



Memorandum

To: NFHS Boys Lacrosse Contacts
From: Kent Summers, NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Editor
Ned Sparks, NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee Chair
Subject: 2011 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Clarifications and Corrections
Date: January 27, 2011

At the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Interpretation Meeting in Baltimore on January 21st and during the Webinar on January 25th, five items were identified that need clarification and correction. Those items follow:

- 1. Situation 4.28.7 on page 46 of the 2011 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book is incorrect. One major inaccuracy in the situation printed in the rules book is that it states that written authorization from an appropriate health-care professional is required for the injured player to return to play. Written authorization is not required. The following situation replaces the incorrect situation on page 46:**

4.28.7 SITUATION: Play is suspended because of an injured player. The official determines that the player needs to be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional for that injury. Can the player return to the game? **RULING:** Once the official determines that a player is in need of evaluation by an appropriate health-care professional, then the responsibility to have that evaluation done rests with the head coach. Only an appropriate health-care professional can evaluate the player and determine if a concussion has occurred and, if so, when it is appropriate for the player to return to play. It is the responsibility of the head coach (not the official) to verify with the appropriate health-care professional that the player has been cleared to return to play. After returning to play, however, should it become apparent to the official that the player needs further evaluation, the official can and should remove the player from the game for further evaluation.

Note: Each individual state association determines and defines “appropriate health-care professional.”

2. Statement explaining why the committee did not revise Rules 1-6 and 1-7 to prohibit tape rings and clarification of the interpretation of these rules:

The circumference of the shaft shall not exceed 3.5 inches. The butt end of all hollow crosse handles made of metal or synthetic material shall have an end cap, be adequately taped or have both an end cap and tape. There is no limitation on the circumference of the end cap or taping on the butt end of the stick, however, it should not extend further than 3 inches up from the butt end of the stick.

Rationale:

1. Surveys conducted by NFHS of coaches and officials in 2010 did not see tape rings as an issue.
2. Opponents of tape rings point to greater leverage provided by a tape ring on an unchecked swing. First, current language of slash rule addresses any unchecked or out of control swing. Second, no proof exists for substantially greater leverage possible using a stick with a tape ring.

3. There is a misprint in Rule 1-10-1b on page 16 of the 2011 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book. The word “not” is omitted from that rule. The rule should read:

Items that, in the opinion of the officials, endanger that individual or other players. Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, splints, etc.) on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow or upper arm are prohibited unless they are necessary to protect an injury. If worn, they must be padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½-inch thick. Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design/production do **“not”** require any additional padding.

4. The following situation and ruling clarifies procedure with regard to pinning a player’s stick on the faceoff:

6.3 SITUATION G: On the faceoff, A1 clamps the ball to the ground with his stick. B1 then pins A1’s stick to the ground with his stick. **RULING:** Illegal. The ball shall be awarded to team A in their offensive half of the field at the Center Faceoff X. Even though the ball is still considered to be loose, this would be considered a violation under Rule 6-3-1 as B1 is impeding the movement of A1’s crosse and also violating Rule 6-12, Withholding the Ball from Play.

5. A question was raised regarding procedure on a faceoff. The NCAA has revised procedure and requires the verbal command “set.” Further, the NCAA is instructing officials to vary the cadence of the whistle following the “set” command. While this is an individual decision on the part of each official, varying the cadence in games played under NFHS rules is allowed.