TO: OHSAA Boys Lacrosse Officials  
FROM: Lee Spitzer, DOD  
Subject: Boys Lacrosse Bulletin #1

This is the first of a series of bulletins that you will receive throughout the course of the 2018 lacrosse season. Bulletins will contain mechanics, new AR’s and game situations. Please use this information to improve your game.

1. **COMMUNICATION**
   Communication is essential to our success on the field. Communicate with players, coaches and each other. You are expected to respond to coaches questions. Keep it at a conversational level and don’t talk down to coaches. Assistant coaches can ask QUESTIONS. Lastly, remember two things 1) listening is as important as speaking and 2) you don’t have to have the last word.

2. **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR TOWARD OFFICIALS**
   Inappropriate behavior, comments and language directed toward officials by coaches and players should not be tolerated. Use the tools you have. Deal with it early in the game rather than later.

3. **SUBSTITUTION AREA**
   As I have observed games it is apparent that we are not controlling the substitution area. The substitution area is for players who are entering and exiting the game. Team benches are spilling over into the substitution area. Clean this up. It will prevent problems from occurring. Coaches are not to be in the substitution area.

4. **DEFENSELESS PLAYER – SHOOTER/PASSER**
   There have been a number of incidents involving a defensive player making excessive contact with the shooter/passer during or after his shot/pass. This excessive contact should be called as unnecessary roughness.

5. **DEFENSELESS PLAYER – PICK**
   The player setting a pick is often times in a vulnerable position. A player using excessive force to run though a pick should be called for unnecessary roughness. There is no requirement that the player running though the pick has to see the pick before contact.

6. **HITS TO THE HEAD AND NECK**
   Cross checks and illegal checks to the head and neck are some of the most important safety fouls we can call. These penalties should be fulltime penalties. Effectively calling these type of fouls early in games tends to reduce the possibility reoccurrence as the game continues.

7. **TRAIL OFFICIAL AFTER A GOAL**
   - After a goal is scored the TRAIL is the “traffic cop”.  
   - Do not turn your back to the players as you move to your faceoff position.  
   - While the LEAD and SINGLE police the goal and crease, your job is to police the rest of the field.  
   - Back to your position and, once in position, mark your scorecard.

8. **NEW MECHANIC – FACEOFF VIOLATION RESTARTS**
   The SINGLE will whistle the ball in play after all faceoff violations. This will allow the LEAD LEFT and the LEAD RIGHT to observe the defensive restraining lines to ensure there is early release or player exchange before the restart whistle. Call out “NO RELEASE, NO RELEASE” and if a player is unintentionally come over the line before the restart allow him to return before you whistle the restart. If a player exchange occurs it should be penalized.

9. **FACEOFF – GLOVES ON GROUND**
   A faceoff player must set-up for the faceoff with his fingers in contact with the ground.
10. **ILLEGAL STICK – PROCEDURE**
   Once a stick has been determined to be illegal for any violation, other than a deep pocket, it is placed at the scorer’s table and remains there until the game concludes. If the stick is removed, tampered with or altered in any way the head coach is assessed a 1-minute nonreleasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

11. **ILLEGAL STICK – UNDER ARMOUR COMMAND X HANDLE**
   Under Armour Command X Handle does not meet current rules specifications. Specifically, the handle violates Rule 1-6-1: “The circumference of the crosse handle shall not be more than 3 ½ inches and the handle must be relatively straight.” The circumference of the handle exceeds the allowable measurement and is therefore not allowed for use in NFHS competition, effective immediately. It should be noted, however, that the Under Armour Command X head is permitted in NFHS play. Under Armour is aware of this ruling.

12. **ILLEGAL STICK – SHOOTING STRINGS AND STRINGING**
   Rule 1-7-1 ... Any crosse in which the net is woven to the head in such a manner that a lip or hook is formed that might ensnare the ball is illegal.
   Rule 1-7-3 ... Any additional strings or laces (e.g., shooting strings) must be located within 4" of top of the crosse (this prohibition does not apply to the goalkeeper’s crosse). No more than one sidewall string on each side is allowed.

   In an effort to circumvent the 4-inch rule for shooting strings there have been several innovative stringing methods employed.

   These examples are illegal and should be penalized with a 3-minute fulltime penalty and the stick removed from the game.

13. **PENALTY REPORTING**
   Go to the wing line, stop and set yourself and report the penalty using C-NOTE. Trail official reports ALL penalties. Always report the penalty first, then if the coach has a question provide him with the explanation. Make your explanation short and to the point.
14. **OVER & BACK**

**Situation 1:** Team A, after entering the goal attack area, makes an errant pass. As ball bounces over the midfield line, Team A offensive player extends his stick over the midfield line (without going over) and while the ball is in the air, and before it touches in the defensive area, either knocks the ball back or catches the ball and brings it back over the midfield line. **Ruling:** Legal play – Over and Back, sideline and endline calls now consistent.

**Situation 2:** Team A, after entering the goal attack area, makes an errant pass. As ball bounces to the midfield line, Team A defensive player (without going over) extends his foot over the midfield line and either kicks or stops the ball before it can cross the midfield line. **Ruling:** Over and Back violation. By rule the player is established in the defensive half of the field. Out of bounds and Over and Back calls now consistent.

15. **RESTARTS**

On resumption of play after an out of bounds, shot or violation we are looking for the quick restart. However there are several situations to be aware of:

- See the ball on all restarts.
- Resume play quickly, but “not with your pants on fire”.
  - Slow down restarts from out of bounds.
  - Slow down restarts in the substitution area.
  - Slow down restarts when restart area is congested.
  - Slow down restarts on offsides.
- No running starts from out of bounds. Rolling starts are ok.
- On all stops and restarts watch the game clock and the shot clock if in effect.
- Be sure your partners are ready for the restart.
- Eliminate the hidden ball trick. On restarts be sure you know which player has the ball, particularly when there are a number of players from the team entitled to the ball in the area. Offensive players must be 5 yards from the player with the ball on all restarts. If they are not, give a verbal warning and start a 5 count. If after 5 they have not moved to 5 yards, it is a violation and the ball should be turned over to the defense. If a goal is scored because a rule was broken or an official’s mistake, we must correct it (Rule 7-12). If an official’s mistake the team that had the ball retains the ball on the reset.

16. **CENTER LINE**

There have been a number of instances where playing fields have not had continuous center line. This is a violation and results in a delay of game penalty and loss of the ball for the first faceoff only. To prevent this penalty, please inspect the field when you arrive on-site and inform the head coach or the game administrator in sufficient time for it to be corrected.

17. **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION**

**Situation:** Team A has possession of the ball in their offensive half of the field. A player from Team B enters the field of play from the substitution area and after realizing that he is the eighth player on defense runs off the field. Because the officials have a flag down for “too many men”, Team B coaching staff sends the player back onto the field. The officials now have a second flag down and when play is whistled, assess two 30-second illegal substitution technical fouls on the Team B player. **Ruling:** Each entry into the game is an illegal substitution and would result in a technical foul even if it is the same player. This should not to be confused with offside when a player may go offside twice in the same play and be assessed only one technical foul.