MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

TO: Head Women’s Lacrosse Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Stefanie Sparks Smith, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Rules Committee

Melissa Coyne, national coordinator of officials.

SUBJECT: Rules Interpretations, Clarifications, & Officiating Mechanic Reminders

This memorandum is being distributed to assist coaches and officials throughout the 2017 season. This memorandum presents important rules interpretations and clarifications in response to recent questions. Additionally, this memorandum includes several reminders for officiating mechanics.

RULES INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

EYE PROTECTION

Pursuant to Rule 2, Section 9, “[b]eginning with the 2017 season, eye protection must meet the most current ASTM Specification Standard for eye protectors for women’s lacrosse.” Visit the following link for an updated list of eye protection that meets the most current ASTM Specification Standard: https://www.uslacrosse.org/safety/equipment/approved-eyewear-list. Eye protection not on this list is illegal to wear.

EXPIRATION OF THE 90-SECOND POSSESSION CLOCK

If the attacking player is fouled on the shot and BEFORE the sound of the horn indicating the expiration of the possession clock, officials should determine how many seconds were on the possession clock when the player was fouled and have the possession clock set to that number of seconds for the administration of the 8-meter free position. If the foul is a cardable foul, then the possession clock will be reset.

If the attacking player is fouled AFTER the sound of the horn indicating the expiration of the possession clock, it is considered a subsequent foul and possession (and a reset of the possession clock) is awarded to the non-offending team.

If a team is found to be offside at any time (before or after the expiration of the possession clock), possession is awarded to the non-offending team and the possession clock is reset.
90-SECOND POSSESSION CLOCK & POSSESSION CLOCK OPERATOR

The Rules Committee strongly recommends that institutions have access to a back-up 90-second possession clock in case the institution’s primary 90-second possession clock malfunctions (the 90-second possession clock at mid-field or one of the two 90-second possession clocks, located at either end of the field, malfunctions). Pursuant to Rule 5, Section 5, a game at the Division 1 level for the 2017 season may NOT be played without at least one working 90-second possession clock. If an institution has only one working 90-second possession clock, it must be located at the scorer’s/timer’s table.

The Rules Committee strongly recommends that the Possession Clock Operator be positioned either at the scorer’s/timer’s table or in the press box.

CHECK OF GOAL-SCORER’S STICK

The goal-scorer’s stick will be checked after each goal for pocket depth. No substitutions may occur (players or sticks) until the official has administered the stick check of the goal-scorer’s stick.

STICK SPECIFICATIONS

Pursuant to a change in US Lacrosse Manufacturer’s Specifications for Equipment, Appendix E, Section 20, should include the following revision bolded in red:

“Any additional strings used for attachment of the pocket to the head of the crosse may not be tied behind the pocket above the ball stop, with the exception of the thongs knotted at the ball stop.”

The following picture is an example of thongs knotted at the ball stop. This stringing is legal.
OFFICIATING MECHANIC REMINDERS

These mechanics are consistent with the mechanics used by the CWLOA in its training of collegiate officials.

POCKET DEPTH CHECK

The mechanics for checking the pocket depth are the SAME for Pre-Game and after every goal. Drop the ball in the pocket of the stick/crosse held at eye level (do not touch the ball); roll the ball to the ball stop and to the scoop.

SIGNALS

Do NOT signal “Goal” again after checking the pocket depth of the goal-scoring stick/crosse.

10-GOAL DIFFERENTIAL AND 90-SECOND POSSESSION CLOCK MANAGEMENT

When there is a 10-goal differential, you must use the “Possession Clock Stop” (head tap) for all fouls in the CSA. If there is a change of possession and the ball will be coming out of the CSA, you must also signal “Possession Clock Reset” (twirl).

90-SECOND POSSESSION CLOCK OPERATOR

It is important to review with the Possession Clock Operator the difference between a “Possession Clock Reset” (twirl) and a “Possession Clock Start” (wind up).

It is also important to review the “Possession Clock Reset” and “hold” situation after a deflected shot, ball hits the pipe, etc. (i.e., when there is no possession established/a scrum for the ball). The possession clock must be “reset” but then “held” until possession is established. Once possession is established, the Possession Clock Operator should start the possession clock upon seeing the official signal “Possession Clock Start” (wind up). The key is that after resetting the possession clock, the Possession Clock Operator must wait to start the possession clock until he/she sees the signal from the official (similar to following the draw when the Possession Clock Operator does not start the possession clock until the signal from the official).

Also, please be sure to check if the possession clock has a “recall” function (i.e., the function that enables the possession clock that has been incorrectly reset to recall the amount of time left on the possession clock prior to the erroneous reset). If the possession clock does not have a “recall” function, it is important that the Possession Clock Operator tries his/her best to make a mental note of the time on the clock when he/she resets the possession clock.

CLOCK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION

Consider when you and your partners are signaling for a stoppage of the clocks (game clock and possession clock) – is the signal to stop the clocks BEFORE or AFTER your direction & foul signals? You may be losing precious seconds.