



Rules Clarifications 2/11/2026

Major Fouls Committed by the Attacking Team in The Their CSA

(for this rule guidance, possession means the ball is in a player's stick)

- When the attacking team commits a Major foul while in possession of the ball (ex., illegal pick), a green card shall **NOT** be issued. The penalty will be a change of possession at the spot of the foul, self-start permitted.
- When the attacking team commits a Major foul after having possession of the ball in their CSA and then losing it so the ball is loose (ex., cross check, illegal use of the stick), a green card **SHALL** be issued.
- When the attacking team commits a Major foul against the defending team who is in possession of the ball (coming out), a green card **SHALL** be issued.
- When the attacking team commits a Major foul against the defending team who had possession and then lost it so the ball is loose (still coming out), a green card **SHALL** be issued.

Note: Once the defensive team gains possession, a green card shall be administered for major fouls that occur in the 12-Meter Fan Defensive End.

Coming out means defense has gained possession of the ball (this includes if the defense drops the ball after gaining initial possession).

Timing Efficiencies After Quarter Breaks and Timeouts

- The warning horn will continue to sound at 1:45 and 2:00.
- This will not be managed like the 30 Second Draw Clock (where there could be an immediate penalty following the horn).
- Teams do not need to be in legal field positioning at the time of the 2:00 horn. However, teams should have broken out from their timeout/huddles and be making a reasonable effort to be ready to play to avoid a penalty. In addition, teams should not continue with additional timeouts or huddles once on the field.

Penalty Administration for Minor and Procedural Fouls

- False start by the defense on an 8-Meter free position
 - Stay on the 8M, no reset of the possession clock.
 - Continue to use previous penalty administration regarding positioning of players and verbal warnings or green cards (2nd NEA or 2nd repetitive false start foul).

- Defender is seen wearing jewelry when setting up an 8-meter free position
 - Stay on the 8M, no reset of the possession clock.

Procedural Fouls when non-offending team has possession – reset the PC to 90

- Illegal Re-Entry (from out of bounds), No Eye Protection, No Mouthpiece, No Stick, Throwing a Stick.

Penalty Administration for Minor Fouls in the CSA

- Slow whistle (flag) for a Major foul (ex: cross check) followed by a Minor foul (ex: push) to end the scoring play:
 - Administer on the 8M with no possession clock reset.

Rationale: So as not to disadvantage the non-offending team and prevent teams from using minor fouls to get players back on the 12M.

- Player has an 8-meter free position followed by a minor/procedural delay foul as the player is going directly to goal (flag or no flag). Play ends with no shot being taken, or the foul affected the shot with a goal not scored.
 - Administer on the 8M with no possession clock reset.

Rationale: So as not to disadvantage the non-offending team and prevent teams from using minor fouls to get players back on the 12M.

Penalty Administration for 30-Second Draw Clock Violation

- A team has an extra player(s) already on the field after the expiration of the draw clock (horn sounds)
 - This is an illegal procedure foul with the penalty being a free position at the center line for the non-offending team. Officials will not have to interpret if a player is trying to leave the field or if they are still on the field.
 - Use the horn (expiration of 30-second draw clock) or hands (officials are ready, C has hands on draw sticks, A and B have arms down) as the determination for illegal substitution with a player entering the field from the sideline.

- When a team runs a player onto the field from the substitution area after the expiration of the draw clock (horn sounds), it is an illegal substitute foul and will be penalized with a green card.

Penalty Administration for a Goal Circle Foul Committed by the Defense When Not in Possession of the Ball

- Free position on an 8-meter hash. Any player may take the FP whether or not it has been flagged.

Nets with Logos That Do Not Meet Rule Specifications (logo facing wrong way or too high)

- Team should switch to a net that meets rule requirements. If they cannot, and if the opposing team agrees to play, the game shall continue. Similar to other things that cannot be reasonably fixed - no penalty.
- Submit equipment inquiries/issues [here](#) to Stefanie Sparks, NCAA SRE.
- Officials should email Stefanie Smith and Mara Banfield to let them know which school(s) has nets with logos that are not in compliance with the rules.

Coach Actions Following a Goal and Prior to a Draw

- Can a coach come onto the field to exchange a stick? **Yes**
- Can a coach bring an iPad onto the field at this time and use it for coaching? **Yes**
- Can a coach come on to the field even if not exchanging a stick? **Yes**
- Can a coach come on to the field to argue a call with officials? **No**

Note: During this time frame, officials are not micro-managing coach conduct beyond the already existing rules for coach conduct.

Guidance for Foul Recognition

- A player uses the shaft of their stick to push their opponent to a different location.
 - Assuming there is no “hit or displace”, this would be an Illegal Use of the Stick foul. The offender is using their stick in a manner that pins, restricts, or controls an opponent’s movement beyond a momentary redirection.
- Is shaft to shaft contact always a foul?
 - No. This type of contact should not always be seen as a slap check or any other illegal action. An example would be an attacker turns into a defender and there is incidental stick to stick contact. Such contact often occurs legally during the course of play.
- What foul is it when a player uses their stick to hold/detain an opponent’s stick?
 - This is an illegal use of the stick foul. Do not confuse this with holding as holding can only be done when a player uses their body, not their stick.

Equivalent or Greater Penalty Philosophy

- When multiple fouls occur in sequence (flag and advantage foul situations)
 - If the most recent foul is equivalent to or greater than the earlier foul, the most recent foul governs the penalty administration.
 - If the most recent foul is not equivalent to the earlier foul, the greater penalty is administered, regardless of sequence.
 - Officials do not reduce the penalty simply because a lesser foul occurs after a more serious one. In alignment with not disadvantaging the non-offending team.