## SITUATION OF THE WEEK

**Situation:** Sometimes, making the right call depends on your understanding of the lines on the lacrosse field. Do you have a firm knowledge of which areas of the field “own” the lines?

**Response:**

- **Center circle** – line belongs to the circle. Stepping on it/over it before the whistle is an early entry foul.

- **Restraining line on the draw** – line belongs to the area between the RLs. Stepping on it/over it towards the center of the field before possession is an early entry foul.

- **Restraining line when ball is in either attacking end** – (closest) line belongs to that attacking end. Stepping on it/over it towards the attacking end is therefore a RL (offside) violation; based on allowable number of players above and below the line.

- **12m fan** – line belongs to the CSA. Whistles blown for fouls occurring outside of he 12m may self start. Whistles blown for fouls occurring inside the CSA require a whistle start.

- **8m arc** – line belongs to the 8m area. Major fouls called inside go to a hash – as do all fouls above GLE within 8m of goal. All players on an 8m FP headed towards the goal must keep their feet and crosses out of the 8m (off the line). The ball carrier is an exception. She must keep her feet off the line, but may reach her crosse over.

- **Goal circle** - line belongs to the circle. That is why any player stepping on or over the line into the circle is committing a goal circle foul, and if the shooter steps on the line, she creates a “no-goal” violation. Reaching in on a non-shooting effort is also a violation. The goalie MAY legally step on the goal circle line and still be considered “in the circle”. The circle belongs to her, including the line. If the ball comes to rest on the line, only the goalie may pick it up because the line is hers. In terms of her position: Only when she steps wholly (entirely, completely) out with one or both feet (this would mean straddling or exiting the circle) with the ball – and steps back in – should she be called for a goal circle foul. One foot in the circle, one foot on the line is legal. Two feet on the line is legal. She may step on her line, and then put her foot wholly back in her circle. The circle, and the line that defines the circle, belongs to the goalie.*

- **Side lines and End lines** – lines belong to the area outside of play. When the ball touches the line or the ground beyond the line, we have a boundary ball. When a player’s feet touch the line or beyond the line while playing a legal ball, there is a change of possession.

Review a field diagram and make sure you understand the lines. You will absolutely make better decisions about what is, and what is not, a violation.

**Rule Reference:** The Playing Area and Goals, Page 9, Rule 1
There has been a lot of discussion lately about the goal circle line. Let’s understand that EVEN IF the information shared above is new to your thinking, it has been reviewed, endorsed, and is consistent with the intent of the rule through USLacrosse. The rule book is our guide. Pg 47, 7.2.1 Situation A: Grounded and straddling… that means one foot completely out. USLax helps us understand intent by sharing “think of blades of grass behind the goalie’s foot and between her foot and the goal circle… that’s when she is “out”’. Let’s work towards consistency on this one. Thanks!

**Q & A’s**

**OH, THAT GOALIE! LEGAL OR ILLEGAL**

**Question:** The GK stepped on the goal circle while gathering the ball, then she stepped back in her circle. A goal circle foul is called. The opposing teams’ nearest player is placed on the dot. The goal keeper is put 4m behind. Is this correct?

**Answer:** Incorrect. You are keeping your eyes on the right things! Now, we just need to get a little more comfortable with goal circle rules. Apply the “Who’s line is it anyway?” information shared above and it will be apparent where this call got off track. First, that goalie stepped on her own line to pick up the ball. No other player could legally touch it. She did not foul. So no foul should have been called. Now, let’s say she did step wholly/entirely out with one or both feet while picking up the ball, then stepped back in. In this case, we do have a goal circle foul. Nearest opposing player does go to the dot, but we need to remember that the goalie is the one player that does not have to go behind on a goal circle foul. When the goalie is the goal circle “offender,” she stays in and no one goes behind. To help you remember, think about the “crime”; a goal circle foul… the goalie stepped over the line. Do you think the other team has really earned an open net? When you go blank on penalty administration, think about fair. What team should get the ball, and where? What makes sense? Even if you’re not quite right, you’re probably on the right track.

**Rule Reference:** Page 45, Rule 7, Goal Circle

**EMPTY STICK CHECKS ON THE DRAW**

**Question:** Can we ever call empty stick check on the draw?

**Answer:** The call for an empty stick check has never been removed from our game – even during the draw. What we’ve been asked to do is to allow players going after “50/50” balls to pursue that ball, even with the clacking of sticks, without a whistle. No foul should be called when players are going after 50/50 balls, because no player has been disadvantaged. However, if any action checks or impedes an opponent’s crosse when she could have received or gained possession of the ball, it meets the definition of an empty stick check. In other words, both players need to be going after the ball. If one player is trying to get the ball, and the other player is preventing that fair action, that is a violation.

**Rule Reference:** Page 52 “e”
TIME OUTS IN HIGH SCHOOL CONTESTS

Question: Is it correct that in high school play, a team may request a time out whenever they have possession? Even inside the 8m arc and the play will start right where the ball was when play was stopped?

Answer: Yes. The team may request a possession time out, and play does resume with the ball in the same place as when play was stopped. Either a field player OR the head coach may request the time out, and the request can be made on possession or after any goal.

Rule Reference: Page 30, Section 3, Art 3

NOTES

We will soon be heading into the second half of our season. Take a moment to do a self-assessment. How are you doing? Are there any rules or situations that seem to be challenging in each of your games? With the new self-start, are you able to anticipate play and work to get ahead as lead? Consider thinking about one or two things you can work on in each contest to improve your skill set and raise your game. Thanks for all you do to provide a good experience for our girls’ lacrosse teams.

2019 Convention registration is now OPEN!


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