### Season Start Questions and Answers

Some answers to the following questions will have an element of “it depends.” In an effort to communicate a common, positive approach to the game, officials are encouraged to learn both the rule and its intent in order to call your best game.

**Question #1:** With regard to players’ undergarments, must players wear light with light colors and /or dark with dark colors? Can players wear all light on top to match predominately jersey color, but all dark on bottoms?

**Answer:** The rule should be understood to mean tops and bottoms are to be all light, or all dark in accordance with stated rules. They are to match. If it must be addressed, the PA is a one time change of possession at draw (pgs. 21-22).

- High school programs were given two years to prepare for the 2018 season rule update concerning uniform colors, and matching visible undergarments. **Rule 2-9, Articles 4 &5.**
- Work to manage pre-game, officials should do all they can to start each game on a positive note.
- Should any coach dispute the uniform rule, officials should direct them to speak with their A.D. to pursue proper review channels.

**Question #2:** A non ball carrying players’ stick breaks and she “tosses” her stick from outside the bench area to get a replacement. Is this a minor foul for throwing the stick (**pg. 49**), or an equipment failure (**pg. 18**)?

**Answer:** Think about what created the issue. The stick failed. If any equipment breaks, officials should consider good, positive game management. Call a time out to be sure all players are properly equipped and safe.

- While page 18 states the player may enter her bench area to obtain a new stick, and technically she obtained the replacement from just outside, a timeout would manage this without punitive response from officials or others. The player didn’t break her stick, the stick broke.
- How do we promote and maintain a positive environment for the players? If the player throws her stick in frustration, it is a minor foul, without question. If a players’ stick breaks? Let’s get it off the field and get her back in the game.
**Question #3:** If a player enters early across the restraining line before possession is gained following a draw, and scrum is far away, do we call the early entry if it doesn’t affect play?

**Answer:** (pg. 37) Almost always yes. Make the call. How can it not affect play when it gives the opposing team possession? Make those calls fast and early and the players will immediately be more careful. The only possible hold would be if the opposing team is very obviously about to come up with the ball and make a run. Holding the early entry call is ok, as making that call would disadvantage the non offending team. This is a judgement call on the part of the officials.

**Question #4:** When a minor fouls happens in CSA, and a player is placed on 12m with “indirect “ instruction, should the opponent be located on 8m?

**Answer:** (pg. 50) As with other minor fouls, the offending player moves 4m away, relative to their position at the time of the foul.

- Work to be concise and efficient in penalty administration. Situate the players and keep the game moving. When officials become consumed in “over managing” the exact position of all players, vs. making sure things are good and continuing play, everyone can become tense and frustrated.

- We **DO** want to manage positioning correctly. We **DO NOT** want to micro-manage and loose the flow of the game.