**Situation of the Week**

**Situation:** Players from both teams have set up correctly for the draw. Three players from team White and three players from team Blue are between the restraining lines. After the whistle, and before possession has been established, one of the three players from team White runs below the restraining line, leaving just two teammates between the lines. Another White player comes up from below the restraining line to bring the team back up to “three”. The official blows a whistle for early entry. Correct or incorrect?

**Answer:** Incorrect. In NFHS/US Lax Girl’s lacrosse, as long as crossing the restraining line does not cause the team to “exceed the permitted number of players” between the restraining line before possession is established (meaning the player between the restraining line’s exits before her team mate enters), players may exchange positions between the restraining lines.

**Rule Reference:** Page 37, Art 5, “a” and “d”

**Q&A’s**

**1. Early Entry**

**Question:** I see that on page 51 early entry is noted as a minor foul, and should be administered at the spot of the ball – no matter where the player crossed the line – but officials seem to be putting the offending team in different places on the restart. What’s the proper restart for an early entry foul?

**Answer:** We do want to work to be consistent here. First – great job! – Early entry fouls ARE minor fouls, and ARE to be administered on the spot of the ball when the whistle in blown for the early entry violation … at least 4m in from boundaries. Since we are likely not near the actual offender, we will take the closest attack and defensive player to the ball. Offense gets the ball, and the defender (minor foul) is positioned much like during an Alternating Position…. 4m away “closer to the goal she is defending”. Not behind because it’s not a major foul, and we don’t have an exact “away”, because she wasn’t the player that fouled! Self-starts are permitted.

**Rule Reference:** Page 53, PENALTIES for violation of 9-1-1d Early Entry on the Draw
2. EQUIPMENT - Protective

Question: I was contacted by a coach who has a player with a broken arm. The player has a cast from her hand to just below her elbow. I know the rule book talks about padding, but is that really ok? Should I allow her to play?

Answer: Great to be concerned with player safety…. Both the player with her broken arm, and other players on the field. The quick answer here is YES – she can play. The requirement to play will be full compliance with rules for “hard and unyielding items” as noted in our 2019 NFHS rule book.

Rule Reference: Page 18, Art 4, NOTE. See specific guidelines for foam padding.

3. FALSE START

Question: I attended convention, and I listened at rules interpretation meeting…. I understand that we are working this year to only call “False Starts” on 8m free positions going TOWARDS GOAL, but what about the defender coming out of the CSA on an 8m free position?, or some other penalty admin in the CSA with the ball coming away from goal, or outside the 8m arc?

Answer: Ok everyone, take a deep breath, and prepare for a great “non-gotcha” season!! As girl’s lacrosse officials we will be working to help players, coaches, and partners get comfortable with this new “self-start” game. We will be repeatedly telling the players to “self-start!” so we can anticipate that they will make mistakes and self-start sometimes when they should not. It’s easy when it’s outside the CSA, we reset and whistle start as intended. It is trickier in the CSA.

- First – it’s your job to be as preventive as you can be. Remind coaches and players in pre-game meetings we will be resetting, not penalizing “early starts” except on the 8m going towards goal. Loudly instruct “Whistle Start!!”, when placing a defender on 8m going out. Don’t let her jump the whistle. This is to help in a learning year, versus to immediately penalize.
- In our rule book you will find allowances to call a false start for limited situations beyond the 8m going towards goal, but before you penalize:
  - 1) Do everything you can to prevent that situation
  - 2) Make very certain it meets the definition on page 55 of a false start: “an action designed to gain an advantage over one’s opponent”.

*Reminder for Restarts….
- If it was a Self-Start and you need to reset, it will still be a Self-Start.
- If it was a Whistle-Start and you need to reset, it will be a Whistle-Start.

Rule References: Page 36, Rule 5, Section 1, PENALTIES 2, False start definition, page 55

UNIFORMS

Hopefully this is our last review, but if you do need help, reach out!

- VISIBLE undergarments – tops only must correspond to jerseys: light to light, dark to dark
- VISIBLE undergarments – bottoms must all match one another on a team, but we do NOT care if they are light or dark…. they just need to be the same within a team.

Rule Reference: Page 21, Art 5 – additional detail provided pertaining to approved corresponding colors.
To those official’s who also officiate collegiate lacrosse…

The high school and collegiate game are getting closer, but there are still many differences. Please be sure to review areas of the game were rules between the two levels are often misapplied, including, but not limited to:

- Early entry fouls
- False starts
- Time out requirements
- Substitutions

25th Annual Officials’ Convention
August 9th & 10th, 2019
Hilton Harrisburg

Registration will open in April 2019