

NFHS & COLLEGIATE RULES COMPARISON CHART 2025

Category	NFHS	Collegiate
Field Size	W 53 1/3- 60 yards L 110 or 120 yards	W 60 yards L 110 yards
Continuous End line and Midline	Required, Penalty=technical foul visiting team starts game with possession Only enforced on opening faceoff	Required, Penalty= Technical foul visiting team awarded possession to begin game if corrections delay the start of game. Three-minute NR, no faceoff, if Team A coach is unable or refuses to make corrections. Only enforced for opening faceoff
Length of Game	4 x 12min stop time	4x 15 stop time
Mercy Rule	12 or more goal differential Second half only=Running clock for rest of contest	By mutual consent of both head coaches, a game may be declared official if the contest has progressed to a "reasonable point of conclusion" (three periods completed)
Officials on Field	At least 20 mins before start time	At least 30 minutes before start time
Faceoffs	Standing Neutral Grip only, officials adjustments OK before SET command. NFHS prohibits initiating body contact to a player in a crouched position, 1 min illegal body checking. Illegal contact with and to the head of faceoff players is prohibited	Standing Neutral Grip only, no officials adjustment. 3 rd & subsequent FO violation per half= Technical time serving foul for Delay of Game. NCAA prohibits illegal contact with and to the head of faceoff players.
Illegal Cross	Penalty 2min NR, cross can return to contest when corrected	Deep Pocket=1min NR, cross can return to contest once corrected. All other infractions= 3min NR, cross remains at table until conclusion of contest.
Advancing	20s Def + 10s Off + Over/Back if after clear	Off. End when shotclock hits 60. Over/Back in effect when shotclock below 60
Shot Clock/Stalling	Shot Clock: None Stalling: Final 2m if leading by 1-4 goals	Shot Clock: 80 or 80/60 Stalling: None
Goalkeeper Out of Crease	5 seconds count after any stoppage	No grace period
Crease Dive	None	Cannot land in goalmouth, Ball must enter net before contact with crease
Team Timeouts	2 per half. Anywhere on the field	2 per half, must be under off restraining line. During dead ball situations where the stoppage is within the field of play, only the team in possession or entitled to possession is allowed to request a timeout.
Player Disqualification	5 mins of personal fouls 2 USC penalties= automatic ejection	5 mins of personal foul