Boys Lacrosse Points of Emphasis - 2018
By NFHS

Mouthguards
In 2017, the foul for a mouthguard violation was changed from a personal foul to technical foul to encourage penalty enforcement for those who violate the rule. Coaches should encourage players to wear mouthguards properly (i.e. no fish hooking) and legally; officials are expected to call the foul.

Faceoffs (4-3-3)

a. Faceoff players are allowed to make contact first; however, only legal contact is allowed on players taking a faceoff. Legal body contact includes checking a player who has no other part of the body touching the ground except the feet. Body-checks must be made below the neck, above the waist and to the front or side of an opponent. Illegal bodychecks, including spearing with the head, shall be strictly enforced.

b. Faceoff players must have a visible contrasting color between the head and top glove on the shaft. Contrasting color can be accomplished with the original shaft color, paint, a single wrap of tape, or other materials that do not make the shaft circumference exceed 3.5 inches.

c. Officials should continue to enforce the faceoff procedure that players reverse surfaces of the crosse shall match evenly so that the top of one head aligns with the throat of the throat of their opponent. Additionally, both heads shall be perpendicular to the ground.

Slow Whistle (7-8)
When there is a flag down during a slow whistle situation, the attacking team is no longer required to keep the ball in the goal area, otherwise known as "the attack box." A normal stalling situation can still be applied by officials if needed.

Shots at the Ends of Periods (4-9-20)
A goal will be allowed if the shot is released prior to the end of a period.

Reminder of Crosse Change in 2018
The crosse shall be an overall fixed length of either 40 to 42 inches (short crosse) or 52 to 72 inches (long crosse), except for the goalkeeper’s crosse, which may be 40 to 72 inches long.
The circumference of the crosse handle shall be no more than 3⅛ inches. The head of the crosse at its widest point shall measure between 6½ and 10 inches, inside measurement, at the top and the bottom of the wall. (Figure 2) There shall be one crosse 10 to 12 inches, inside measurement at its widest point, at the top and bottom of the wall. This crosse shall be used by the required designated goalkeeper. The walls of any crosse shall not be more than 2 inches high.

EXCEPTION: The gut wall.
Beginning in 2018, minimum stick specifications shall be as follows:
The measurements for the crosse shall include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement from throat (inches)</th>
<th>Minimum distance between narrowest point of head (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>3 (all measurements)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3 (all measurements)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>3.5 to 4 on front; 3.5 on back</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Widest point: 6 (all measurements)

**NOTE:** From the 1.25-inch measurement to the widest point of the crosse, the distance between the sidewalls of the crosse must be at least 3 inches.

**Rationale:** The committee defined crosse dimensions and specifications at different locations to address issues with the ball being stuck in the crosse. This change in equipment will begin in 2018 to allow for phased implementation.