

Senior A and Junior A 2022 Box Rule changes

This is a working document that includes Rule changes for the 2022 Senior A and Junior A playing season. In addition to the Rule changes, there are three Rules of Play where a focus of enforcement of existing rules and interpretations involves further discussion and involvement of the Officials.

The Rule Changes and enforcement discussion comes from a Panel comprised of athletes and coaches of the 5 Leagues involved (MSL, WLA, OJALL, RMJALL, BCJALL). The Rule changes are supported by these athletes and coaches and representatives of all 5 Leagues. The Rule changes are approved for all 5 Leagues and the 2022 box playing season. The Panel is not submitting these changes for the Lacrosse Canada Box Lacrosse Rule Book at this time.

Following discussion with the Officials, a final report will be prepared and submitted to all Members.

Approved Rule Changes for the 2022 Season

- (1) 4 Second count When a team gains possession of the ball in their crease, the player in possession must vacate the crease within four (4) seconds.
- (2) 8 second count When a team gains possession in the defensive half of the floor, they must advance the ball across centre within eight (8) seconds of gaining possession.

8 second count procedure. The 8-second procedure will be kept by the trailing referee on the floor by chopping wave of the hand for each second. A timeout may be called by the team while in their defensive end of the floor before the expiration of the 8-second count. In this situation, a new 8-second count shall be awarded following the timeout. There will not be a re-set of the 30-second shot clock.

(3) Face off Execution

Face off Positioning: The draw men shall be positioned on the same side of the centreline of the floor as the goal they are defending with their lacrosse stick resting on the floor along the centreline. Both hands and feet of each player facing off must be to the side of the throat of the stick. Each player must have both hands on the handle of the stick, not touching any strings, and are to be touching the floor. The player's feet may not touch the stick. No portion of the stick may touch the opposing player's stick, nor may either player be in contact with the opponent's body by encroaching in the opponent's territory. The walls of the stick must be eight (8) inches apart touching the floor. The sticks must be placed so they are parallel to the centreline, four (4) inches from centre, and the players must keep their feet behind the centreline.

Faceoff violations There are three steps in player positioning. The first has the referee instruct the players to go down. The officials will then assess that the faceoff is set properly.

The referee will then issue the 'Set' command. No movement from the two draw men may occur once the 'Set' command is issued. Movement by either player involved in the faceoff after the 'Set' command is issued shall cause possession to be awarded to the non-offending team. If the ball is stuck in the back of the stick of one of the draw men, possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team. If there are simultaneous multiple procedure violations, ie at the restraining line and at faceoff, the faceoff violation shall determine possession. A player who gains possession from the draw on his offensive side of centre may continue to travel towards his own goal, moving over centre towards his own goal. This will not be considered a backcourt over-and-back violation as long as the player in possession has not started to move forward in his offensive zone. In this situation, once a player enters the defensive zone, the 8-second count shall begin. Once a player has established a forward direction, the Backcourt violation rule comes into consideration.

Contesting the ball of the faceoff. The two players must contest the ball when the Referee blows the whistle to begin play. The ball must come out of the centre circle. A player may not trap, clamp, or 'dead-stick' (not move your stick) the ball with the intent to withhold play inside or outside of the circle, or the opponent's stick or body. This is not permitted, and a violation shall be called, awarding possession to the non-offending team. An 'over-clamp' is when a draw man clamp's his stick on top of the original clamp, and this is a violation. Possession will be awarded to the non-offending team. A draw man cannot use his hand or arm or part of his body to apply pressure on an opponent's stick or body while contesting for the ball on a faceoff. This is a violation and possession will be awarded to the non-offending team. Once possession is deemed, an opponent is permitted to contest the body. If a player gains possession on a faceoff with the ball in the backside of his stick, and fails to move, rake or direct the ball to a teammate of himself, or takes more than one step, a violation shall be called, and possession awarded to the non-offending team.

Positioning prior to the faceoff: The players not involved in the faceoff must take a position inside either the offensive or defensive zones. Once the players have positioned themselves in either of these Zones, they must remain in that location until the Referee's whistle sounds to start the play, at which time all players are released from their respective positions. Players may move prior to the whistle provided that they remain behind their zone line and not making contact with an opponent. Players are permitted to make legal line changes immediately once the whistle is blown to start play.

Restrain Lines for Offensive and Defensive zones. It is the desire for the Leagues to move towards the wider positioning between the two player restrain lines. Where some Clubs within the Leagues may have the wider Restrain zones, some do not have these wider difference restrain lines, or do not have the ability to establish these zones prior to the 2022 season. In this situation, the Arenas/playing facilities that have hockey blueline imprinted on the floors, these shall be used as the Restraining lines for the 2022 season.

- (4) Back Court/Over-and= Back. A loose ball, or a player with possession of the ball who comes in contact with the centreline of the floor for any reason, other than a shot on goal, or having the defensive team being the last to contact the ball prior to going over centre, shall be a back court violation. If the offensive team was the last to touch the ball prior to the ball going back over centre without a reset of the shot clock, the referee shall withhold the sounding of the whistle until it is apparent that the non-offending team will not gain possession. Possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team where the ball comes to rest. The offensive team cannot intentionally direct the ball into the back court for any reason, regardless as to whether they are considered to have possession. If a goaltender is pulled for an extra attacker, and the ball travels back across centre into the goal, the goal shall count and be considered a good goal.
- (5) Too many Players: In all situations, if a team is found to have too many players on the floor, a two-minute penalty shall be imposed on the offending team. This will apply to both the Team with possession of the ball, and the team without possession.
- (6) Delayed Penalties: If a defending player commits a penalty against an opponent, in which the non-offending team has possession of the ball, the referee shall raise his hand and withhold the whistle until such time as the completion of the play by the team in possession. 'Completion of Play' by the team in possession in this situation means that the ball either goes out of bounds; or a back court violation occurs; or a goal is scored; or the shot clock or game clock expires; or an offensive player commits a penalty; or possession and control of the ball is made by the defending team. The play shall continue upon a shot on goal where the offensive team re-gains possession on the rebound. And the shot clock is reset. The play shall continue upon the ball making contact with the defending player's stick or body but does not gain possession and control of the ball.
- (7) Fast Restarts - Upon the re-start of play of a non-timing penalty violation, the re-start position does not have to re-start at the point of the violation. The non-offending team may pick up and gain possession of the ball at the location of the ball at any location of the playing floor.

If, upon stoppage of play, a player throws, or rolls the ball away, or retains possession of the ball upon the referee's call of a violation, a minor delay of game penalty shall be imposed on the offending player. Such a violation shall include any action by a player that disrupts the restart of the game such as holding on to the ball; tossing the ball to the official; or throwing/rolling the ball away from the location when the play was stopped by the referee. Upon stoppage of play, a player must immediately put the ball down at that location upon loss of possession and allow for a fast restart for the opposing team. An offending team player must immediately move a minimum of six (6) feet from the ball. If a player does not move 6 feet away from the ball, a 2-minute Delay of game penalty shall be called on the offending player. If a player from the Team gaining possession of the ball moves within the 6 feet distance of a defending player with the intent of drawing a delay of game penalty, the Offensive player shall be penalized with a 2-

minute Delay of Game penalty. Officials shall be aware of the game situation and recognizing the distance between opponents during the fast restarts and shall restart play fairly and accordingly.

(8) Sudden Victory during Regular Season games: During the Regular season, if the game is tied at the end of regulation, Sudden Victory shall occur to determine the winner. Each of the 5 Leagues will determine their own League policies for the duration of Sudden Victory and the number of players participating on the floor. Sudden Victory procedures will only be established for Regular season games. Existing Rules and procedures will remain for the Post-Season Playoffs and National Championships.

(9) Additional time-penalty called on a Team already playing 2-men short.

If a Team is playing with two players serving penalties in the penalty box, and a 3rd penalty is called, this will result in a Penalty shot awarded to the non-offending Team. A faceoff shall occur following the completion of the Penalty shot. There is still discussion to occur on this Rule change specifically regarding procedures, and the logistics around penalty expiries and players remaining in the penalty box.

Existing Box Lacrosse Playing Rules for increased enforcement.

(a) Off Ball Slashing

Purpose of a slash to the stick is to dislodge the ball from the ball carrier.

Any off-ball slash has the sole purpose to intimidate or injure the opponent

The athletes, coaches, and administrators from this Panel support a strict enforcement of the existing rules. Off-Ball slashes to the opponent's hands, arms, legs, or any part of the body are not permitted at any location on the playing floor.

Any contact from an Off Ball slash to warrant action from the Official either through a verbal warning for incidental contact or a penalty for any deliberate slashing motion.

(b) Illegal Picks

The Panel recognizes that existing Rule 55 – Screens/Interference covers the Picks/Illegal Picks, but also recognizes the need to address this topic as its own Rule. Consideration to be given to NLL Rule 59 of their Rule Book.

An illegal Offensive Pick is when the Offensive player uses unequal pressure and creates movement of the Defensive player or displaces the Defensive player from his position. Unequal

pressure can be when the Offensive applies more pressure than the Defensive player pushes back. The Defensive player does have a responsibility to hold his spot or location on the floor. The Official is to determine who is creating the movement of the Defensive player.

Illegal Picks can also be considered as Illegal Cross Check/Back Check infractions worthy of a 2-minute/5-minute penalty rather than a change of Possession call.

The topic of Picks/Illegal Picks is an area that the Panel views as necessary for increased enforcement.