MEMORANDUM

February 10, 2012

TO: Women’s Lacrosse Head Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Celine Cunningham, chair
NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Rules Committee

Pat Dillon, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Experimental Rule – 2012 Regular Season

The NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) have approved an experimental rule for the 2012 regular season. At the conclusion of the season, an online survey will be sent requesting feedback which will assist the rules committee in making informed decisions at their next meeting about use of the rule in future seasons.

Experimental Rule: RULE 3 – Game Personnel

The Umpires

SECTION 7: It is highly recommended that three officials be used to umpire the game. A minimum of two officials must be used. It is recommended that the umpires be on site 60 minutes before the start of the game and must be on the field and in charge of the game 30 minutes before game time. The umpires’ jurisdiction extends from 30 minutes before the game begins until the umpires leave the playing venue.

One member of the officiating crew will be designated as the Head Umpire by the game assigner. Each umpire will enforce the rules and umpire the game in accordance with the recommended procedures put forth by these rules.
Additional Information

The Head Umpire will be paid the same game fee as other members of the officiating crew so implementation of this experimental rule will have no budgetary impact. Game assigners will be responsible for designating the Head Umpire for each crew, generally the official with the most seniority and experience. Game assigners should also consider the official’s knowledge of the rules, leadership abilities and temperament when selecting the Head Umpire for each crew. Any game assigner using Arbiter has indicated the Head Umpire will be the first umpire listed on each game assignment. If your game assigner is not using Arbiter you should contact them directly for Head Umpire designation information. Designation of a Head Umpire will help ensure efficient and consistent communication with coaches as well as aid in any resolution or settlement of disputed game situations.

Duties of the Head Umpire would include:

a. Ensure the field is checked and marked properly, that all goals/nets are in good playing condition, and that the scorer’s table and team bench areas are set up properly. Make the final decision about requesting any changes or corrections to the field markings or field set up.

b. Ensure that the timer and any table personnel monitoring cards are informed of their responsibilities.

c. Lead the pre-game meeting with the umpiring team and the head coaches.

d. Lead the pre-game meeting with team captains.

e. Answer any questions from the coaches pre-game, during time outs and at half-time.

f. When play begins, ensure that all penalties are administered correctly.

g. Step in to correct any misapplication of a rule, i.e. any game situation that would be protestable.

h. Confer with partners and then make the final decision on stopping a game due to weather issues.

i. Check the NCAA Carding/Score Verification Form at half-time and at the end of the game to ensure accuracy and obtain signatures from all officials.
j. Assist in communicating to coaches what foul is being called when it is practical and possible to do so, generally during a stoppage of play.

Some additional information to note:

a. The Head Umpire will not overrule any partner’s calls simply because they might not agree with the call being made.

b. The Head Umpire will lead discussion among the umpiring team if any situation or call requires it.

c. While the Head Umpire will be primarily responsible for communication with the coaches, all three officials will be expected to answer questions from coaches when it is practical and possible to do so during play.

Please contact Pat Dillon via e-mail at pdillon656@aol.com if you have any questions regarding this communication.