Enclosed you will find the Rule Changes for the 2018 season, as well as several ideas for chapter meetings.

Online access at: https://goo.gl/v366vk

Also included are presentations for each topic. Please feel free to share with the members of your chapter.
Introduction

The boys’ lacrosse rules book and all related educational materials are noted by NFHS as being provided to “maintain the sound traditions of our sport, encourage sportsmanship and minimize the inherent risk of injury.

The NFHS Associations writes playing rules for varsity competitions among student-athletes of high school age. High school coaches, officials and administrators who have knowledge and experience regarding boys’ lacrosse within this age group volunteer their time to serve on the rules committee. Member associations of the NFHS independently make decisions regarding compliance with or modification of these playing rules for the student-athletes in their respective states. NFHS rules are used by education-based and non-education-based organizations serving children of varying skill levels who are of high school age and younger. In order to make NFHS rules skill-level and age-level appropriate, the rules may be modified by any organization that chooses to use them. (PIAA has made modifications dealing with a suspended or interrupted game, and to clarify that “an appropriate health-care professional” is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO)).

Every individual using the rules noted in the Boys’ Lacrosse Rules Book is responsible for prudent judgment with respect to each contest, athlete and facility, and each athlete is responsible for exercising caution and good sportsmanship. These rules should be interpreted and applied so as to make reasonable accommodations for athletes, coaches and officials with disabilities.”
Introduction (con’t)

To become an excellent official, it requires several things: a full understanding of the rules of the game, knowledge of how and when to apply the rules to keep the contestants safe and have the game played fairly, full knowledge of official’s mechanics (both verbal and nonverbal), excellent physical conditioning, and the courage to apply the rules without bias at all times during the game contests.

This manual shall provide the chapters of the PIAA tools to provide consistent enforcement of the rules and game mechanics to be used during their contests. This manual will be reviewed annually and will be updated as necessary to provide the entire membership equal access to information as to promote consistent officiating throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that all officials have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. This will lead us to deliver the highest quality product each time we step on the field wearing our official’s uniform. The schools, coaches, players, parents, spectators and your fellow officials deserve nothing less than your best, regardless of the level of the game. Chapters are encouraged to copy any portion of this manual and distribute it to their membership.
PIAA Important Dates for 2018

BOY’S LACROSSE – 2 classes (AA and AAA)

US Lacrosse Convention - Baltimore, MD. January 19-21
First Practice Date: March 5
Minimum Length of Preseason Practice: 3 weeks
First Inter-School Practice or Scrimmage Date: March 10
Maximum Number of Regular Season Inter-School Practices or Scrimmages: 2
First Regular Season Contest Date: March 23
Maximum Length of Regular Season: 10 weeks
Maximum Number of Regular Season Contests: 18
Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Deadline: May 26

State Playoffs (played at neutral sites):
First Round: May 29
Quarterfinals: June 2
Semi-Finals: June 5

PIAA AA & AAA Lacrosse Championships: June 9 @ West Chester East HS
## 2018 PIAA Chapter Rules Interpreters

### Contact List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keystone:</td>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>SCOTT DEDE</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scottdede22@yahoo.com">scottdede22@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Phila:</td>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>DAVID SEIDMAN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidseidman@mac.com">davidseidman@mac.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming Valley:</td>
<td>District 2</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:apdhoundini@gmail.com">apdhoundini@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central PA:</td>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>KEVIN BEVENOUR</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpbevenour4@yahoo.com">kpbevenour4@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster/Lebanon:</td>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>TIMOTHY CHECCHIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Penn:</td>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>JIM BATEMAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allegheny:</td>
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<td>JOESEPH HEALEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie:</td>
<td>District 10</td>
<td>NEAL BROKMAN</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Erielaxassigner@gmail.com">Erielaxassigner@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh Valley:</td>
<td>District 11</td>
<td>MARK MCCARTER</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mccarterm@ptd.net">mccarterm@ptd.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>King’s College, McGowan Bldg., Room 311</td>
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<td>York County School of Technology, Room 1101</td>
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<td>Central Penn</td>
<td>2/22 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Central Dauphin East HS</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Erie</td>
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<td>McDowell Intermediate School*</td>
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PIAA Sportsmanship Message

There are continued concerns that the PIAA Sportsmanship Message is not being read to the coaches and captains at each and every contest. As officials, the coaches know we are supposed to be doing this and it sets a very poor example and is unprofessional of us not to do this. The message is NOT to be paraphrased, modified, or altered by any game official. The message must be read verbatim by the contest officials and the meeting should be done with all officials present. This may be done with each coach individually or by bringing the coaches together before the game. Whenever possible do this well before the scheduled start of the contest as to allow both teams their proper warm-up time.

“The PIAA requires all registered sports officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing teams, contestants, spectators or officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today’s contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the contest officials that your players are properly equipped and uniformed as per NFHS Rules with PIAA Adoptions. Good luck in today’s contest.”

The coach MUST verbally certify that his players are properly equipped and uniformed. This helps alleviate any legal liability concerns for the officials if a player is improperly equipped during the contest.

This message is the best way we have to proactively officiate our games. We are being upfront and honest with the coaches about what is expected of them during the contest. If we are clear before the game about our expectations, then the conduct foul or the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty should not come as a surprise if it needs to be issued.
As representatives of their school and community, coaches and players should model respectful behavior throughout the duration of the contest. Therefore, the use of foul language by anyone involved must be addressed by game officials when it is heard. This was addressed in the PIAA bulletin dated April 6, 2017. An excerpt can be found here:

The Rulebook gives us the tools we need to deal with any situation.

Use the tools we have in the Book. If a coach is pushing the conduct line, start by taking the ball away if you can. “Ramp up” fouls as necessary, however, if the first one is a loud “F-bomb,” don’t make that a minor foul; go with the full minute. Don’t respond angrily to unsportsmanlike behavior without making the call, with the possible exception of the quiet comment that only you hear (See situations). Please keep in mind that “emphatic” doesn’t mean “angry”. Call the foul without emotion or added emphasis - exactly as you would if you were calling a hold or slash. Officials can make a huge difference in the whole “atmosphere” of high school lacrosse. Remember that athletics are considered an extension of the classroom.

Be smart; be respectful; use common sense, but MAKE THE CALLS!

Remember: Officials run the games – coaches don’t. Why is that? Officials don't care who wins.
Sportsmanship Situations:

1. A player misses a pass and quietly curses to himself. You happen to be close by, and the only people in the stadium who are aware of his curse are the player and you. This doesn’t necessarily require a penalty, but please respectfully yet emphatically talk to the player and let him know that audible foul language will not be tolerated. A simple, “Watch the language please, thirty seven” is often all it takes.

2. After a face-off violation, an assistant coach asks, “What did he do?” If asked respectfully, this isn’t a foul. This is just an assistant coach doing his job. He can’t correct his player’s mistakes if he doesn’t know what the issue is. Don’t expect the player to honestly and completely convey a message you’ve given him directly to his coach. It’s OK for assistants to ask questions in a respectful manner, assuming, of course, that they aren’t demanding your attention the entire game. Responding respectfully to assistants can take some of the pressure off of the head coach, and off of us.
3. A coach loudly complains about a call and keeps it up (no “F-bombs”). Start with a conduct foul. Take the ball away if you can. “Ramp up” the fouls as necessary.

4. A player curses at himself, but the curse is heard by an opposing player or coach. This must be called! If it’s anything other than an “F-bomb,” you can use the technical conduct foul here, especially early in a game or in a game where sportsmanship has not been an issue. Don’t pass on it! Sportsmanship rules MUST be enforced.

5. A player or coach drops a loud “F-bomb” that everyone in the stadium hears. Of course, this needs at least a one-minute non-releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul! If the “F-bomb” is directed at you or a partner, consider a two-minute foul. If you’ve assessed an unsportsmanlike conduct foul, and the player or coach continues to be abusive, don’t hesitate to throw a second flag. This, of course, will result in an ejection, but if that’s what we have to do to clean up our game, then that’s what we have to do! This type of conduct is detrimental to our game and is a foul just like any other. We call the slashes and cross-checks. We need to make these calls, too.
New Rules for 2018

Each year the NFHS reviews the rule book and makes changes or edits with the goal of improving the game. The following rules have been changed or edited for the 2018 season:

Rule 1-2 (new)  Rule 6-5-2x (edit - clarification)
Rule 1-7-5 (new)  Rule 6-10-2 (addition)
Rule 4-18-4 (edit)  Rule 7-3 (clarification)
Rule 4-3-3n (edited)  Rule 7-8-2 (deletion)
Rule 1-9-g(8) (addition for 2022)  Rule 7-8-3 (deletion)
4-3-3d (addition)  Rule 7-8-2k (edit)
Rule 4-9-2o (new)
2018 Rules Interpretation Presentation

Click here for the complete 2018 Rules Interpretation Presentation

as presented at the PIAA Officials Convention, August 5, 2017

(you will have to download file because of the size of the file)

SUMMARY is available on the next few slides, but please view the presentation
Summary of New Rules for 2018

1. Mouth Guards -

In 2017, the foul for a mouth guard 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 mouth guards properly (i.e. No Fish hooking) and officials are expected to call the foul.

Proper and consistent enforcement **does** eliminate the problem. Officials will find that coaches become frustrated with their players for not wearing it properly, not with the officials for making the call.
2. 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 contact includes contacting a player with no other part of the body touching the ground except the feet. Contact must also be made below the neck, above the waist and to the front or side of an opponent.

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 other material that does not make the shaft circumference exceed 3.5 inches.

c. Officials should continue to enforce the face off 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. “Tops to Stops” mechanic.
3. 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 call can still be applied by officials if needed. The play is stopped when the ball hits the ground, a goal is scored, offense commits a violation, the ball goes out of bounds, the defense gains possession, injury, or at the end of the period. Remember “GOODIE”

4. 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.

5. Cross Changes (Same specs as NCAA- with differences in colored shaft requirements for face-offs) See diagram on next slide.
Stick Dimensions starting in 2018:

Measurement from throat - Minimum width

1.25” up = 3” wide (all measurements)

3” up = 3” wide (all measurements)

5” up = 3.5” to 4” (front)

3.5” (back)

Widest Point = 6” (all measurements)

Ball stop is not required, but if used, only one may be used.
Ball stop dimensions are: Length: 2” max., 1.5” max width, ¼” max thickness.

Length of head shall be a minimum of 10” from the outside edge of the head at the top to the beginning of the throat of the crosse.
Mechanics Changes

Please watch the US Lacrosse video (about 5 minutes) to review mechanics changes for the 2018 season.

NOTE: Running left will be the **recommended and encouraged** mechanic for two man crews for the 2018 season.
MEETING TOPICS

The slides that follow contain links to full presentations for that can be used for Chapter Meetings. Chapter members are welcome to use any/all of the presentations that are available here, and are encouraged to share ideas for future for meeting topics. Chapter Rules Interpreters should review the presentations before using them at meetings for full understanding of the content. While Interpreters are the primary speakers during chapter rules sessions, chapters are encouraged to have their members make presentations at meetings. Members who present will become better officials after teaching others. **Please note: The most up to date information will be found in the Google Slides presentations.** Thanks must go out to the members of the KLOA and US Lacrosse for their contributions to the presentations included here.

Please report any errors or omissions to scottdede22@yahoo.com for the benefit of other officials moving forward. We are all accountable for each other and are encouraged to help every official to improve their skills and professionalism.
Meeting Topics: Table of Contents

1. Tips for Game Management
2. Game Administration Guidelines
3. Pre-game Responsibilities
4. Equipment and Crosse Inspections
5. Mechanics
6. Faceoffs
7. Technical Fouls
8. Personal Fouls
9. Simultaneous Fouls
10. The Last Two Minutes of the Game
11. Ejections
12. Unique Rules (Non-Goalkeeper entering crease)
13. Strange Situations
14. Acronyms for better officiating
15. Station Training
Meeting Topic: Tips for Game Management

We must maintain professionalism throughout each contest we officiate. When we put on the stripes, we represent ourselves, the PIAA, and all of our fellow officials. Not only should each game have consistency from the crew, but each crew should have similar training so coaches and players know what to expect from us when they play the game. Our goal should be to conduct a safe and fair lacrosse game each and every time we officiate.

Click Here for Google Slides Presentation: Tips for Game Management

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Tips for Game Management - PP
Meeting Topic: Game Administration

There are aspects of the game that officials have historically had to learn “on the fly”. These range from how to run the pre-game meeting to what to do if the game is tied at the end of regulation. This presentation addresses a lot of these issues and is a must for newer officials.

Click here for Google Slides presentation: [Game Administration Guidelines](#)
Meeting Topic: Pre-Game Responsibilities

A quality pre-game meeting can make for a well-officiated game. It is important to contact each other before the game, arrange a meeting time and place, and have a discussion (led by the referee) about the expectations of the crew. Keep the players safe, be consistent, and be fair when administering fouls.

Click here for a Google Slides presentation: Pre-Game Responsibilities

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Pre-Game Responsibilities - PP
Meeting Topic: Equipment and Crosse Inspections

Part of the role of the officials is to make sure players are using legal equipment throughout the contest. Random stick and equipment inspections should happen during each game we officiate. Varsity contests should have a minimum of three inspections during the game, with at least one in each half.

JV and MS officials are encouraged to perform these inspections as well.

Click here for presentation on Equipment and Crosse Specifications
Meeting Topic: Mechanics

Click here for US Lacrosse video: 2018 Mechanics Changes

Click here for US Lacrosse Two Man Mechanics Manual (2017)


Click here for 2017 presentation on Two Man Mechanics (download PowerPoint)

Click here for 2017 presentation on Three Man Mechanics (download PowerPoint)
Meeting Topic: Faceoffs

Lacrosse has the uniqueness of having a faceoff to start each period and after each goal. Official’s must be able to conduct a fast and fair faceoff multiple times per game. This ability keeps the flow of the game and allows the players to decide the outcome.

Click here for Google Slides presentation: Faceoffs
Meeting Topic: Technical Fouls

Technical Fouls in lacrosse are less serious in nature and involve one player or team being disadvantaged by the actions of the opponent. These fouls do not involve player safety and therefore the penalty for these violations is either a loss of possession or a 30 second time serving foul, depending on possession (or lack thereof) of the ball when the foul occurs.

This presentation is LONG, but there are several different types of technical fouls that must be learned. Our consistent enforcement of these fouls helps to maintain the flow of the game, so please take the time to review the situations and the video examples.

Click here for Google Slides presentation: Technical Fouls

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Technical Fouls - PP
Meeting Topic: Personal Fouls

Personal Fouls are the “felonies” in a lacrosse game. They involve player safety and are of a more serious nature. The penalty is suspension from the game for one to three minutes, based on the official’s judgement as to the severity and intent of the offending player. This presentation has several video examples and they can be used for discussion purposes within a chapter meeting.

Click here for Google Slides Presentation: Personal Fouls

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Personal Fouls - PP
Meeting Topic: Simultaneous Fouls

Penalty enforcement can be different when multiple players are involved. It is important for us to know the differences these fouls present in enforcement.

Remember common penalty time in these situations is non-releasable, so make sure the table personnel is aware of the situation.

Click here for Google Slides presentation: Simultaneous Fouls

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Simultaneous Fouls - PP
Meeting Topic: The last TWO Minutes of a game

The last two minutes of a game are often the most important for the officials. Whether it is a one goal game or a blowout, we must be at our best. Please use the attached presentation to help your officials stay focused and “get it right” at the most crucial point of the game.

Click here for Google Slides Presentation: The Last TWO minutes

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: The Last TWO minutes - PP
Meeting Topic: Ejections

There are some situations that require ejection from the game for a player and/or a coach. It is important that we document the reasons for the ejection and report them to the PIAA.

Click here for Google Slides Presentation: Ejections

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Ejections - PP
Lacrosse comes with a unique set of rules and situations. The following presentations deal with some of these, and they must be understood to be the best official you can be.

Click links for presentations:

[Non-Goaltender Defender entering crease](#) (must be downloaded)

[Over and Back - *Coming Soon*](#)
Meeting Topic: Strange Situations

There are things that come up during a game that require a deeper understanding of the rules. These might come up once a season, once every three years, or maybe never. No matter what, if we have had discussions about them, we will be prepared if and when they do. If you have had something strange come up in one of your games, please share it for the benefit of everyone.

Click here for presentation: Strange Situations

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: Strange Situations - PP
Meeting Topic: Acronyms for Better Officiating

Here are some phrases/words of wisdom to help everyone be a better official. These do not involve rules, mechanics, or signals, just good practices when you are officiating.

Click here for Google Slides presentation: Acronyms for Better Officiating
Meeting Topic: Station Training

On-field station training can be a great way to involve several members of your chapter in education of the membership. Veteran officials should be chosen to lead individual groups (as listed in the presentation).

You will need a large space (ideally a lacrosse field) to do the field training. Stations could be adapted to be done in a gym as well.

Click here for Google Slides presentation: Station Training
Resources for Officials

- PIAA - https://www.piaa.org/sports/lacrosse_m/
- US Lacrosse - https://www.uslacrosse.org/officials/mens-officials-more-resources
- NFHS - https://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/lacrosse-boys/
- Your local Rules Interpreter
- Your Local LOA members
- Talk to veteran officials