2019 Boys Lacrosse
Chapter Meeting Guide

Enclosed you will find the Rule Changes for the 2019 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 2019

BOYS LACROSSE – 2 classes (AA and AAA)

US Lacrosse Convention - Marriott Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA January 11-13

First Practice Date: March 4

Minimum Length of Preseason Practice: 3 weeks

First Inter-School Practice or Scrimmage Date: March 9

Maximum Number of Regular Season Inter-School Practices or Scrimmages: 2

First Regular Season Contest Date: March 22

Maximum Length of Regular Season: 10 weeks

Maximum Number of Regular Season Contests: 18

Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Deadline: May 25

State Playoffs (played at neutral sites):

First Round: May 28

Quarterfinals: June 1

Semi-Finals: June 4

PIAA AA & AAA Lacrosse Championships: June 8 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm @ West Chester East HS
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PIAA Link to all Chapter and Rules Interpretation meetings (share with your membership):

http://www.piaa.org/resources/chapter-meetings/default.aspx?type=rules&sport=lacrosse_m
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. 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.
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 2019 season:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-6-2 ART. 2</td>
<td>5-4-5 (New)</td>
<td>6-3-3e</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-7-1 ART. 1</td>
<td>5-4-6 (New)</td>
<td>6-5-2b4 (New)</td>
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<td>1-9-1j ART. 1… j</td>
<td>5-4-7 (New)</td>
<td>6-11-1 (New)</td>
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<td>4-3 ART. 3 (revised)</td>
<td>6-3-2a</td>
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2019 Rules Interpretation Presentation

Click here for the complete 2019 Rules Interpretation Presentation

as presented at the 2019 PIAA Online Rules Interpretation Meeting

January 30th, 2019

SUMMARY is available on the next few slides, but please view the presentation
STALLING:
A team that is stalling does not make an effort to attack the goal or generate shots. A offense that is stalling passes on clear scoring opportunities, does not actively work to create scoring opportunities, or holds the ball behind GLE for extended periods of time. When considering a “Get it in, Keep it in” call, officials should consider score, time left, and style of defense employed (zone or man). If, in the opinion of the officials, the offense is not actively seeking scoring opportunities, a stall warning should be called.

TARGETING:
When a player intentionally takes aim at an opponent’s head or neck or a defenseless player, the offending player will be penalized with a three-minute, non-releasable foul and may be ejected.
**HOLDING:**
A player may employ the handle of the crosse (between his hands) to legally hold an opponent if his hands are no more than shoulder width apart, he employs no more than “equal pressure”, and does not employ a thrusting motion.

**WARDING:**
A player may not use his crosse or any part of his body to push or control the direction of an opponent’s crosse or body.
Summary of New Rules for 2019

1-6-2 ART. 2… A ball stop is not required. If a ball stop is used, only one may be used, and the dimensions shall be a maximum of 2 inches in length, 1½ inches in width and ¼ inch in thickness. The length of the head shall be a minimum of 10 inches from the outside edge of the head to the beginning of the throat of the crosse as measured at the front (face) of the head, regardless of whether a ball stop is used…. Rationale: Clarifies this crosse measurement is to be made on the front face of the head.

1-7-1 ART. 1 (addition) The pocket/net must be completely attached to the head and the side walls, leaving no gaps large enough for a ball to pass through.
Goalkeepers shall wear.

1. Throat protector designed for lacrosse.

2. Chest Protector. Beginning January 1, 2021, a goalkeeper chest protector designed for lacrosse that incorporates the NOCSAE ND200 at the time of manufacture.

Rationale: Protection for the athlete against cardiac issues related to Commotio Cordis.

Shot – A shot is considered a ball propelled toward the goal by an offensive player with the intent of scoring a goal. A shot can only be made when the ball is parallel to or above goal line extended. Additionally, it can be either thrown from a crosse, kicked, or otherwise physically directed.
4-9-3 (New) ART. 3… If any of the following occur between the end of the period and the shot entering the goal, the goal will be disallowed:

a. the ball makes contact with any member of the attacking team or his equipment;

b. the ball is touched by a player of either team other than the defending goalkeeper after hitting the goalkeeper or his equipment, goal posts or crossbar.

Rationale: Clarifies the conditions under which a goal will be allowed when a shot is released just before the end of a period.
4-14-3 ART. 3...(revised)

If the ball does not touch or go over the center line, no infraction has occurred. Defensive players may legally bat the ball to keep it in the offensive half of the field; or is possessed and their feet are on the defensive half, it shall be a turnover.

If the ball does not touch the center line or something over the center line, no infraction has occurred. A defensive player may reach over the center line with his crosse and bat the ball to keep it in his team’s offensive half and thus prevent an over-and-back violation. However, he may NOT reach over the center line and bat the ball with his foot of any other part of his body excluding his gloved hand wrapped around his crosse. If he does so, it shall be a turnover.

Rationale: Clarifies the position of the ball for over and back turnovers.
5-4-4 (New)

ART. 4 ... A body check that is initiated legally but slides up into or follows through to an opponent’s head or neck.

5-4-5 (New)

ART. 5 . . . A body check to a player in a defenseless position. This includes but is not limited to: (i) body checking a player from his “blind side”; (ii) body checking a player who has his head down in an attempt to play a loose ball; and (iii) body checking a player whose head is turned away to receive a pass, even if that player turns toward the contact immediately before the body check.

PENALTY: Two- or three-minute, non-releasable foul, at the official’s discretion. An excessively violent violation of this rule may result in an ejection.
ART. 6 … Targeting: Intentionally taking aim at the head/neck of an opponent for the purpose of making violent contact. This could include a check with the crown of the helmet (spearing) that targets the head or neck of an opponent.

ART. 7 . . . Targeting: a body check that intentionally takes aim at a player in a defenseless position.

PENALTY: Three-minute, non-releasable foul. An excessively violent violation of this rule may result in an ejection.
5-10e (New)

e. A coach who is on the field and obstructs play.

PENALTY: One- to three-minute, releasable penalty.

5-12-1 PENALTY: Three-minute non-releasable for a player, substitute or non-playing team member or a one-minute non-releasable penalty for a coach and ejection for the remainder of the game.
6-3-2a A player may not:

ART. 2… a. Use the portion of the handle that is between his hands to hold an opponent, when his hands are more than shoulder width apart.

6-3-3e Holding is permitted under the following conditions:

ART. 3… e. Use the portion of the handle that is between his hands, which are no more than shoulder-width apart, to hold an opponent on the torso with no more than equal pressure and no thrusting motion.

Rationale: Clarifies legal and illegal holds to an opponent.

6-5-2b4 (New)

ART. 2… b. Illegal actions with crosse – A player shall not:… 4. Exchange his crosse with that of a teammate during live play while the ball is in either crosse.
A player in possession of the ball shall not use his free hand or arm or any other part of his body to hold, push or control the direction of the movement of the crosse or body of the player applying the check. A player in possession of the ball may protect his crosse with his hand, arm or other part of his body when his opponent makes a play to check his crosse.

ART 2... A player in possession of the ball with both hands on his crosse shall not use his hand or arm to push the body of the player applying the check.

NOTE: Illegal body checks (Rule 5-3), “spearing” (Rule 5-4-3) and unnecessary roughness (Rule 5-9-3 SITUATION E) shall be strictly enforced as Personal Fouls.

Rationale: Clarifies warding and creates an enforceable situation.
NEW SITUATION:

6.11 SITUATION C: A1, with both hands on his crosse, raises his forearm and directs B1’s (a) crosse or (b) body away from himself, creating space.

RULING: (a) Legal play  (b) Warding off, award the ball to Team B
7-8-2 ART. 2...The official shall withhold his whistle until:

a. A goal is scored by the attacking team.

b. The ball goes out of bounds.

c. A player on the defending team gains possession of the ball.

d. The attacking team commits a foul or violation.

e. An injury occurs to a player on either team and is deemed by the official to be serious enough for an immediate whistle.

f. A player loses any of the required equipment in a scrimmage area, or a player is injured in a scrimmage area, and the official is required under the rules to blow the whistle.

g. The attacking team requests a team timeout.

h. The period ends.

i. A second defensive foul is committed, unless a scoring play is imminent. This now applies at all times during the game, not just the last two minutes.
Ending a Flag Down, Slow Whistle, now use “GOODIES”: 

G - Goal
O - Out of bounds
O - Offense commits foul
D - Defense gains possession
I - Injury in scrimmage area
E - End of period or game
S - Second defensive foul (unless scoring play is imminent)
Mechanics

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

NOTE: Running left will be the **recommended and encouraged** mechanic for two man crews for the 2018 season and beyond.
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 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 note: The videos used are not meant to embarrass or demean any official of any association. They are simply being used to illustrate situations to improve rules enforcement and consistency in Pennsylvania.

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. Non-Goalkeeper entering crease
13. Over and Back
14. Strange Situations
15. Acronyms for better officiating
16. 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 (2019)

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 (2019)](#)
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 (2019)]

Click here for downloadable PowerPoint: [Pre-Game Responsibilities - PP]
Meeting Topic: Mechanics

Click here for US Lacrosse Two Man Mechanics Manual (2019)


Click here for presentation on Game Management (2019)

Click here for US Lacrosse video: 2018 Mechanics Changes
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](#) (2019)
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 (2019)
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 that can be used for discussion purposes within a chapter meeting.

Click here for Google Slides Presentation: Personal Fouls (2019)
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 (2019)
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 (2019)
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 (2019)
Meeting Topic: Non-Goaltender Defender Entering Crease

Lacrosse comes with a unique set of rules and situations. This situation must be officiated to protect players who are not wearing the proper equipment to defend a shot. This rule must be understood to be the best official you can be.

Click here for presentation: Non-Goaltender Defender entering crease (must be downloaded)
Meeting Topic: Over and Back

This presentation will help officials with the over and back rule. Video examples are available for multiple situations involving this rule.

Click here for presentation: Over and Back (2019)
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 (2019)
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](#) (2019)
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 (2019)
Resources for Officials

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