REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN’S LACROSSE RULES COMMITTEE
JUNE 3-5, 2013, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items. The NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Rules Committee agreed to the following rules change proposals for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

   a. Visible Clock (Rule 1-12).

      (1) Recommendation. Require a visible clock.

      (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

      (3) Rationale. Currently, a visible clock is recommended. This is already standard practice and would allow for better administration of games.

      (4) Estimated Budget Impact. Minimal to none. The vast majority of institutions currently have a visible clock in place.

      (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

   b. Length of Crosse (Rule 2-3).

      (1) Recommendation. The maximum length of a crosse shall be 52”.

      (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

      (3) Rationale. Manufacturers produce sticks with a length of 52”. This change allows sticks to be used without any adjustments being made.

      (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

      (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

   c. Pregame Meeting Between Head Coach and Officials (Rules 3-2 and 6-2).

      (1) Recommendation. Each head coach and the officials must meet at the scorer’s table with 10 minutes showing on the pregame clock. Failure of a head coach to meet with the officials at the scorer’s table with 10 minutes showing on the pregame clock will result in a minor foul.
(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** To emphasize the importance of the pregame meeting between coaches and officials.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

d. **Game Personnel (Rule 3-7).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Add head umpire to the list of game personnel.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** To designate one of the officials as the coordinator of the official’s crew and enhance communication with coaches. The Rules Committee experimented with this rule for the past two years and received positive feedback.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

e. **Umpires’ Jurisdiction (Rule 3-7).**

(1) **Recommendation.** The umpires’ jurisdiction ends when the Carding/Score Verification Form has been approved and the umpires have left the playing venue.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Better clarifies when the umpires’ jurisdiction ends.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

f. **Official Timer Duties (Rule 3-13.d).**
(1) **Recommendation.** The official timer will sound the horn to indicate a timeout request by the team in possession during a live-ball and dead-ball situation.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Sometimes officials do not hear when a coach is trying to call a timeout. This would prevent a coach from running onto the field to get the officials attention to call a timeout.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

g. **Team Timeouts (Rule 4-4).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Increase the number of timeouts during regulation from two to three.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** The size of the field makes communication between coaches and players a challenge during the game. An additional timeout will provide coaches with more flexibility and strategy in utilizing timeouts.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

h. **Suspended/Interrupted Games (Rule 4-5 Note).**

(1) **Recommendation.** If 80 percent of the playing time has not elapsed, the game may be considered complete by mutual consent of both teams.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** This allows teams the option to consider a game complete even if 80 percent of the playing time has not elapsed.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.
(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

### i. Scoring (Rule 4-8).

(1) **Recommendation.** After a goal is scored, the scorer may not adjust her strings and must immediately drop her stick or hand it to the nearest official. The umpire will take possession of the stick and may perform a discretionary stick check or allow reasonable time for the opposing team to request a stick check before returning the stick.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** To establish a new procedure that the goal scorer must follow and to allow coaches an opportunity to request a stick check before the scorer can make any adjustments to her stick.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

### j. Goals Not Scored (Rule 4-9).

(1) **Recommendation.** A goal is not scored when:
   (i) The ball enters the goal from a crosse that does not meet specifications. **If the player who shot the goal adjusts her strings or does not immediately drop her stick,** the goal will not count and the crosse will be removed from the game, and play will be resumed with a free position at the center. **Player positioning for the draw will apply.**
   (j) The ball is put through the goal by the attacking team’s goalkeeper. **Delete the Note about the goalkeeper scoring.**

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** To define the consequence that results from a scorer not following proper procedure. Also, to clarify that the attacking team’s goalkeeper may not score.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.
(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

**k. Defenders in the Goal Circle (Rule 5-15).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Allow defensive players to move through the goal circle, and allow one player who is directly defending the ball carrier to remain in the goal circle while defending.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** The Rules Committee experimented with a version of this rule and received positive feedback. This change would allow for better competitive balance between the attack and defense.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

**l. Substitute Procedures (Rule 5-22.b).**

(1) **Recommendation.** After a goal, require all substitutes to enter and exit through the substitution area.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** To better clarify that all substitutes must enter and exit through the substitution area.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete experience.

**m. Stick Check Requests (Rule 5-27).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Coaches will be allowed a maximum of three stick check requests per game. The requirement for the officials to perform mandatory stick checks was removed.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.
(3) Rationale. Eliminates much of the confusion, gamesmanship and other incidents that have begun to surround the whole process of stick check requests.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

n. Penalizing Major Fouls (Rule 7-4).

(1) Recommendation. Any major foul committed against the goal scorer, whether a cardable foul or not, will be penalized. The game will be restarted with a free position at center for the team scoring the goal rather than with a draw.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Currently only a cardable foul is penalized. Penalizing any major foul committed against the goal scorer should create a safer playing environment.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete safety.

o. Enforcement of the Slow Whistle (Rule 7-24).

(1) Recommendation. The goalkeeper may return to her goal circle during a slow whistle (flag has been raised) only if she has not fouled.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. This is a more consistent penalty for a raised-flag situation.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

p. Experimental Rule – The Draw (Rule 5-1).
1. **Recommendation.** A maximum of three players from each team may be between the restraining lines during the draw. All other players must be below either restraining line. **Other than the players taking the draw, no player between the restraining lines may enter the circle until the whistle blows. No player may cross the restraining line until clear possession of the ball is established or the ball has crossed one of the restraining lines.**

2. **Effective Date.** Fall 2013 season only.

3. **Rationale.** Holding players behind the restraining lines until possession is established will allow possession to be established more quickly and will eliminate many of the fouls that currently take place, thus quickening the pace of play and creating a safer environment.

4. **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

5. **Student-Athlete Impact.** Enhances student-athlete safety.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**

   - None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions.** The committee introduced themselves and was reminded to think globally about the game and all three divisions as proposals are considered and discussed.

2. **Overview of Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Meeting Goals.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.

3. **Review of Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed the conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting minutes, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing and experimental playing rules guidelines.
4. **Approval of 2012 Annual Meeting Report and 2012-13 Teleconference Reports.** The committee approved the 2012 annual meeting report and 2012-13 teleconference reports as written.

5. **Review of PROP Directive.** The committee reviewed the directive from the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP), which included a request to review its rules related to the jurisdiction of officials before, during and after a contest. The Panel is also requesting that each rules committee review its uniform rules on player names, numbers, conference or institutional logos, allowable patches and any other decorative elements currently allowed.

6. **NCAA Injury Surveillance Data and Report.** Mr. Klossner reviewed the latest women’s lacrosse injury data with the committee. He also provided an update on the NCAA Sport Science Institute, soft headgear, lacrosse balls and concussions.

7. **US Lacrosse Report.** Ms. Fickert reported that US Lacrosse is working with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) on a standard for soft headgear. She also informed the committee that no changes to the stick specifications were being implemented this year.

8. **National Coordinator of Officials Report.** Ms. Basner informed the committee of the four officiating clinics that were held prior to the 2013 season. She is working with US Lacrosse and the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association to recruit new officials. ArbiterSports was used by coaches during the 2013 season to evaluate umpires.

9. **Secretary-Rules Editor Report.** Ms. Dillon reviewed her activities throughout the year, which included issuing over 100 interpretations and assisting with the four regional officiating clinics.

10. **Review of Rules Surveys.** The committee reviewed and discussed the results from both the experimental rules survey and the in-season rules survey.

11. **Review of Carding Survey and Report.** The committee reviewed the results from the carding survey and determined that no procedural changes would be implemented for next year.
12. **Review of Rules Proposals.** The committee reviewed the rules change proposals and discussed each item at length. Proposals that were approved by the committee are included at the beginning of this report.

13. **Rules Discussion Items.** The committee discussed several other rules items and approved editorial changes with regard to equipment and uniforms, game personnel, scoring, play of the game and penalty administration.

14. **Points of Emphasis Discussion/Determination.** The committee identified the following items as points of emphasis for the 2014 season: cross-checking, three seconds and professionalism.

15. **2014 Meeting Dates.** Next year’s annual meeting will take place June 2-4, 2014.

16. **Election of Chair.** The committee re-elected Celine Cunningham, Stevens Institute of Technology, as chair for the 2013-14 academic year.

17. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2013.

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Committee Chair: Celine Cunningham, Stevens Institute of Technology  
Staff Liaison: Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances

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<tr>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Celine Cunningham, Stevens Institute of Technology</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Pat Dillon, secretary-rules editor</td>
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<td>Melissa Falen, Notre Dame of Maryland University</td>
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<td>Julie Myers, University of Virginia</td>
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Amanda O’Leary, University of Florida
Rachelle Paul, Monmouth University

Other Attendees:

Kim Basner, National Coordinator of Women’s Lacrosse Officials
Lissa Fickert, US Lacrosse
Greg Johnson, NCAA
David Klossner, NCAA
Rachel Seewald, NCAA
Brad Woodward, NCAA