



2018 Boys' Lacrosse Rules Changes and Points of Emphasis

NFHS



- Acknowledgements:
 - James Weaver – NFHS Director of Performing Arts and Sports
 - Tom Neubauer – NFHS Rules Committee Chair
 - Dave Seidman – NFHS Rules Committee
 - Walt Munze – US Lacrosse Rules Interpreter
 - US Lacrosse Men's Officials Development Task Force

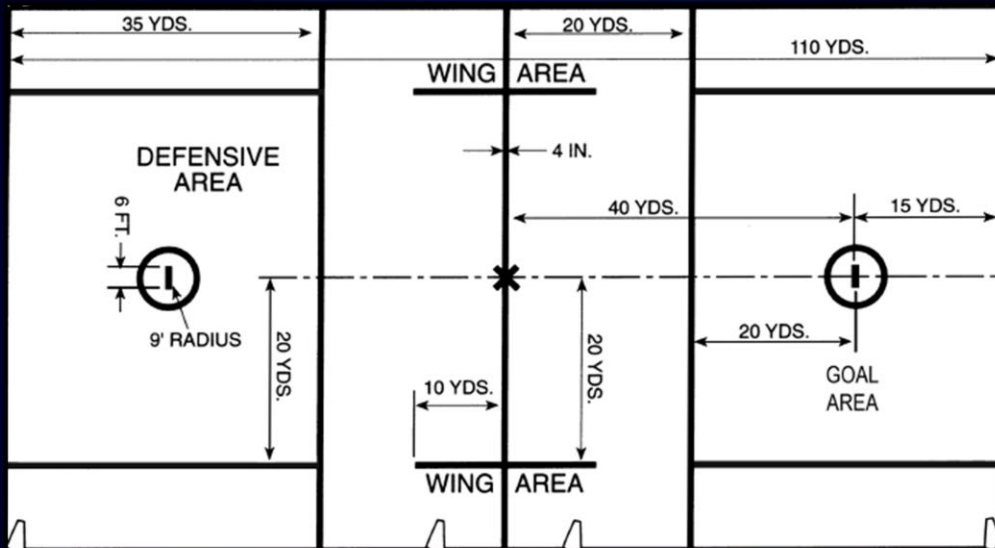
Rule Change – 1.2

- Adopt the 120-yard Unified girls and boys field as an allowed field option.



- The unified field was added as a legal field option to provide schools and leagues economic relief from having to invest in painting different lines for boys' and girls' games.

Rule Change – 1.2

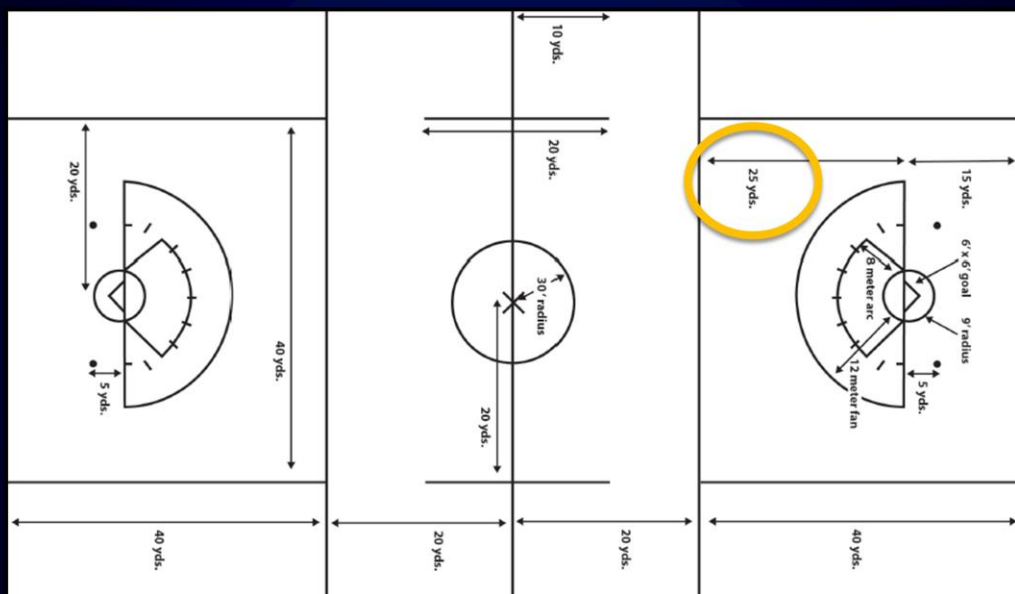


110 yards



- Traditional boys' lacrosse field diagram

Rule Change – 1.2

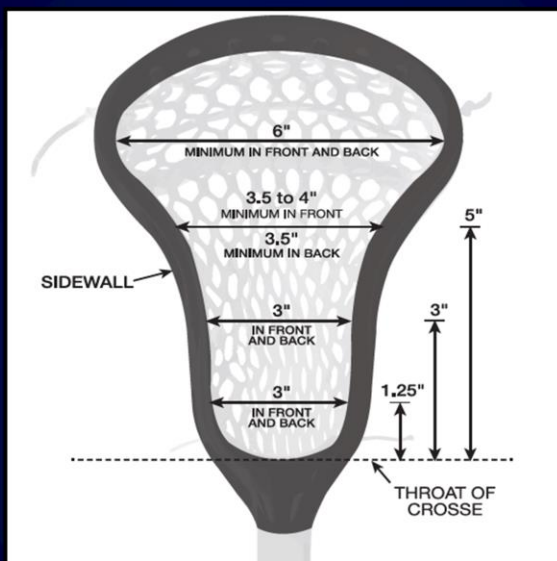


120 yards



- Is there any obligation for the home team to let a visiting team know that they are using a unified field?
 - No
- If playing on a unified field and there are football goal posts, those would be on the end line. Should padding be required on the goal posts?
 - Yes. The same procedure is followed for soccer goals that are fixed in place.
- Could the width of the unified field vary depending on the venue?
 - Yes. The unified field width goes from $53 \frac{1}{3}$ to 60

Rule Change – 1.6



- Comes into effect for the 2018 season
- Minimum widest point of a field player's stick is 6-10 inches
- This means "NCAA-only" heads are now legal for play under NFHS rules
- What is the best way to measure the head length? Top to bottom or bottom to top?
 - Since the minimum length is 10-inches it does not matter how the head is measured, so long as the head is not less than 10-inches long.

New Scorecard for Easy Measuring

LACROSSE SCORECARD

CAPTAINS

STICK CHECKS IN HOME POSSESSION ARROW IN HOME STICK CHECKS

FIRST QUARTER

SECOND QUARTER

THIRD QUARTER

FOURTH QUARTER

QUARTER TIME

LACROSSE SCORECARD

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT & GAME EJECTIONS

NUMBER VISITING TEAM PENALTY-EJECTION NUMBER HOME TEAM PENALTY-EJECTION

SUDDEN DEATH OVERTIME

2 MIN INTERMISSION

COW FLIP

4 MIN PERIODS

FOLLOWED BY GOAL CHANGE

1 TIME OUT PER PERIOD



- Ordering options:
 - https://www.ump-attire.com/Lacrosse-Referee-Equipment/Bags-Tools/Writing-Materials/LAX-NCAA_NCAA-Lacrosse-Referee-Template-Scorecard
 - <http://zebrawear.com/accessories/>
- Does the federation recognize the use of the scorecard template to use when checking the minimum width of the crosse?
 - Yes

Rule Change – 1.7.5

- Note: Pockets of nontraditional synthetic material manufactured for lacrosse are permitted.
 - The pocket must meet the specifications of 1-7.



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Rule Change – 1.7.5



- Nontraditional pocket types:
 - Warrior Warp
 - Hero Pocket
 - Phantom Lacrosse Pocket

Rule Change – 1.9.1g(8)

- Jerseys shall be of contrasting colors for opposing teams. The home team shall wear light jerseys and the visiting team shall wear its dark-color jerseys. The visiting team is responsible for avoidance of similarity of colors, but, if there is doubt, the referee may require the home team to change jerseys.
- Note: Beginning in 2022, the home team will be required to wear white jerseys, and the away team will be required to wear non-white jerseys.



- Starts in 2022

Rule Change – 1.9.1g(8)

Home Team Jerseys



Visiting Team Jerseys



- Is there a penalty if the home team is not in white?
 - The white jersey rule for the home team does not apply until the 2022 season.

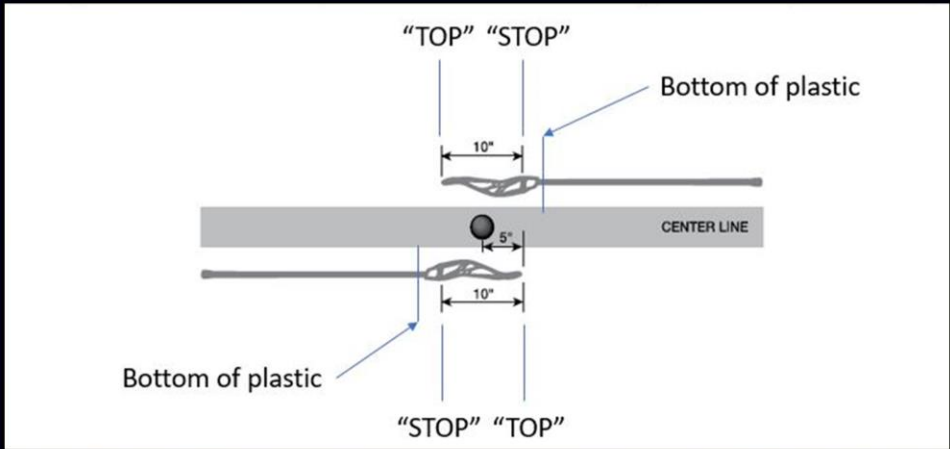
Rule Change – 4.3.3d

- The official shall make certain that the reverse surfaces of the crosses match evenly in that the top of one head lines up with the throat of the other and are perpendicular to the ground.



- Please confirm that "faceoff violations" are not tracked under NFHS rules.
 - Confirmed

Rule Change – 4.3.3d



- Have a conversation with the faceoff players after the coin toss and discuss how the crew will conduct the crosses.
- Ensure that the crosses are “Top to Stop” on EVERY faceoff.

Rule Change – 4.3.3n

- ~~Paint, a single wrap of tape, or other covering must be applied to the handle of the crosse for any playing taking a faceoff. The material is to begin at, but not be covering, the plastic at the throat of the crosse and continuing 6 inches down the handle. The material must be of a contrasting color to the head, gloves, and shaft.~~
- A contrasting color between the head and the top glove must be visible on the shaft at faceoffs.
 - The circumference of the shaft shall not exceed 3.5 inches.
- Note: This can be accomplished with the original shaft color, paint, a single wrap of tape, or other material.



- Is there any requirement on how far down the shaft the contrasting color has to go for players facing off?
 - No. As long as you can tell the difference between the shaft, head, and the gloves the crosse is legal for a faceoff.

Rule Change – 4.3.3n



- Left to right:
 - Image 1: Tape on the head of the crosse, should be discovered in the pre-game discussion with faceoff players. Tell an offending player to remove the tape before the game.
 - Image 2: Black head with a black crosse – does not contrast, illegal for use on a faceoff.
 - Image 3: Blue head with a white crosse – contrasting color, legal for use on a faceoff.
 - Image 4: White head with a black crosse – contrasting color, legal for use on a faceoff.

Rule Change – 4.9.2o

- A goal will be allowed if the shot is released prior to the end of the period.



- What about deflections when determining if a goal is good after the horn sounds to end a period?
 - Deflection off a defensive player or the goalkeeper's body or crosse is a good goal, but a deflection off an offensive player's body or crosse is not.
- A shot is released and horn blows, can shot bounce off the ground into the goal? Or is it dead when it hits the ground?
 - That would be a legal goal. It is the same rule as a bounce shot during a flag down slow-whistle.

Rule Change – 4.9.2o



- Can you clarify what is meant by the "release" of the shot?
 - The ball is out of the crosse.

Rule Change – 4.18.4

- No defensive player, other than a properly equipped goalkeeper, can enter his own crease with the perceived intent on blocking a shot or acting as a goalkeeper.
- PENALTY: Conduct foul on the defensive player. A second violation by the player team will be enforced as releasable unsportsmanlike conduct, served by the offending player.



- Can players line up outside the crease with the intent to block a shot?
 - Yes
- Does the releasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for the second team violation for a defender stepping into the crease to block shots count toward an ejection?
 - No. Only nonreleasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalties count toward an ejection under NFHS rules.
- Does the 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for a second or subsequence team violation for a defender stepping into the crease to block a shot count towards the 5-minutes of personal foul time for "fouling out"?
 - Yes. While a team violation, the penalty is assessed to the offending player and that counts to his personal foul time.

Rule Change – 4.18.4

- 1st team violation



- 2nd team violation
– Releasable



- What if more than one defender is in the crease attempting to block a shot?
 - Assuming this was the first violation and sequence can be determined, then the first player into the crease would serve a 30-second technical foul, and the second and any subsequent players who step into the crease to block a shot would serve 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalties.
- A ball is rolling on the ground slowly toward an empty net and a defender enters crease to scoop ball. Is this a penalty for blocking a shot?
 - No
- A defender, not the goalkeeper, jumps from outside the crease, blocks a shot while he is in the air and then lands in the crease. Is this a violation?
 - The airborne player rule is that you are where you were. Since the player left his feet while outside the crease, he is not considered inside the crease until his body physically makes contact with the crease line or the ground within the line.

Rule 6.5.2x

- Failure to wear a required mouthpiece properly (unless it comes out during play).



- The player does not have a mouthpiece at all. What is the call?
 - Technical foul
 - Loss of possession if the team had or was entitled to possession.
 - 30-second foul if the opposing team had or was entitled to possession.

Rule Change – 6.5.2x



- No mouthpiece
- Fishhook



- If you see a player in the scrimmage area without a mouthpiece or wearing the mouthpiece improperly is it an immediate whistle or a flag down slow-whistle?
 - Immediate whistle as this is a safety issue.
- During a random equipment check between periods, both players from opposing teams do not have a mouthpieces. Are these penalties time serving? Is the situation different if one team has illegal crosse and the other is missing a mouthpiece?
 - If both players do not have a mouthpiece then these are offsetting conduct fouls during a dead ball. Tell the players to find a legal mouthpiece before the next restart.
 - In the second situation, the illegal crosse and no mouthpiece on opposing teams results in a 1- or 3-minute penalty against the player with the illegal crosse (depending on the violation) and a 30-second technical foul against the player with the mouthpiece.
 - These are dead ball fouls where sequence cannot be determined, and are considered simultaneous fouls. The illegal crosse foul is nonreleasable by rule, and the 30-second technical foul is nonreleasable by the simultaneous foul rule. Ball is awarded to the team with the mouthpiece violation as that team incurred less penalty time.

Rule Change – 6.10.2

- The stall warning remains in effect until:
 - a goal is scored,
 - a shot that hits the goal pipes,
 - shot that hits the goalie or hits his equipment,
 - the defensive team gains possession of the ball
 - or the period ends resulting in a faceoff.
- After the team has been warned, stalling shall be called if the ball leaves the goal area in any manner other than as a result of a shot on goal or a touch by the defensive team.



- During a stall warning the shot goes out of bounds without touching anything, does the stall stay on?
 - Yes. The official will give a “Get it in” command on the restart, and the offensive team will have 10-seconds to enter the box where they will then have to “Keep it in”.
- During a stall warning, but not in the last 2-minutes, a shot is taken that hits the pipe. Is the stall still on?
 - No. A shot that hits a goal pipe, the goalkeeper, or the goalkeeper’s equipment wipes off the stall warning. The officials should give the “stall is off” signal.

Rule Change – 6.10.2



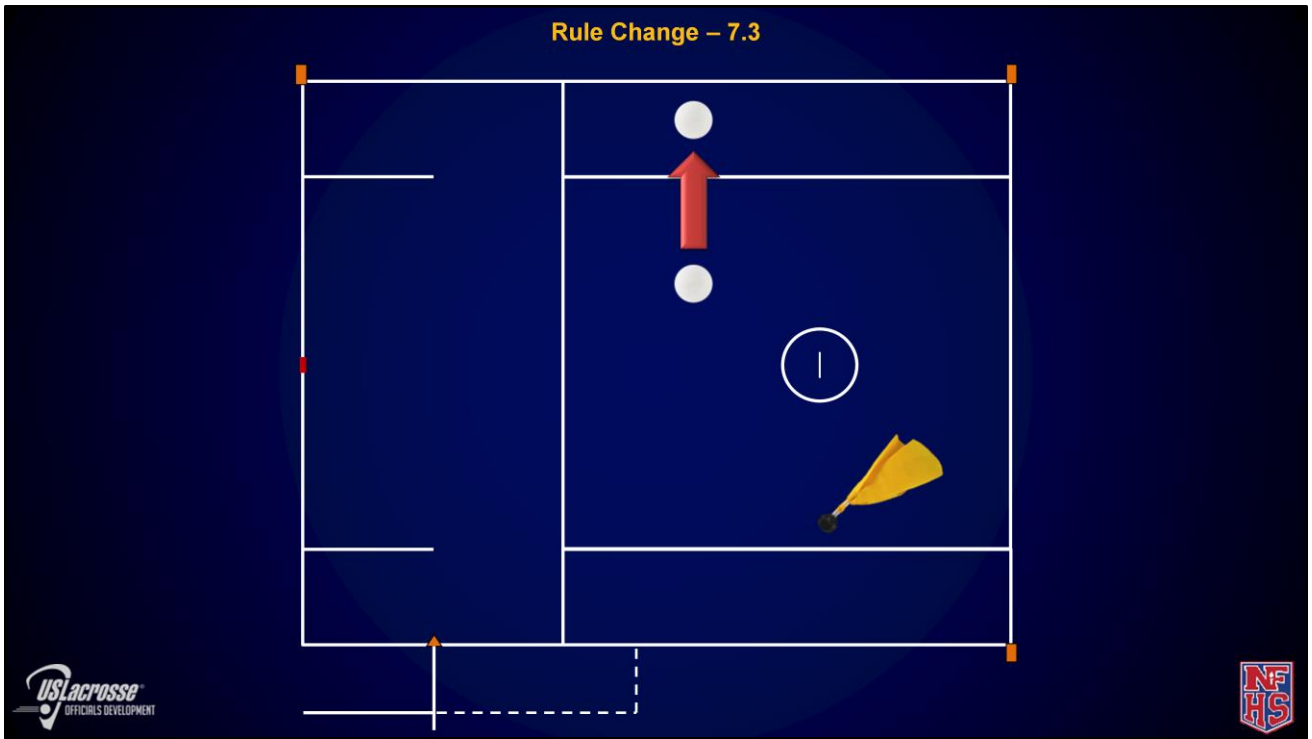
- There are four minutes left in the game with the leading team up by 5 goals. Stalling is put on the leading team by the officials, and the clock runs to under 2 minutes. Is the stall still on or is it off?
 - The stall is still on. The earlier stall warning put on according to the official's judgment supersedes the goal differential situation in the final two minutes. It does not come off unless one of the situations that ends a stall occurs.

Rule Change 7.3

- When a penalty occurs and the ball is in the offended team's offensive half of the field, the ball shall be put in play by the team awarded the ball, at the spot where the ball was when play was suspended.
- If the ball was in the goal area when play was suspended, it shall be restarted nearest to the spot of the ball at the time of the whistle, 20 yards laterally outside the goal area.



- Clarification from last year's rulebook.



- When there is a flag down, move the ball 20 yards laterally into one of the alleys.
 - Which alley should the ball be moved to?
 - Recommendation is whichever alley the ball is closest to.

Rule Change – 7.8.2



GOODIE

- Goal / Grounded
- Out of bounds/ ~~out of box~~
- Offense commits a penalty
- Defense gains possession
- Injury in scrimmage area
- End of period / game



- Why are we whistling a live ball that hits the ground (not on a shot) during a flag down slow-whistle? Someone can't pick it up and continue to play?
 - The ball being grounded is one of the conditions that ends a flag down slow-whistle under NFHS rules. Once the ball hits the ground, not counting a bounce shot, then the officials should blow the whistle, stop play, and assess the penalty.

Rule Change – 7.8.2k

- The official shall withhold the whistle until:
 - A second defensive foul is committed during the final two minutes of regulation play with the team that is ahead possessing the ball, unless a scoring play is imminent.



- In a flag down situation, there is a shot then a horn. How is possession determined for next period?
 - If a goal is scored and the penalty is a personal foul, the foul is assessed and the next restart is a faceoff.
 - If a goal is scored and the penalty is a technical foul, the foul is wiped off and the next restart is a faceoff.
 - If a goal is not scored, then the foul is assessed and the flag denotes possession. Award possession to the offended team for the next period.

Rule Change – 7.8.2k



- Immediate whistle
 - Unless scoring play is imminent

- Time the first flag was thrown is irrelevant.
- When at 2:00 or less, when the second flag is thrown and a player is NOT going to the goal play should be stopped and the two penalties assessed.

Rule Change – 7.8.3

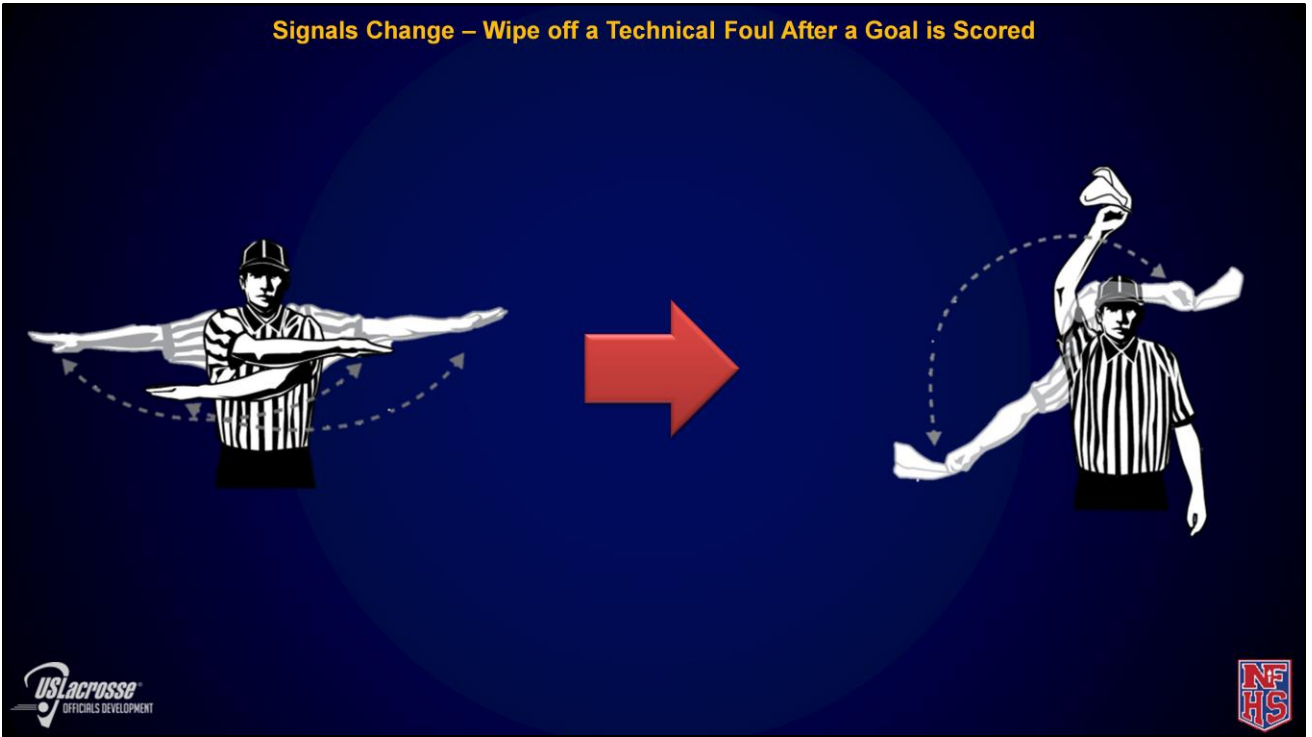


- Shot remains a shot until:
- ~~It is obvious that a goal will not be scored;~~
 - Ex. Offensive player behind goal catches a missed shot.
- ~~Added impetus is given to the ball by any member of the attacking team~~
 - Ex. Shot deflects off an offensive player and into the goal.



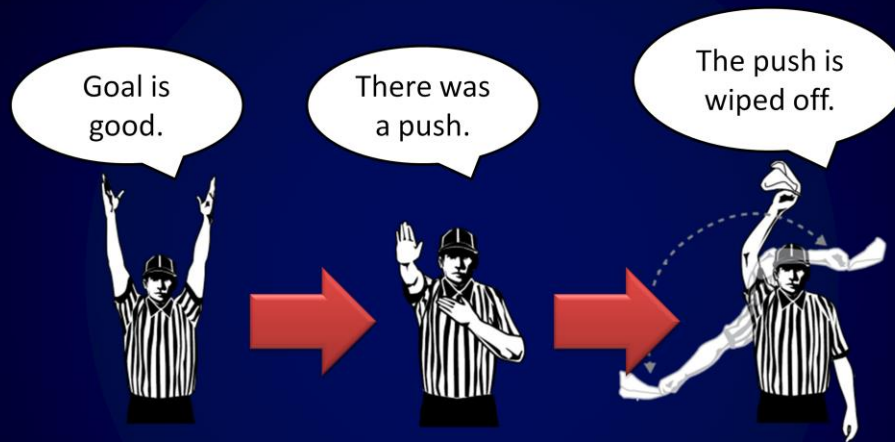
- Withhold the whistle and continue play if:
 - The shot misses the goal and is caught by an offensive player (what looked like a shot was actually a pass)
 - A shot deflects off an offensive player and goes into the goal

Signals Change – Wipe off a Technical Foul After a Goal is Scored




- The “safe” signal is no longer used to show a technical flag wiped out by a goal
- The “inadvertent flag” signal is now used to report an inadvertent flag OR to report a technical foul being wiped off by a goal

Reporting the Situation to the Table




- These are the steps an official should follow when wiping a technical foul.
- Make sure both coaches know that the goal is good,
- Inform everyone that there was a technical foul,
- And that the technical foul is wiped off by a goal
- Mechanics Changes Video for more information:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLSJXRN8rpn9Y8k7mbt0zndyzuT8sBYX7N&v=bqZom1_KjXU

NFHS Resources



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Officiating, Risk Minimization Remain Key in High School Boys Lacro...



UHSAA Sanctions Boys and Girls Lacrosse



IHSA Boys & Girls Lacrosse State Series to Begin in Spring of 2018



New Faceoff Procedure Among Rules Changes in High School Boys Lacrosse



nfhs.org/activities-sports/lacrosse-boys/

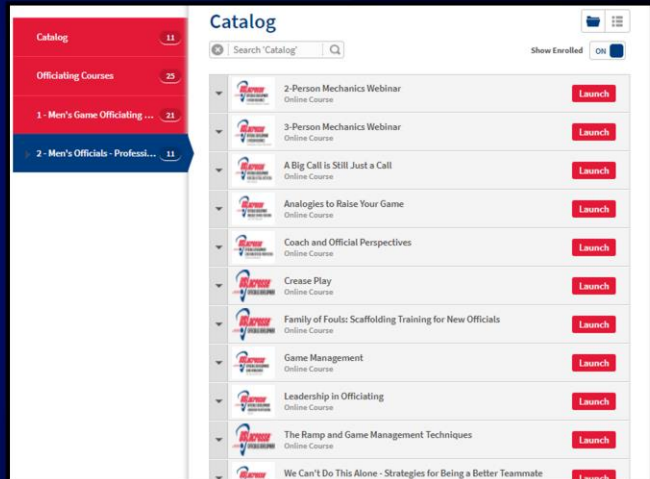


- nfhs.org/activities-sports/lacrosse-boys/
- <http://www.nfhs.com/p-1016-2018-boys-lacrosse-rules-book.aspx>

US Lacrosse Resources

learning.uslacrosse.org

uslacrosse.org/rules/boys-rules



- uslacrosse.org/officials
- uslacrosse.org/rules/boys-rules
- learning.uslacrosse.org



Questions?

www.nfhs.org
www.uslacrosse.org/officials



- What is the process and person to go to on the national level for a rules interpretation?
 - If there is a state interpreter you would submit the rules interpretation to that individual. If the sport is not sanctioned, then you would need to submit the question to the NFHS main office.
 - <https://www.nfhs.org/who-we-are/contactus>
- Have the 2018 rule books been published?
 - They are available for pre-order at the NFHS website:
<http://www.nfhs.com/p-1016-2018-boys-lacrosse-rules-book.aspx>
 - US Lacrosse members get a choice of a 2018 NFHS Boys' Lacrosse Rulebook or an NCAA rulebook when they join or renew each year.
 - Will also be made available on iTunes and Amazon.