PIAA GIRLS LACROSSE CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE
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2018 Meeting Guidelines
Girls Lacrosse

The following meeting guidelines are being provided to all PIAA Girls Lacrosse Chapter Rules Interpreters to aid in the consistent education and training of all officials within our sport.

Materials can be used individually or together to best support interpreters presentations.

Materials offer an introduction to topics, while interpreters will offer additional detail within discussions.

Resources: (rule book pages noted throughout guidelines)
- 2017 Women’s Rulebook
- 2017 Women’s Game Training Manual
  - Produced with materials sourced through NFHS & USLacrosse
- Lacrosse Photos - internet
2018 Guidelines Content
May be used independently or together....

1. 2018 Points of Emphasis
2. Sportsmanship
3. Positioning To Make the Call
4. The Draw
5. Dangerous Play
6. Major Fouls
7. Minor Fouls
8. Cards... and other tools of the game
9. Goalkeeper and Goal Circle Foulss
10. Evaluate Your Officiating

2018 Girls Lacrosse
2018 Points of Emphasis
Areas that warrant continued concentrated attention...

**Illegal Defensive Positioning**

The Rules Committee’s emphasis on illegal defensive positioning is not intended to increase the frequency of fouls called on the defense. It is a clarification of the process and understanding of these fouls and to minimize injuries in the critical shooting area.

When a defender is in three seconds or the free space to goal, she illegally occupies a space to which she is not entitled and is reducing opportunities for the offense to safely attack. Additionally, the defender is placing herself at risk of injury.

For illegal defensive positioning associated with obstruction of free space to goal to occur, the attack must create opportunity. First, the ball must be above the goal line extended and within the Critical Scoring Area. Then the attacker must physically have the potential to shoot, and the path to goal must be clear of legal defenders. If the opportunity to shoot does not exist, the call should not be made.

**Contact in the Midfield – Incidental v. Dangerous**

The safety of all players is a priority, and rough or dangerous play in the midfield not only disrupts the flow of play, but also puts players at significant risk for injury. Legal contact (incidental or deliberate) can occur between opponents during the normal course of play.

However, contact that occurs which physically forces the opponent off of their position or path is illegal contact. Deliberate illegal contact (crosse-checks, pushes) made to the body on any offensive player in a defenseless position must be carded.
2018 Points of Emphasis

Areas that warrant continued concentrated attention...

Officials should also consider carding players who repeatedly commit fouls in the mid-field. All major fouls in the midfield should be enforced with the offender placed four meters directly behind the ball carrier. It should be noted that four meters is almost 4 ½ yards when game are played on football fields with clear yard markings.

**Crosse in the Sphere/Check to the Head**

It is the responsibility of the defender to keep her stick out of the sphere and throat area of the ball carrier. Defenders who penetrate this space and throat area should be assessed a major foul. Repeated violations of this rule may be carded. This rule applies even when the ball carrier does not have her stick in a legal checking position. A check to the head or a check that causes the attacker’s stick to contact her head is a mandatory card.

**Professionalism**

All coaches, players, officials and administrators should conduct themselves in a professional manner before, during and immediately following all contests. All participants are reminded to avoid the use of excessive dissent or abusive language and coaches are reminded to stay in his or her coaching area. Calm, patient and productive dialogue at all levels is encouraged.
2. **Sportsmanship**

The most basic element to managing a good game...

Girls Lacrosse Rules are designed to

- Maintain the “spirit of the game”
- Ensure player safety
- Allow continuous flow of the game
- Determine the outcome by legal play - (not by the interp of the officials!)
- Maintain the integrity of the game

Officials, Coaches, Players

- Must be vigilant when enforcing, teaching, playing so that rules are correctly applied, players are safe and the integrity of the game is kept intact.

**Officials Part:**

- **Know the rules**
- Read the manual
- Study the game
- Attend clinics
- Watch more experienced officials...
- Calm, knowledgeable, professional – and fit! - wins the day
**This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.**

PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, team, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the officials that your players are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions. Good luck in today's contest.
3. Positioning

If you’re not in the right place to see it, you can’t call it!

Suggested Chapter Mtg Place for Positioning Review:

• On lax field, or in space that allows goal circle, arc and fan markings
  * If inside prepare with large chart / blackboard.

Planning resources –

• USLax Manual, Part 6
  • Mid field positioning
  • Critical Scoring area positioning
• USLax Website, Ropes Video
  • 4 quadrant positioning in CSA
  • Lead vs Trail positioning
• Review 2 and 3-man system
• Review where to look as Lead and Trail...
  • On ball, off ball, between players
  • “Who creates contact?”
  • Be in position to call the game and support your partner

2018 Girls Lacrosse

See Training Manual for Positioning Diagrams and Info.
4. The Draw
2018 Guideline to Consistent Execution
The Draw

The language of the rule....

The Draw

The opponents each stand with one foot toeing the center line and each opponent must have both of her feet on the same side of the center line behind her crosse. The crosses (shaft and head combined) are held in the air, above hip level with the lower side above the center line and back to back, so that the players’ crosses are between the ball and the goal they are defending. The entire length of both crosses must be contained within the vertical plane of the center line, and must be parallel to the ground. A player’s top hand may not contact any part of the sidewall or pocket. The ball is placed between the crosses by the official and must be placed in the upper third of each head at its’ widest point.

When setting up the draw, the official should be aware of possible height differentials between the centers and place the crosses in such a way that neither player gains an advantage. On the word “ready”, the players taking the draw must remain motionless except for head movement until the whistle. On the whistle the two opponents must immediately draw their crosses up from the starting position. The flight of the ball must attain a height higher than the heads of the players taking the draw.

Note: The lower side of the crosse is defined as the right side of the crosse as the player looks at it with the open pocket facing her.
The Draw
2018 Guideline to Consistent Execution

Opponents:
- Stand with one foot **toeing** the center line

  - Each opponent must have both feet on the same side of the center line – behind her cross.

  - Entire cross, head and shaft, are held in air above hip level

  - Lower side of cross held above center line and back to back.*

  - Pocket of cross faces defensive goal

  - Both crosses parallel and within vertical plane

* Lower Side = Right side of cross with pocket open to player

2018 Girls Lacrosse

Rule 5, Section 2, page 35
The Draw

2018 Guideline to Consistent Execution

• A player’s top hand may not be in contact with any part of sidewall or pocket

• The official will place the ball in the upper 3rd of each head at it’s widest point.

• Players will stop all movement upon the official stating “ready”, except for head movement, until the whistle

• On the whistle both centers will pull directly up from start position.

• Flight of ball must go higher than heads of players taking draw
The Draw: Rule Intent
2018 Guideline to Consistent Execution

• Protect the Plane!
• 9’11” center line, 30’ radius center circle, 30 yd restraining lines, goal circles, side and endlines... touching the line(s) in girls HS lax is consistently not permitted

• Fair play on the draw.
• A balanced draw execution, allowing for appropriate space, maintains the integrity of the start of play and assures that no player/team is disadvantaged
The Draw: The Bigger Picture

Umpire Considerations

Umpires are challenged to keep the game safe and fair (and fun!) while maintaining the fluid integrity of the game with the application of ALL rules.

“Possession” Rule for Girls Lacrosse:
- Players below the restraining line may reach over the line with their crosses, and may now ground their sticks over line to retrieve ball. (New 2018!)
- On the whistle for the draw, players below the restraining line may not crosse until draw is “complete”. Considered complete when:
  1. Player from either team has gained possession
  2. Ball goes out of bounds off of a player
  3. Ball crosses the restraining line
  4. A whistle stops play for a foul

Early entry by any player below the restraining line is immediate whistle and penalty for a minor foul and spot of the ball.

**Umpires** must understand and execute the draw correctly, and consistently, to avoid game-changing advantages by either team

**Umpires**: Review possession signals (arm/verbal) and review pre-game with partner to assure consistent execution within your game.... And game to game....
5. Dangerous Play
Understanding when to call, when to hold, when to card...

2018 Girls Lacrosse
5. Dangerous Play cont’d

Understanding when to call, when to hold, when to card...

“Win at all costs” affects the integrity of the game

• Safety and fair play is compromised
• Emotions – player, coach, spectator – become elevated
• Dangerous play increases

Shared Responsibility

• Coaches – teach players appropriate, legal play
• Players – play within the rules
• Umpires – **know the rules** and their safe, fair and correct application
  • Must penalize dangerous play and upgrade as needed
    • Apply Dangerous Contact card as noted
    • Upgrade repeated Major fouls to cards
    • Upgrade repeated Minor fouls to Major
• Umpires
  • See the whole game, use preventive officiating, enforce rules consistently and early
  • Remain calm... we are the only participants without an emotional investment in the game
6. Major Fouls

Know who initiated, and how to respond...

Making the Call - Know / Memorize Major Fouls

- Know the rules thoroughly ... Rule 10, pg 51
  - Who created the foul? Attack or Defense?
  - Were they playing the ball, or on the player?
  - Was the play intimidating/creating danger?

- Know Penalty Administration
  ... Where to place players
  - Is the play mid-field or in CSA?
  - Was a card involved?
  - Was the goalie involved?
  - Understand use of Slow Whistle/Flag – Rule 11, page 58
  - Understand when a scoring play is in effect – and when it ends!

- Understand When (and how) to Card ... Rule 12, 61

- Credibility
  - Officials immediately lose credibility if we cannot execute calls and penalty administration correctly, consistently and efficiently
7. Minor Fouls

Need to be called and/or managed within the flow of the game.

Making the Call - Know / Memorize Minor Fouls

• Know the Rules thoroughly ... Rule 9, pgs 48
  • Who created the foul? Attack or Defense?

• Understand Penalty Administration
  ... Where to place players
  • Is the play mid-field or in CSA?
  • Was the goalie involved?
  • Work to understand offsetting/alternating possession fouls vs subsequent fouls.

• Inspire Credibility
  • Officials immediately lose credibility if we cannot execute calls and penalty administration correctly, consistently and with calm efficiency.
  • Officials can also escalate frustration of teams and spectators when minor calls are allowed to continually interrupt the flow of the game vs being held for advantage.
  Work to understand when to clean it up, and when to let play continue.
8. Carding - Using our tools.....

Appropriate issuance of penalty cards is a critical tool in managing safe and fair play.

Timeout must be called to administer warnings, suspensions and ejections.

Umpires must be confident and familiar in what fouls require immediate cards and what the penalties are. This includes field players, goalies, coaches, and issues arising from bench or spectator behaviors.

Umpires must work to get a sense of when cards will act as a helpful game management tool, and work to stay calm and professional in carding administration.
8. Carding cont’d - Specifics

Misconduct and Suspension

Players

- Know what fouls require an immediate card
- Apply repetitive foul card when appropriate – all officials need to move to cards
- Delay of Game Cards (page 50)
  - Review “Delay of Game” fouls in section 7
  - 1st violation Minor Foul, Green card to team, no player removed
  - 2nd violation Major Foul, Green/Yellow card, 2 min suspension, no sub
  - 3rd violation* Misconduct Yellow Card, 2 minute suspension – no sub

*3rd and subsequent violations count towards team card counts, first two do not....

- Suspension Times
  - Yellow Card – 2 minutes in penalty area, no sub
  - Red Card - 4 minutes in penalty area, no sub
  - Coach - Player removed to serve suspension time
  - On 4th card and all subsequent cards awarded to one team, team plays short a player for remainder of game for each card issued. Coaches cards count towards total.
9. Goalkeeper and Goal Circle Fouls

Know where she is when foul is called, and penalty admin is easy!

The Goalkeeper

- Equipment – pgs 18
- Rule Considerations – pgs 43, 44
- Goalkeeper Misconduct – pg 61

Goal Circle Fouls, rule 7: pg 43

- Critical to understand the circle – this is where teams win and lose the game
- Deputy… may only enter the circle if goalkeeper is OUT, and if her team has possession of the ball.
- Penalty Admin – See Rule 7, pages noted below
  - Think about when attack fouls
  - Think about when defense fouls
  - **TIP:** Remember that if the goalie is outside her circle but was NOT involved in the foul she can always go back in the circle IF she is above the GLE. If goalie was involved in foul, she is treated as any other player.
10. Evaluate Your Officiating

Own your performance on and off the field.

Many of the opportunities you will receive as an umpire will reflect the effort you have made, and the time you have invested to improve...

• Are you fit and ready for the season?
• Have you studied the rules and worked to have a thorough understanding of their application? Do you know the points of emphasis for this season??
• Have you looked for opportunities to learn, be mentored and evaluated?
• Do you know where you need work and are you working on your game?
• Are you prompt, positive, dressed professionally, knowledgeable, and ready to be a good umpire and partner?
• Look for feedback from a fellow umpire and work hard to embrace others perceptions vs dismissing evaluations you don’t like.
• It’s all the little parts that make you great:
  • Signals – Whistle Tone – Positioning – Fitness – Professionalism – Pre & Post Game – Fun!

2018 Girls Lacrosse

Make this your best season yet!