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 2017 lacrosse season. Bulletins will contain mechanics, new AR's and game situations. Please use this information to improve your game. Indicated below are some items that have arisen during State Rules Interpretation Meetings & Local Officials Association Meetings this year. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

**2017 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**
- Coaches and Team Area
- Defenseless Hits
- Blindside Hits
- Mouthpieces

**2017 NFHS RULE BOOK CORRECTIONS**

1.9.1 SITUATION A page 18  Delete "Mouthpiece"

1.9.1 SITUATION B page 18  should be changed to “Technical foul. Award ball to team B unless.....”

4.18.2 page 46...1st sentence should read "B1 (not the goalkeeper) picks up a loose ball or catches a pass while in the crease"

4-7 NOTE page 38 "defensive player should be awarded the ball in the crease"

6.5.2-o page 70  is incorrect with the rule change "-ball awarded at spot of foul"

6-10-3 (STALLING) (page 73):  Delete “unless warned to keep it in”

ART. 3 . . . During the last two minutes of regulation play, stalling rules are in effect for the team that is ahead by four goals or less. When the score is tied, or the score differential is five goals or more, neither team is forced to keep the ball in the goal area. unless warned to “keep it in.”

**NEW SITUATION: page 45**

4-18-4 SITUATION A:  A1 takes a shot while B1 Goalkeeper is away from the crease area. While the shot is in flight, B2 non-goalkeeper-defender steps in the crease to block the shot. RULING: Play-on until the shot comes to its normal conclusion. If it is B2’s first violation of this type, (a) if the ball did not enter the goal, stop play and award ball to Team A. B2 does not serve penalty time. (b) If the ball entered the goal as a result of the shot, B2’s violation is wiped out by the goal. In either case, B2 would serve a 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul for each subsequent violation. 

If it is B2’s second or any subsequent violation of this type, (a) if the ball did not enter the goal, stop play. B2 will serve a 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Award the ball to Team A laterally outside of the Goal Area. (b) If the ball entered the goal as a result of the shot, B2 will serve a 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Resume play with a faceoff.

7-3 page 78  omits the words "laterally outside the goal area" in the 2nd sentence before "nearest the spot ..." (this was noted in the 2016 e book)

7.3 SITUATION D page 79 typo  ...Technical foul against B ball awarded to A
NEW 4-14-3 SITUATION A: OVER-AND-BACK - On a face-off, the ball is propelled over a
defensive-area line into Team A's goal area, releasing the players confined behind the lines
without either team having gained possession. The ball is now propelled back over the center-
line, still without either team having gained possession. Has either team violated the over-and-
back rule? RULING: No. There can be no over-and-back violation before the ball has been
possessed by either team following a face-off. Only a team that has possessed the ball and
successfully advanced the ball into its goal area or gained possession of the ball in its goal area
can be called for over-and-back.

FACE-OFF (F/O) MECHANICS
• SINGLE conducts all F/O – 3 man; Trail conducts all F/O – 2 man
• Review instructions w/ F/O men prior to 1st F/O
• F/O official holds ball in hand and points w/ toe to indicate where F/O men should place
sticks as he says “DOWN”
• Heads aligned TOPS to STOPS

NEW STICK-PLACEMENT MECHANIC FOR FACE-OFFS: When placing sticks for the face-off, officials
shall align the top of each player’s stick with the stop-area of the throat of his opponent’s stick.
The ball shall be placed equidistant from the stop-area of each stick. (See photo)

BODY CONTACT ON FACE-OFFS: NOTE: Under NFHS rules, there is no requirement to play the ball
first on a face-off. However, illegal body checks, including spearing with the head, should be
strictly enforced

GAME UNIFORM
• LOOK PROFESSIONAL – first impressions count
• Clean and correct uniform
• Shoes shined
• Weather appropriate
• Crew all the same
• No sunglasses

PROFESSIONALISM
• Be the best
• Know the rules
• Know the mechanics
• Dress the part
• Act the part – confident, but not arrogant
• Be in shape
• Treat every game like it’s the OHSAA championship game
GAME MANAGEMENT - HEAD COACHES

- **COMMUNICATE** w/ them anytime during play when it is appropriate
- At half – w/ reps from BOTH teams
- During deadball situations, always face coach & when talking use a NORMAL speaking voice
- **POINT OF EMPHASIS:** Keep them off the field

COMMUNICATION

- Essential to our success on the field
- Communicate with players, coaches and each other
- You are expected to respond to coaches questions.
- Not US vs. THEM
- Listening is as important as speaking.
- Think before you speak
- K-I-S-S
- Keep it at a conversational level
- Don’t BS and talk down to coaches
- Assistant coaches can ask QUESTIONS

PENALTY REPORTING

- Report penalty in the following sequence: Color – Number – Offense – Time – Explanation

C-NOTE

- Take your time
- Set feet
- Strong signals
- **NEVER** inside wing line

EQUIPMENT CHECKS

- One “stick” check will be conducted each half.
- Do not conduct an equipment check when there is a penalty or a player in the penalty box.
- Usually between 1 & 2 period and 3 & 4 periods.
- In addition to the stick, officials are to check all required equipment.
- If more than one violation is found, penalize the more severe violation and explain the additional violation(s) to the coach.
- Do not conduct an equipment check when there is a penalty or a player in the penalty box

ADVANCING THE BALL

- Advancing the ball from the defensive half of the field to the goal area is two distinct counts
- A 20-second to cross the center line from the defensive half of the field.
- A 10-second count to enter the goal area after crossing the center line.
- The counts are **NOT** combined to allow team 30-seconds to clear the ball from the defensive half of the field to the goal area.

Safety of the players is your #1 concern