials will be encouraged to take timeout and issue a delay of game foul for any type of behavior that amounts to delay during the administration of the fouls outlined above.*

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

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, the game clock stops during the fouls and administrations outlined above. These proposed timing changes which maintain the running of the game clock will improve pace of play, shorten the duration of the game, and allow for better administration of games.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
i. **Draw Positioning (Rules 4-1, 5-2, 5-5, 5-6, 5-36 and 5-47 and Appendix B).**

1. **Recommendation.** To administer an alternate possession for any delay during the administration of the draw where fault cannot be attributed to either team and under the current rules the delay in administration would result in either a prolonged set up of the draw, reset of the draw, or a re-draw. The team awarded possession of the draw may self-start, including during the administration of the first draw of each quarter or overtime period. Re-draws will be eliminated from the rules book.

2. **Effective date.** Immediately.

3. **Rationale.** Currently, the administration of the draw takes an excessive amount of time. This proposed change will help improve the pace of play, provide for more consistency, fairness, clarification, and objectivity in the game, and help eliminate much of the gamesmanship that surrounds the administration of the draw.

4. **Estimated budget impact.** None.

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

j. **Team Timeouts (Rules 4-4).**

1. **Recommendation.** To reduce the number of team requested timeouts from three to two. Teams will still be permitted one timeout during the duration of overtime.

2. **Effective date.** Immediately.

3. **Rationale.** With the proposed change from halves to quarters, teams are permitted two additional breaks in play. This proposed change will improve the pace of play and address any concerns related to the duration of the game when teams utilize all of their timeouts.

4. **Estimated budget impact.** None.

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

k. **Suspended/Interrupted Game (Rule 4-6).**

1. **Recommendation.** For suspended/interrupted games, a game will be considered legal and complete if 75 percent (45 minutes) of playing time
has elapsed (i.e., three quarters). Whether the game is replayed on the same day or another day, it will be played from the point of interruption.

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

(3) **Rationale.** The current rule states that a game is considered legal and complete if 80 percent (48 minutes) of playing time has elapsed. Due to the proposed change from halves to quarters, considering a game complete at the end of the third quarter (45 minutes of elapsed playing time) as opposed to two minutes into the fourth quarter (48 minutes of elapsed playing time) will provide for better administration of the game. Additionally, the current rule states that outside of NCAA tournament play, if a suspended/interrupted game is continued on the same day then it is restarted from the point of interruption, but if it is continued on another day, then it is played from the beginning. This proposed rule will provide for more fairness as well as consistency with NCAA tournament play.

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

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

### 1. Start/Restart of the Game (Rules 5-1 and 6-14).

(1) **Recommendation.** To eliminate the requirement that there must be 12 eligible players on the field before the start of the draw to there may be up to 12 eligible players on the field before the start of the draw. Pursuant to Rule 5-2, once the official’s hands are on the drawers sticks, the draw is being set and no substitutions may occur. No substitutions may occur until possession is gained. Players may not be positioned in the substitution area until possession is gained.

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

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, the time it takes for substitutions to occur and to set up the administration of the draw following a goal is an excessive amount of time. Before implementing any type of time limit following a goal, the Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee believes this proposed change will improve the pace of play and may resolve this repetitive timing inefficiency.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
m.  **90-second Possession Clock (Rule 5-19).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Following a shot on goal by the team with possession that hits a pipe or rebounds off a save and the team who shot the ball retains possession, to reset the possession clock to 60 seconds.

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

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, the possession clock is reset to 90 seconds following a shot on goal by the team with possession that hits a pipe or rebounds off a save and the team who shot the ball retains possession. This proposed change will improve the pace of play, contribute to the growth of the game, and allow for better competitive balance between the attack and defense.

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

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

n.  **False Start (Rule 6-1.g).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To eliminate the foul for false starts against the team in possession of the ball unless the administration of the foul is within the critical scoring area and the official has set up the free position by placing the offender 4m behind.

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

(3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will provide more consistency and fairness.

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

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

o.  **Mandatory Card Fouls (Rule 6-21).**

(1) **Recommendation.** To add a new foul titled “Dangerous Contact” to the category of mandatory card fouls. This new foul will mandate the issuance of card if a player's stick hits or causes their opponent's stick to hit their opponent's neck. This new foul will also mandate the issuance of a card for cross checking an opponent's shoulders or back from the rear position. The foul check to the head, Rule 6-21.a, will be included as part of dangerous contact in lieu of being its own standalone foul.
(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** This proposed change will enhance student-athlete safety by discouraging aggressive play with a cardable penalty. This proposed change will provide for better administration through its clear and consistent criteria for the issuance of a card relating to specific types of dangerous contact.

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

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome, introductions and announcements.** The chair and staff welcomed the Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee to the meeting and thanked them for their time. Each Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee member and invited guest introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their background.

2. **Review schedule, agenda and committee operations manual.** The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee also reviewed the committee operations manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines.

3. **Review reports from 2020 annual meeting and videoconferences.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee approved the 2020 annual meeting report and the 2020-21 videoconference reports as written.

4. **Review of PROP directive.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee was reminded of the directive of the PROP from 2014. This directive encourages all rules committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay for Divisions II and III institutions before implementing any rules changes that have financial or facility implications. NCAA staff provided the reasons for which committees can make a rules change in the non-rules change year.

5. **USA Lacrosse report.** A representative from USA Lacrosse noted the rebranding of its organization to USA Lacrosse. They reviewed participation numbers from the last seven years. In addition, injury data from claims to USA Lacrosse was reviewed and it was noted that USA Lacrosse and the NCAA should align on stick specifications.
6. **Active official report.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee heard a report from the active official, who also serves as the executive director of the Collegiate Women's Lacrosse Officiating Association. The CWLOA has 1,013 members, with approximately 500 officials attending clinics every fall. The CWLOA Observation Program continues to provide officials at all levels with feedback in post-game situations. They emphasized a continued positive relationship with the NCAA, USA Lacrosse and the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association. The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee thanked the executive director for her many years of service, as she is resigning from the position on June 30, 2021.

7. **National coordinator of officials report.** The national coordinator of officials provided an update on efforts to assign officials for NCAA postseason while respecting COVID-19 protocols. The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee thanked the national coordinator for her two years of service, as she is resigning from the position on August 31, 2021.

8. **National Federation of State High School Associations report.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee heard a report from the NFHS on participation for the previous season. It was noted they continue to have a good relationship with USA Lacrosse.

9. **Secretary-rules editor report.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor, which included an overview of activities, interpretations and clarifications during the past year. It was noted the passion from the national coordinator of officials and the service to the sport the outgoing executive director of CWLOA have completed during their time.

10. **NCAA injury surveillance data and report.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed women's lacrosse injury data provided by the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention.

11. **Review of 2021 rules survey.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed the results from the 2021 rules survey in conjunction with the rules proposals discussion. It was noted that the response rate for all positions was low for a second consecutive year.

12. **Review of 2021 carding survey.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed the results from the 2021 carding survey and noted that the data continues to be useful.

13. **Review and consideration of rules proposals.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee reviewed and considered 27 rules proposals and approved 15 major rules changes for the 2022 and 2023 seasons, as noted above in the Action Items section of this report.

14. **Identify 2021-22 points of emphasis.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee identified the following items as points of emphasis for the 2021 season: flopping; cross-checking;
including dangerous contact; enforcing an immediate whistle for card fouls timing efficiencies on 8-meters; and general delays.

15. **Future meeting and videoconference dates.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee scheduled its 2022 virtual annual meeting for June 14-17. Videoconference dates will be determined in the fall.

16. **Election of chair.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee reelected Kathy Railey, Stevenson University, as chair for the 2021-22 academic year.

17. **Other business.** The chair and staff thanked the Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee for their work. Special recognition was given to the two outgoing committee members, Jeanne Carhart and Renee Miller.

18. **Adjournment.** The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee adjourned Thursday, June 10, at 5:45 p.m. Eastern time.
Committee Chair: Kathy Railey, Stevenson University.
Staff Liaison: Jay Fitzwater, NCAA Championships and Alliances.

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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Ackerman, Case Western Reserve University.</td>
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<td>Jeanne Carhart, Brown University.</td>
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<td>Marushka Eddy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy.</td>
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<td>Liza Kelly, University of Denver.</td>
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<td>Renee Miller, Seton Hill University.</td>
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<td>Kathy Railey, Stevenson University.</td>
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<td>Gina O. Thomas, University of Cincinnati.</td>
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<td>Kimberly Wayne, Davidson College.</td>
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<td>Stefanie Sparks Smith, secretary-rules editor.</td>
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<th>Guests in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lindsey Atkinson, National Federation of State High School Associations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrian Boltz, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention, Inc.</td>
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<td>Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention, Inc.</td>
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<td>Patty Daley, active official.</td>
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<td>Laura Hebert, national coordinator of officials.</td>
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<td>Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.</td>
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<td>Caitlin Kelley, USA Lacrosse.</td>
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**NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:**
Jay Fitzwater.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
LaGwyn Durden and Greg Johnson.