As final league games take place and we begin to officiate post-season play, please take a few moments to review protocols and rules that may come up in games as playoffs take place. 2019 NFHS rule book reference locations have been noted.

**REMINDEERS**

1. **NO CHANGE** to our approach for re-starts, false starts, or any other game procedure during post-season play. Be consistent with the game we have called all season. It keeps everyone – players, coaches and officials – on the same page, and is consistent with the direction endorsed by NFHS and US Lacrosse for regular season AND post-season play.

2. Review your 2019 Pre-Game, Overtime and Carding Procedures Card including

   a. **Pre-Game Responsibilities** (pg. 25: Section 5, Officials)
      i. Be sure to arrive on time to allow officiating team pre-game discussion, make all additional pre-game field checks, and review penalty administration. Head officials should prepare for their pregame…. What needs to be reviewed? This may include general communication, CSA calls, restraining line, carding, overtime, etc.
      ii. Officiating team must be dressed alike, must be wearing black shoes, and all officials must have their PIAA patch attached to the striped officials shirt.

   b. **Overtime/Tie-Breaking Procedures for Post-Season Play** (pg. 31…. NOTE: PIAA adoptions for overtime are on your PIAA card AND on pre-season bulletin found on PIAA website at piaa.org: click sports – spring sports – girls lacrosse).

   c. **Carding Procedures** (pg. 63 - 71)
      i. Delay of Game (pg. 53)  Misconduct and Suspension (pg. 63)  Coach Misconduct (pg. 67)

   d. **Suspended/Interrupted Game Procedures** (pg. 30 and 31)
      i. Officiating Team should include a specific discussion concerning any weather related issues and protocols as part of pre-game. (Communication procedure with on-site administrator… where do players & officials go if lightning strikes?, etc.)

   e. **Upon arriving at the venue, be sure all site requirements are met.** Ex: NOCSAE balls, audible horn, etc. If crew has any concerns, bring to attention of site manager immediately to correct before game time.
REMINDERS CONTINUED

3. **Best Practices on Areas of the Game Frequently Reviewed**

   a. **Stick Checks Reminder (Cross inspection: pg. 16 & 17, Section 4, Art 1-7)**
      i. Please adhere to rule book instruction specific to cross inspection. Don’t be “looking for additional issues.” Officials’ emphasis should be to get the girls on the field to play.
      ii. Should an official become aware of non-compliance, (ex: shooting strings not attached through sidewall), the official will make every effort to guide the player/coach toward the correction that must be made to get the stick within compliance by game time. If the correction can be made, there is no penalty and the stick can be used. If the stick cannot be corrected by game time, it will be held at the table until halftime, when it can be checked again. Team personnel may work on the stick at the table at any time during the first half to bring it into compliance by halftime. Beyond holding the stick, there is no other penalty.

   b. **Stick Check Requests (pg. 17, Art 4-7)**
      i. Should a coach request a stick check, the check would be for pocket depth only, unless measurement of length is specifically requested.
      ii. Requests can be made at any time by the head coach or any player on the field during a stoppage of the game clock, and must include the player’s number. The team requesting the stick check will not lose any of it two allowable requests if the crosse is found to be illegal. Two requests during play are allowed per team for crosses of players on the field.
      iii. NFHS has clarified that stick requests can be made on final goals scored during regulation OR overtime. It is important that the officials are ready for this potential as they must be immediately prepared to call time out (even after the last horn), stop players from leaving the field, retrieve the stick requested (very likely the shooters’) with immediacy and perform the requested stick check. Officials should follow guidelines on page 17 following the inspection of any player’s crosse. Be familiar with the requirements of proper request for stick check as well as execution (pg. 17).

   c. **Time Outs (pg 30)**
      i. 2 allowed per team during regulation play– they DO NOT carry over into overtime play. **1 allowed per team during all of overtime.**
      ii. Coaches should be reminded to state color when requesting a timeout to the official on the field from the sideline.
      iii. Officials should review proper administration for after goal or clear possession tim out requests.
         1. Note– page 27 under official timer: If coach cannot get attention of official to call time out, they may ask the timer to sound the horn as an official time out request. **The horn may be sounded TWICE** after a goal is scored or any time the requester’s team is in clear possession of the ball.

   d. **3 Man Positioning and Responsibilities: Review Your Umpire Manual**

Reminders and best practices have been shared to help you prepare for an outstanding post season.

Good luck and enjoy your games!