



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S LACROSSE RULES COMMITTEE
AUGUST 9-11, 2016, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. The Ball (Rule 1-16).

- (1) Recommendation. To add pink as a legal color for a lacrosse ball.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. Allows another color to be used in inclement weather or for special events.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.

b. Dimensions of the Crosse (Rule 1-19, A.R. 18).

- (1) Recommendation. To adjust this ruling to read: "The ~~longitudinal weaving pocket~~ must be attached firmly to **all edges of the crosse the bottom edge of the throat with no gaps large enough for a ball to pass through.**"
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. Codifies what is considered to be a traditional stringing of a pocket.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.

c. Use of Technology – Coaching (Rule 2-4).

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

- (1) Recommendation. The use of technology on the sideline is permitted for coaching purposes. Such technology shall not be used to dispute officiating decisions.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. Some teams have started to track/use video on tablets during halftime and in some cases in the team area. The committee is allowing this but will monitor developments closely.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.
- d. Officials' Duties (Rule 2-7).**
- (1) Recommendation. The officials' authority begins when they arrive on the field of play and ends when they leave the... ~~field of play~~ **playing facility**. Officials must be on the field ~~at least~~ **30 minutes** before the scheduled starting time **to meet with both head coaches and captains**.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. This clarifies that officials continue to have some authority at the end of games and also makes more specific the time the officials and coaches are to meet on the field.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.
- e. Use of Technology – Officiating (Rule 2-7).**
- (1) Recommendation. Officials are permitted to use a communication device for in-game officiating if available.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. Several other sports have used such devices (e.g., field hockey, soccer, football) successfully. The committee encourages the use of these devices for implementation in the future.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.

f. Faceoff Procedure (Rule 4-3.b.5).

- (1) Recommendation. Add to this rule: "The stick heads shall be positioned so the ball stop lines up with the top of the head of the opponent's crosse." (A diagram will be added to illustrate this.)
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. This is not a significant change to the faceoff procedure. This ensures that the faceoff players' sticks will be matched up and the ball will be placed in the center of the sticks. This will make the officiating mechanic clear and consistent for each faceoff and will enhance the fairness of the faceoff play.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.

g. Faceoff Procedure (Rule 4-3.b.6).

- (1) Recommendation. Add to this rule: "The center of the ball shall be located 5 inches above the ball stop of the stick heads."
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. This will clarify the proper placement of the ball during the faceoff procedure.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.

h. Faceoffs – Tape/Paint on Crosse (Rule 4-3.b.15).

- (1) Recommendation. **Paint**, a single-wrap of tape, **or other covering** must be applied to the handle of the crosse for any player taking a faceoff. The tape **or material** is to begin at, but not touching, the plastic at the throat of the crosse and continue six

inches down the handle. The tape **or paint** must be of contrasting color to the head, gloves, and shaft.

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. The current rule only allows for tape to be in compliance; stick manufacturers are adding coloring as part of the manufacturing process to meet this need.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal to student-athlete impact.
- i. Team Timeouts (Rule 4-15, new letter g.).**
- (1) Recommendation. If a team calls timeout after advancing the ball past the restraining line, but before gaining the attack area, the clearing count shall be satisfied.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. This eliminates the ability of a team calling timeout in the alley and receiving an additional 30-second clearing time period upon the restart. Teams have begun using this tactic to bleed the clock.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.
- j. Officiating – Communication of Further Actions/Suspensions (Rule 5-13).**
- (1) Recommendation. Editorial addition: “The officiating assigning authority shall be responsible for communicating and addressing any further actions.”
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. Editorial in nature; codifies what occurs now.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.
- k. Goal Scored Against Non-Offending Team During Flag Down (Rule 7-9, A.R. 48).**
- (1) Recommendation. Adjust this ruling to read: “**A.R. 48:** During a slow whistle (flag down, slash on A1) in the defensive half of the field, the clearing player (B1) throws the ball back to his goalkeeper (B2) to continue the clear. The goalkeeper misses the ball and it enters the goal. **RULING:** The goal **shall not** count. Administer the penalty **and award the ball to Team B.**”
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The committee believes a team that has committed a foul should not be rewarded with a goal due to a mistake by the non-offended team.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.
- l. Experimental Rule No. 1 – Two-Point Goal. (Fall season only.)**
- (1) Recommendation. To approve an experimental rule, during the nontraditional fall season only, to use this provision: If a team scores within 30 seconds of gaining possession, two points shall be awarded. After 30 seconds has elapsed, normal rules apply. If a team calls a timeout, this provision does not apply. This experimentation includes a variety of timing options (e.g., visible shot clock, etc.).
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To encourage faster pace of play and rewarding a team that scores within 30 seconds. In certain game situations, this could encourage teams to ride more aggressively.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.
- m. Experimental Rule No. 2 – Offensive Zone Restriction. (Fall season only.)**

- (1) Recommendation. To approve an experimental rule, during the nontraditional fall season only, to use this provision: Restricting the area that the offensive team has for its possession. The committee would like to have a variety of areas (e.g., restraining line; extended attack area with an arc in the middle of the field; etc.).
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. In recent years, a variety of proposals have been made to limit the amount of space the offensive team has after possession has been gained and the ball has been cleared. The committee is interested in the impact of this type of change.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal impact on the student-athlete.
- n. Experimental Rule No. 3 – Substitution Box Expands to 10 yards. (Fall season only.)**
- (1) Recommendation. To approve an experimental rule, during the nontraditional fall season only, to use this provision: The substitution box shall be 10 yards.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. This was proposed to the committee as a way to encourage more fast-break opportunities. The committee is interested in what the impact of a smaller box would be in game-like situations after having the expanded box for several seasons.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Minimal student-athlete impact.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome, introductions and announcements.** Bob Scalise, chair, and staff liaison Ty Halpin welcomed the committee and thanked them for their time and effort to help improve the sport. The committee welcomed the new members attending their first committee meetings.
- 2. Review schedule, agenda and committee operations manual.** NCAA staff reviewed the Committee Operations Manual and highlighted important policies for committee services, such

as document retention, conflicts of interest, confidentiality, rules writing and voting procedures.

3. **Review report from 2015 annual meeting.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual meeting report from 2015 as distributed.
4. **Review Playing Rules Oversight Panel directive.** Mr. Halpin reviewed a directive from PROP noting any changes to facilities or those that incur a financial impact should be given as much lead time as possible for institutions to adjust.
5. **US Lacrosse report.** Rick Lake joined the committee and shared several initiatives and updates from US Lacrosse. The committee appreciated his participation in the meetings.
6. **Secretary-rules editor report.** Willie Scroggs took the floor and reviewed several memorandums and interpretations delivered during the past year. He also noted several proposals that were provided for future consideration.
7. **National coordinator of officials report.** Tom Abbott reviewed a report distributed to the committee noting several items during the season, including evaluations of officials and the process for assigning the various NCAA championship events. Mr. Abbott noted plans to increase the amount of content made available on the Arbiter Sports platform as his top goal for the 2017 season.
8. **NCAA championship updates.** Anthony Holman and Will Hopkins, NCAA staff, joined the committee for portions of the meeting and provided updates on the bracketing and overall health of the NCAA championships.
9. **NCAA injury surveillance data and report.** Dr. Erin Wasserman from the Datalys Center presented injury surveillance data for men's lacrosse. There were some positive notes in terms of the overall rate of injury decreasing. The committee also offered assistance to increase the number of institutions participating.
10. **Teleconference with ESPN.** John Vasallo, ESPN, and Natalie Steger, NCAA staff, joined the committee by teleconference and shared several suggestions and items that may impact them from a broadcast perspective. Mr. Scalise appreciated the continued collaboration with ESPN and noted the increasing number of games that are available for viewing.
11. **Review of 2016 rules survey and proposals.** Mr. Scalise and Mr. Scroggs reviewed the survey and proposals with the committee thoroughly, and the committee voted several items to move forward in the process (listed above).

12. Review of equipment items. Mr. Scroggs reviewed several equipment questions with the committee and received clarifications that will be communicated to the manufacturers.

13. Identify 2016-17 points of emphasis. The committee decided to focus on student-athlete safety (e.g., contact to the head, etc.) and officiating the stalling warning as points of emphasis for the upcoming season.

14. Future meetings and teleconference dates. The committee reviewed the list of proposed dates for teleconference for the 2016-17 academic year and discussed the date for the 2017 in-person annual meeting.

15. Other business. Mr. Scalise thanked Josh MacArthur, Babson College, and Bob Shillinglaw, University of Delaware, for their service to the committee.

16. Adjournment. The committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, August 11, 2016.

Committee Chair: Bob Scalise, Harvard University, Ivy League.

Staff Liaison(s): Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee August 9-11, 2016, Meeting
Attendees:
Dino Mattessich, Hofstra University; Colonial Athletic Association.
Josh MacArthur, Babson College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
Doug Misarti, Kenyon College; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Bob Scalise, Harvard University; Ivy League.
Bob Shillinglaw, University of Delaware; Colonial Athletic Association.
Vincent Smith, Colorado Mesa University; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
John Svec, Siena College; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
Marty Watters, University of the South; Southern Athletic Association.
Tom Abbott, National Coordinator of Officials.
Willie Scroggs, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Brian Abbott, Active Official.
Rick Lake, US Lacrosse.
John Vasallo, ESPN (via teleconference).
Dr. Erin Wasserman, DatalysCenter.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.
Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances.
Greg Johnson, Communications.
Matt Maginnis, Championships and Alliances.
Natalie Steger, Championships and Alliances (via teleconference).