Situation: Red team attack player is fouled in the 8m and gets a hash. Penalty zone is cleared, white team officer is placed 4m behind ball carrier. Before the whistle, red team attack/ball carrier initiates movement towards goal. “False Start” is correctly called by lead official. Defender is given ball on 8m going out, red attack 4m behind, all others 4m away. Defender starts before whistle. Official blows whistle, resets, and whistle starts. Correct penalty administration?

Answer: Correct.

Correct!! We noted this in Q&As in bulletin #2, but this one’s good to review as it differs from penalty administration at the collegiate level and from how we may be used to thinking about a “false start.” Again – in this learning year – we will be resetting early starts except for false starts, defined as attack or defense players initiating play before the whistle, on the 8m GOING TOWARDS GOAL. We are going to greatly minimize this error through our own game management. We will be telling the defensive player as we set up the P.A. going out, “Whistle Start!” we will be specific and helpful. If they make a mistake, we will reset, and whistle start. The defensive player on an 8m going out has 90 yards to goal… the early start is in no way the same as a false start on an 8m going towards goal. Relax, be preventive, be patient and help the players have a great game.

Rule Reference: In this learning year, the rule reference to support our reset is the definition of a false start, found on page 55 in our NFHS rule book.
**Q&A’s**

EARLY ENTRY ON THE DRAW- CIRCLE VS. RESTRAINING LINE

**Question #1:** I’m a little confused about restarts on Early Entry. I know it’s supposed to be at the spot of the ball, but when it’s early over the circle, it seems like it’s at center? What’s correct?

**Answer:** I understand how this one could be confusing because of location, but the penalty administration is exactly the same for both early entry on the draw at the circle and at the restraining line. In both instances, the P.A. takes place at the spot of the ball, with the two closest players involved in the penalty administration. The difference is when early entry takes place on the circle, the ball is still most often with the centers. So, the “spot of the ball” happens to be at the center line, and the “two closest players” are the centers taking the draw. In this instance, just like if the ball was somewhere else between the RLs, the non-offending team’s closest player will take possession, the closest player from the offending team will go 4m away “closer to the goal she is defending,” and a self-start is allowed. Very consistent, very much the same in either instance.

**Rule Reference:** Page 38, PENALTIES 3

THE PENALTY ZONE

**Question #1:** Our chapter is still a little confused about Penalty Zone. Do we clear all the way to the end line? If not, are players allowed between dots?

**Answer:** Great to get this very clear in our minds as we begin our high school season. The penalty zone is an 8m arc that includes the entire area above the GLE from one side of the goal line to the other. It absolutely does include the “pie” area with the outside hashes. It then extends down to the dots, with an imaginary line from dot to dot. So – there is a 5m strip of field from the dots to the end line, within the CSA, where players may legally position themselves when clearing the penalty zone. There’s a great fact sheet on this one on the USL website: [https://www.uslacrosse.org/sites/default/files/public/2019%20ODP%20Girls%20Rules%20Supplemented.pdf](https://www.uslacrosse.org/sites/default/files/public/2019%20ODP%20Girls%20Rules%20Supplemented.pdf)

**Rule Reference:** Page 58 NOTE

**Question #2:** If a major foul by the defense happens outside of the 8m arc, in the “pie” area on either side of goal, do we clear the entire penalty zone or just the lane?

**Answer:** With the introduction of the penalty zone this year, we do clear the entire penalty zone for ANY AND ALL major fouls by the defense within 8 meters of goal. That means inside or outside of the 8m arc. So yes, even if the major defensive foul happens in the “pie” outside of the 8m arc, within 8m of goal, we clear the entire penalty zone.

**NOTE:** This is detailed in our rule book, which is the NFHS reference for teams, coaches and officials. The rule reference is listed below. It is also correctly written in our USL Manual, page 69, but the diagram missed an update and shows a “lane” vs the whole penalty zone. Understand the rule, and be patient with the relatively few errors made in catching every single reference to new rules. We sure did try our best! Let’s work together to get it right.

**Rule Reference:** Page 57, PENALTIES, 4a-e
Q&A’s

EJECTED PLAYER

Question #1: I know there’s a rule update this year that removed specific instruction about where the disqualified player (red carded) must be at the next game (in attendance at game on bench, or off premises). Now state association’s can make the rule. What’s PIAA’s rule?

Answer: This is good information for official’s to understand, but we have ZERO authority over next game suspensions, and we absolutely do not look to manage this in any way. If we award a red card during a PIAA contest, it is the official’s responsibility to complete and send a disqualification form to PIAA within 24 hours. That’s it. The school will be contacted by PIAA, and will handle it from there. PIAA supports an ejected player, not in uniform, to be on the team bench during the next scheduled contest, or – should the school policy dictate – PIAA supports the player not being allowed to attend the next scheduled contest. Either way, as official’s we do not look to manage this.

Note: It’s always a good idea to also let your assignor know when a red card has been administered during a game. This is preventive. It helps your assignor understand your perspective on a potentially hot situation before they get a phone call from a coach or hear about a situation from others.

Rule Reference: Page 64, Section 6, Art 2 NOTE

NOTES

1. If you are seeing unfamiliar sticks in pre-game stick checks, do NOT determine they are illegal if you do not know this for a fact. As an official, you are specifically checking to see that the ball moves freely on the top and bottom, and that shooting strings – if used – are securely attached to sidewalls. If unsure of other issues, allow the player to play, take a picture, and send it in.

Ex: Some mesh sticks will develop or have a “pocket” that the ball slips into. If the ball can roll, and move freely from end to end during stick check, that stick is legal. Don’t over manage. While this can be challenging during the draw, it can be managed by the official – make sure that ball is in the upper third of the pocket per guidelines on page 37, Art 3 “d”.

2. We’ve been asked “Why are you sending out game situations and Q&As more often this year?” Our intent is to encourage great dialogue, consistent application of the rules, and to make sure questions asked by some are shared with all. Hope it helps!