



2013 Box Lacrosse Rules of Emphasis

Entry - Level 1 Rules of Emphasis

RULE 38 – CHECKING FROM BEHIND

- (a) A double minor or major penalty plus a game misconduct shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who, at the discretion of the Referee, based on the degree of violence of the impact, intentionally pushes, body-checks, illegally cross-checks or hits an opposing player from behind anywhere on the floor. **(Modified 2013)**

NOTE: In applying Rule 85(f) (play stopped when defense commits second infraction on a delayed penalty) the double minor counts as one infraction and for Rule 81 (Expulsions) the double minor counts as 2 penalties toward the five penalty limit.

- (b) Where a player is high stucked, cross-checked, body-checked, pushed in any manner from behind into the boards or goal net, in such a way that the player is unable to protect or defend him/herself, a Match penalty shall be assessed.

SITUATION 1 – Rule 38

? Can a check from behind ever be a possession call?

A No. Checking from behind is the most dangerous check in the game and is a mandatory penalty, regardless of severity. A deliberate check from behind near the boards or goal post will be a major plus a game misconduct or match penalty. A check from behind after a stoppage in play will be a major plus a game misconduct or match penalty.

RULE 50 – HIGH STICKING

- (a) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who checks an opponent in such a way that contact is made between his/her stick and the opponent's neck, face or helmet. **(Modified 2013)**
- (b) If a player/goalkeeper while being legally checked deliberately ducks, so as to cause the stick of an opponent to strike him/her on the head or neck, no penalty shall be assessed.

NOTE: Incidental contact with the helmet should be disregarded.

MINOR PENALTY – The Referee, at his discretion may assess a minor penalty, based on the degree of violence of the check, to a player/goalkeeper who high sticks an opponent.

MAJOR PENALTY – The Referee, at his discretion must assess a major penalty, when moderate contact is made with the stick on helmet/neck, or on top of shoulder/ collar bone. A check that initially hits the shoulder pad and makes moderate contact or significant deceleration prior to contact on head/neck area should be assessed as a major penalty.

GAME MISCONDUCT – The Referee, at his discretion may assess a major penalty and game misconduct, when excessive and partial to full extension of arms and/or solid contact with stick above shoulder on neck/head. A check that glances off the shoulder pad with minimal deceleration should be assessed as a major penalty and a game misconduct.



MATCH PENALTY – The Referee, at his discretion, may assess a match penalty if, in his judgment, the player or goalkeeper was reckless or endangering his opponent by high sticking. (Added 2013)

RULE 64 – SLASHING

- (a) A minor, major or match penalty at the discretion of the Referee shall be assessed to any player/goalkeeper who slashes an opponent with the stick. **(Modified 2013)**

NOTE: *If a player is assessed a major or match penalty under this rule, time must be served by any player (other than the designated goalkeepers). If a goalkeeper is assessed a minor, major or match penalty under this rule, time must be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.*

NOTE: *Any player/goalkeeper who swings the stick at an opponent (whether in or out of range) shall be penalized for slashing.*

NOTE: *A player/goalkeeper may not strike an opponent with that portion of the stick not held between the hands. Stick-to-stick contact is allowed but hands (gloves) are considered part of the body and may not be touched.*

- (b) In addition to any penalties assessed, any player/goalkeeper who swings the stick at another player/goalkeeper during an altercation shall be reported to the appropriate governing body.
- (c) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who while in the process of shooting or passing, follows through with the stick and slashes an opponent. Should a goal be scored on the shot, the goal shall be awarded and the penalty assessed.

NOTE: *If a player is assessed a major penalty under this rule, time must be served by any player (other than the designated goalkeepers). If a goalkeeper is assessed a minor or major penalty under this rule, time must be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.*

NOTE: *Unintentionally striking an opponent who is moving into the range of the follow through of a shot or pass should not be penalized.*

SITUATION 1 – Rule 64

? Does a player have to hit an opponent to be penalized for slashing?

A NO. Any player who swings the stick at an opponent whether in or out of range shall be penalized for slashing.

SITUATION 2 – Rule 64

? Can a slash be called a match penalty?

A Any slash or swing with intent to injure shall be called under Rule 30 Reckless and Endangering Play.

SITUATION 3 – Rule 64

? How does a Referee judge a one-handed or two-handed slash?



A Referees are instructed to judge his/her call on the intent of swing. Not by the size or force of swing.

SITUATION 4 – Rule 64

? Can a player slash a non-ball-carrier?

A No. Non-ball carrying offensive players cannot be slashed in any way at any time.

SITUATION 5 – Rule 64

? When is a follow through slash not called?

A Any player unintentionally striking an opponent who is moving into the range of the follow through of a shot or pass shall not be penalized.



Level 2-5 Rules of Emphasis

RULE 28 - ABUSE OF OFFICIALS AND MISCONDUCT

- (a) A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed to any player/goalkeeper who shows disrespect for a referee's ruling or uses obscene, profane or abusive language directed toward any person in the arena. A ten-minute misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who persists in this behaviour after being assessed the minor penalty
- (b) In cases involving non-playing bench personnel, or an unidentified player/goalkeeper on the players' bench, a bench minor penalty shall be assessed to the offending team. If any non-playing bench personnel continue their actions after having been assessed a bench minor penalty they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty and be reported to the appropriate governing body. Bench minor penalties require the removal of any player on the offending team (other than the designated goalkeepers) without substitute for two minutes, unless terminated early by a goal.
- (c) A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who attempts to incite, through gestures or verbalization, an opponent into incurring a penalty or an additional penalty. A ten-minute misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who continues the incitement after being assessed the minor penalty.
- (d) A bench minor penalty shall be assessed to the offending team if any player/goalkeeper or non-playing personnel, in the vicinity of the players' bench, throws anything on the playing floor during the progress of the game, or during a stoppage in play. Bench minor penalties require the removal of any player on the offending team (other than the designated goalkeepers) without substitute for two minutes, unless terminated early by a goal.
- (e) A ten-minute misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who intentionally knocks or shoots the ball out of reach of a Referee who is retrieving it.
- (f) A ten-minute misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player(s) who except for the purpose of taking their position on the penalty bench, enter or remain in the referees' crease (located in front of the timekeeper's bench) while the Referee is reporting to or consulting with any Off-floor Official.



SITUATION 1 – Rules 17 & 28

? Can non-playing personnel (coach, manager, assistant coach, trainer) be assessed: (A – E)			
The proper call is: (A – E)			
?		A	
a)	Five minute major?	a)	No
b)	Ten minute misconduct?	b)	No
c)	Game ejection with no penalty assessed?	c)	No
d)	Game misconduct?	d)	Yes
e)	Match penalty?	e)	Yes

RULE 45 – FIGHTING

- (a) A major penalty **and game misconduct penalty** shall be assessed to any player/goalkeeper who fights. A goalkeeper penalty shall be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction. ***The major penalty must be served in its duration. (Modified 2013)***
- (b) If there is an instigator or clear aggressor in a fight, ***a major penalty and*** a game misconduct plus any other penalties shall be assessed to the offending player(s). ***Where an instigator or clear aggressor penalty is assessed the non-offending player shall not receive a game misconduct under 45 (a). (Modified 2013)***
- (c) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who restarts a fight after once being separated.

NOTE: *This does not apply to a player/goalkeeper defending himself/herself.*

- (d) A game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player/goalkeeper involved in fighting off the playing surface.
- (e) Should a fight start on the floor, those players not involved will immediately move to their respective benches. Should a fight start near the players' bench(s), those players not involved will move to their respective goal creases. Should a fight break out near the goal crease, the goalkeeper will also move to his/her players' bench. Failure to do so may result in the offending player(s)/goalkeeper(s) being assessed game misconduct penalties.

NOTE: *This includes between periods and the end of the game.*



SITUATION 1 – Rule 45b

? What are the definitions of instigator and aggressor *penalties*?

A *INSTIGATOR: The instigator to a fight shall be defined as the player who, by his/her own actions or demeanor, demonstrates at least one of the following criteria: distance traveled in order to begin fighting; gloves off first; first punch thrown; substitution directly from bench in order to begin fight; menacing attitude or posture; verbally inciting or instigating another player; gestures or threats; conduct in retaliation to a prior game incident.*

NOTE: Not all fights will have a clear instigator. An instigator penalty should only be assessed when the referee is certain that at least one of the defined criteria has been committed by the offending player/goalkeeper. (Modified 2013)

AGGRESSOR: Any player who continues to fight after the Referees have attempted to separate fighters, attempts to restart a fight or refuses to stop fighting after being so instructed.

NOTE: Aggressor penalties should be called in a one-sided fight as well as when the player continues after being directed and clearly refuses to stop fighting. If both players are still willing combatants, then the aggressor should not be called. (Modified 2013)

SITUATION 2 – Rule 45a

? What penalty(s) are assessed to two player/goalkeepers' involved in a fight?

A *Both player/goalkeeper(s) will be assessed a 5 minute major for fighting and a game misconduct, plus any other penalties assessed. (Added 2013)*

SITUATION 3 – Rule 45b

? What penalty(s) will be assessed to Team A player/goalkeeper who is the clear instigator/aggressor in a fight with Team B player/goalkeeper?

A *The “clear” instigator/aggressor player/goalkeeper will receive a 5 minute major & game misconduct for the instigator/aggressor (Rule 45 b), 5 minute major & game misconduct for fighting (Rule 45a), and a game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c).*

The intent of this new rule is to ensure the Clear instigator/aggressor is penalized for starting the fight or continuing to fight after being clearly directed to stop by the officials. (Added 2013)

SITUATION 4 – Rule 45a-b

? During a fight which Team A player/goalkeeper is the clear instigator/aggressor, Team B player/goalkeeper fights back to protect themselves. What penalties will be assessed?



A *The clear instigator/aggressor will receive a 5 minute major & game misconduct for the instigator/aggressor (Rule 45b), 5 minute major & game misconduct for fighting (Rule 45a), and a game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c). Team B player/goalkeeper will receive a 5 minute major for fighting (Rule 45b).*

The intent of this rule is to protect the player/goalkeeper who is just defending themselves and is not a willing combatant in the fight. Officials need to be diligent to ensure the willing combatants are assessed the Game Misconduct under Rule 45a for fighting. (Added 2013)

SITUATION 5 – Rule 45a-b

? *Team A player/goalkeeper attacks a Team B player/goalkeeper and starts to throw punches and fights with the Team B player/goalkeeper who does not fight back. As the officials try to break up the one-sided fight, the Team A player/goalkeeper does not stop and keeps throwing punches and continues to fight. What penalties are assessed to the Team A player/goalkeeper?*

A *Team A player/goalkeeper will be assessed the penalties under Rule 45 a and b for being the clear instigator. The Team A player/goalkeeper will be assessed the 5 minute major & game misconduct for the instigator (Rule 45b), 5 minute major & game misconduct for fighting (Rule 45a), and a game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c). The Team A player/goalkeeper will then be assessed the 5 minute major & game misconduct for the aggressor (Rule 45b).*

In total the Team A player /goalkeeper will have three (3) majors and 4 game misconducts due to their actions.

The intent of this situation is to show that a player/goalkeeper can receive both an instigator and an aggressor penalty under Rule 45b. Officials need to be diligent to ensure the one-sided fights are broken up quickly, however also need to ensure the clear instigators and aggressors in fights are penalized. (Added 2013)

SITUATION 6 – Rule 45a-b

? *A player/goalkeeper from Team A instigates an altercation with a player/goalkeeper from Team B. Initially, the player from Team B does not defend himself/herself but eventually begins to fight back. Once the officials intervene, the player/goalkeeper from Team B does not cease fighting and continues to land punches on the Team A player (who has ceased fighting). What penalties should be assessed?*

A *Team A Player/goalkeeper: 5 minute instigator & game misconduct (Rule 45b), 5 minute fighting & game misconduct (Rule 45a), , plus additional game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c).*

Team B Player: 5 minute fighting (no game misconduct as this player defended themselves) (Rule 45b), 5 minute aggressor & game misconduct (Rule 45b), additional game misconduct for 2 major penalties (Rule 77c).



The intent of this rule situation is to show the penalty results for the player/goalkeeper who instigates a fight and what the player/goalkeeper would receive who becomes the aggressor in a fight and what penalties are assessed. (Added 2013)

SITUATION 7 – Rule 45a-b

? *What penalties are assessed to two players who willingly engage in a fight (no instigator) and B1 becomes the clear aggressor based on the definition?*

A *A1 is assessed a major for fighting and a game misconduct under rule 45A. B1 is assessed the Major for Fighting and a Game misconduct under rule 45A. B1 will also be assessed the Major for being the Aggressor and the Game Misconduct along with the additional Game Misconduct for having 2 majors in a game.*

NOTE: The wording under Rule 45B, which would remove the game misconduct for A1 when there is an instigator, would not be imposed here as both are clearly willing combatants. The intent of the Aggressor penalty is to ensure the clear aggressor in a fight is penalized, which this situation covers. (Added 2013)

SITUATION 8 – Rule 45d

? *What is the call if a player/goalkeeper gets into a physical altercation with non-playing bench personnel?*

A *Assess both the player/goalkeeper and the non-playing bench personnel a game misconduct, complete a special incident report and forward it to the appropriate governing body. (Modified 2013)*

SITUATION 9 – Rule 45d

? *What is the call if a player/goalkeeper at the players' bench, penalty bench or on the floor is receiving verbal abuse from a spectator and he/she:*

- Swings his/her stick at a spectator and misses.*
- Swings his/her stick at a spectator and hits him/her.*
- Climbs into the stands but does nothing.*
- Climbs into the stands and fights.*

A *In all cases assess a game misconduct to the player/goalkeeper and complete a special incident report and forward it to the appropriate governing body. Ensure that the spectator is removed. (Modified 2013)*

RULE 50 – HIGH STICKING

- A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who checks an opponent in such a way that contact is made between his/her stick and the opponent's neck, face or helmet. (Modified 2013)*
- If a player/goalkeeper while being legally checked deliberately ducks, so as to cause the stick of an opponent to strike him/her on the head or neck, no penalty shall be assessed.*

NOTE: Incidental contact with the helmet should be disregarded.



MINOR PENALTY – The Referee, at his discretion may assess a minor penalty, based on the degree of violence of the check, to a player/goalkeeper who high sticks an opponent.

MAJOR PENALTY – The Referee, at his discretion must assess a major penalty, when moderate contact is made with the stick on helmet/neck, or on top of shoulder/ collar bone. A check that initially hits the shoulder pad and makes moderate contact or significant deceleration prior to contact on head/neck area should be assessed as a major penalty.

GAME MISCONDUCT – The Referee, at his discretion may assess a major penalty and game misconduct, when excessive and partial to full extension of arms and/or solid contact with stick above shoulder on neck/head. A check that glances off the shoulder pad with minimal deceleration should be assessed as a major penalty and a game misconduct.

MATCH PENALTY – The Referee, at his discretion, may assess a match penalty if, in his judgment, the player or goalkeeper was reckless or endangering his opponent by high sticking. (Added 2013)

RULE 55 – INTERFERENCE

NOTE: *Throughout this rule, the Referees shall keep in mind that any check that is covered by other rules (e.g. cross-checking, tripping, charging, checking from behind, etc.) shall be penalized under the appropriate rule.*

NOTE: *The dotted line will apply in Pee Wee and all lower divisions. In Bantam and all higher divisions, the reference to the dotted line will be replaced by the defensive zone.*

- (a) When players/goalkeepers are pursuing a loose ball, checking the opponent's stick and body contact are allowed. If the contact is a direct attempt to drive the opponent off the ball while making no attempt to play the ball, possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team for minor interference.
- (b) A defending player/goalkeeper may interfere with the progress of an attacking non-ball-carrier using his/her body or a push checking motion with his/her stick provided the non-ball-carrier is inside the dotted line in Pee Wee and lower and the defensive zone in Bantam and higher.
- (c) A minor penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who deliberately prevents a player/goalkeeper who has dropped his/her stick from regaining possession of it. A goalkeeper penalty shall be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.
- (d) If a player/goalkeeper who is checking a player/goalkeeper is interfered with by means of a moving screen, possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team. The only permissible moving screen is when both opponents are moving in exactly the same path and same direction and the player/goalkeeper in front slows up or stops. In all other situations, the player/goalkeeper setting the screen shall be stationary in a normal standing position when contact is made and may not push off.
- (e) In all screening situations contact is expected. If the contact is excessive, it shall be penalized under the appropriate rule.
- (f) A minor penalty shall be assessed if any player/goalkeeper or non-playing personnel, on the players' bench or penalty bench, interferes with the movement of the ball or an opposing player/goalkeeper while play is in progress. If the designated goalkeeper had been removed from the playing floor, and a player/goalkeeper of the side attacking the unattended goal or the ball is interfered with by any opposing player/goalkeeper or non-playing personnel on the players' bench or the penalty bench, a goal shall be awarded to the non-offending team. A goalkeeper penalty shall be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.



SITUATION 1 – Rule 55f

<p>? A goalkeeper leaves the floor for an extra attacker, but leaves his/her stick standing up in the goal and: (A – C)</p>			
<p>The proper call is: (A – C)</p>			
?		A	
a)	an opposing player shoots and misses the goal?	a)	Stop play and assess the goalkeeper a delay of game penalty.
b)	an opposing player shoots, hits the stick and the ball does not go into the goal?	b)	Stop play and award a goal to non-offending team
c)	you notice the stick while play is in the other end?	c)	Signal a delayed penalty to the offending team.

SITUATION 2 – Rule 55f

? Team B goalkeeper is on the bench for an extra attacker. Team A is in possession. A member of team B (or bench personnel) interferes with the progress of any player on team A. This interference occurs from the players' or penalty bench. What is the call?

A Award a goal to team A.

Note: For a goal to be awarded in this situation the interference by the illegal person shall mean contact with any player on the playing surface or the ball.

Any interference from the bench is penalized as follows:

- If the offending team has possession, assess a minor penalty immediately.
- If the non-offending team has possession signal a delayed minor penalty.
- If the non-offending team has an unobstructed path to the goal with possession of the ball, award a penalty shot.
- If the non-offending team has an unobstructed path to the goal and the goalkeeper has been removed, award a goal.
- In all other cases assess the offending team a minor penalty.

SITUATION 3 – Rule 55d

? Is a pick and roll legal?

A Yes, an offensive player may pick and roll off a defensive player. The picking player may not push off the defensive player in any manner that provides the offensive team with an advantage.



SITUATION 4 – Rule 55d

? What criteria should be used when considering minor interference?

A The player being interfered with must have a reasonable chance to obtain the ball. If that player could not have obtained the ball had the interference not existed, do not award him/her possession. The offending player's illegal actions must be the reason that the player was unable to get the ball.

The offending player's action prevented a defensive player from having a reasonable opportunity to be involved in the play.

If the non-offending team is about to get possession of the ball, then minor interference is not called.

Note: Too many plays are called back by a minor interference call away from the play. If it is severe enough to be called when away from the play, it must be a penalty. If it is not severe, it is a "no call". Minor interference is called on loose ball situations and pick plays.

SITUATION 5 – Rule 55 NOTE

? Can minor interference be called when a player cross-checks or otherwise fouls an opponent from behind?

A NO. This is a penalty and must be called a penalty.

SITUATION 6 – Rule 55

?		1 A	
a)	What happens if player A1 (at the players' bench) is obviously on his/her way to the players' bench for substitution. Player B1 intentionally prevents him/her from getting on the bench. Player A2 (substitute) comes off the bench?	a)	Assess B1 an interference penalty.
b)	What happens if player A1 is attempting to leave the players' bench to enter the play and is prevented from exiting the bench by player B1?	b)	Assess B1 an interference penalty.
c)	What happens in a) and b) above if player A1 and B1 are both within the exchange area when the contact occurs	c)	Assess B1 an interference penalty and a game misconduct

RULE 64 – SLASHING

(a) A minor, major or match penalty at the discretion of the Referee shall be assessed to any player/goalkeeper who slashes an opponent with the stick. **(Modified 2013)**

NOTE: If a player is assessed a major or match penalty under this rule, time must be served by any player (other than the designated goalkeepers). If a goalkeeper is assessed a minor, major or match penalty under this rule, time must be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.



NOTE: Any player/goalkeeper who swings the stick at an opponent (whether in or out of range) shall be penalized for slashing.

NOTE: A player/goalkeeper may not strike an opponent with that portion of the stick not held between the hands. Stick-to-stick contact is allowed but hands (gloves) are considered part of the body and may not be touched.

- (b) In addition to any penalties assessed, any player/goalkeeper who swings the stick at another player/goalkeeper during an altercation shall be reported to the appropriate governing body.
- (c) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who while in the process of shooting or passing, follows through with the stick and slashes an opponent. Should a goal be scored on the shot, the goal shall be awarded and the penalty assessed.

NOTE: If a player is assessed a major penalty under this rule, time must be served by any player (other than the designated goalkeepers). If a goalkeeper is assessed a minor or major penalty under this rule, time must be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.

NOTE: Unintentionally striking an opponent who is moving into the range of the follow through of a shot or pass should not be penalized.

SITUATION 1 – Rule 64

? Does a player have to hit an opponent to be penalized for slashing?

A NO. Any player who swings the stick at an opponent whether in or out of range shall be penalized for slashing.

SITUATION 2 – Rule 64

? Can a slash be called a match penalty?

A Any slash or swing with intent to injure shall be called under Rule 30 Reckless and Endangering Play.

SITUATION 3 – Rule 64

? How does a Referee judge a one-handed or two-handed slash?

A Referees are instructed to judge his/her call on the intent of swing. Not by the size or force of swing.

SITUATION 4 – Rule 64

? Can a player slash a non-ball-carrier?

A No. Non-ball carrying offensive players cannot be slashed in any way at any time.



SITUATION 5 – Rule 64

? When is a follow through slash not called?

A Any player unintentionally striking an opponent who is moving into the range of the follow through of a shot or pass shall not be penalized.

RULE 72 – UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS

- (a) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper who uses unnecessary roughness during a game. A goalkeeper penalty shall be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction. **(Modified 2013)**
- (b) A major penalty shall be assessed to a player/goalkeeper for grabbing the facemask, helmet, or chinstrap, hair pulling or head butting. A goalkeeper penalty shall be served by a player who was on the floor at the time of the infraction.

SITUATION 1 – Rule 72

? When should a major penalty be assessed for pulling the facemask or chinstrap?

A This penalty should only be assessed when the player is pulling on the helmet in a fashion that may cause injury or he/she is using it for any kind of advantage. Simply grabbing the helmet does not justify assessing this penalty.

SITUATION 2 – Rule 72

? What is the call when one player incites and/or instigates unnecessary roughness?

A A player must be assessed the only penalty or more penalty time than the retaliator. For example a single minor to the player that started the altercation or a second minor to that player and a single minor to his/her opponent.