



MEMORANDUM

January 27, 2017

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's Lacrosse Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Willie Scroggs, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee

Tom Abbott  
NCAA Men's Lacrosse National Coordinator of Officials.

SUBJECT: Over-and-Back Clarification.

Based on some recent discussions and questions, this communication is being distributed to the lacrosse community. A clarification is being issued dealing with the Over-and-Back rules that go into effect immediately.

The memorandum issued on December 15, 2016 addressed a shot hitting the goalkeeper and/or pipe and rolling towards the midline. This interpretation stated:

*"Note: The following play will be treated as any other shot that rolls towards an out of bounds line. On a shot that hits the goalkeeper or pipe and is rolling towards the midfield line, if the offensive team attempts to pick up the loose ball and deflects it over the midfield line, over and back has occurred. The offensive team was the last to possess and last to touch."*

This interpretation was discussed and reviewed during several clinics and meetings into the new year. After further considering the intent of the rule, the following guidance is being issued to replace what was distributed previously:

**"On a shot that hits the goalkeeper or pipe and is rolling towards the midline, both teams have equal opportunity at attempting to gain possession. Over-and-back is not in play unless the offensive team causes the ball to cross the midline. (See Rule 4 Section 6,h, Shot, page 34). Should the offensive team, in an attempt to pick up the rolling shot, have the ball deflect off a stick or body and the ball crosses the midline, no over-and-back has occurred, it is still a shot unless and until added impetus is made to the shot. Should either team gain possession over the midline, the appropriate clearing count is in effect."**

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us (Tom: [laxstripes@hotmail.com](mailto:laxstripes@hotmail.com); Willie: [williescroggs@unc.edu](mailto:williescroggs@unc.edu)) if you have any questions.

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