

# BOYS LACROSSE RULES COMMITTEE MINUTES

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Inn At The Colonnade

Baltimore, Maryland

July 28-29, 2002

Committee members in attendance:

Ned Sparks	Chair	2003
William Ball	Section I	2002
Robert Royce	Section I	2005
Tom Hall	Section I	2002
Ron Belinko	Section II	2004
Charles Burch	NFCA	2002
George Cook	NFOA	2003
Jerry Diehl	Staff Liaison	

Others in attendance:

Bob Schweitzer, guest  
Steve Stenersen, U.S. Lacrosse

### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, GENERAL INFORMATION

The session convened at 8:30 a.m. at the Inn At The Colonnade, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Diehl opened with an introduction of himself with a brief background, and each member proceeded to do the same. A brief explanation was given concerning expense forms, conflict of interest forms, rules review committee and Board of Directors approval of rules changes and biographical sketches.

### 2. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

Mr. Sparks reviewed the committee procedures for discussion of suggested changes, voting procedures, as well as each member's responsibility to the areas they are representing.

### 3. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES

	⚡ Rule 1-The Game, Field, and Equipment ⚡	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
1-5	The ball shall be <u>lime green</u> , orange, white or yellow... <b>Rationale:</b> Maintaining consistency with other rules codes.		X	
1-9-1g, 4	Add word: "Jerseys of the opposing teams shall be of <u>solid</u> contrasting colors". Add: Trim not exceed one-inch width. <b>Rationale:</b> Recent trend in jerseys shows a white shoulder and white tops of sleeves on a dark shirt having the potential for confusion when plays are bent in a scooping position.		X	

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	⚡ Rule 1-The Game, Field, and Equipment (Cont.) ⚡	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
1-10-2	Replace with: Jewelry shall not be worn. Religious and medical alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert medal must be taped and may be visible. <b>Rationale:</b> Makes the language consistent with other NFHS sports.	X		
	⚡ Rule 2-Game Personnel ⚡			
2-8-1	At sites where there is no visible game clock with a <u>loud automatic horn</u> , the time keeper shall join the nearest official <u>30 seconds</u> before the end of all periods to verbally count the last <u>30 seconds</u> , including zero of each period loudly enough for the nearest official to hear. <b>Rationale:</b> Going back to this procedure will eliminate any confusion about a possible goal scored when time has expired. I have personally witnessed this problem many times in recent years.		X	
2-11 NEW	Add a one-minute shot clock to rules book. Clock run by scoreboard operator on both endlines. Shot must be out of stick before clock expires <u>and</u> must be on the cage (goal, pipe or save). Clock continues until opponent gains possession. <b>Rationale:</b> This new rule will effectively eliminate both 10-second rules (defensive/offensive zones). In addition, the controversial stalling rule would be unnecessary. Finally, the new rule might make the under two-minute box rule obsolete.		X	
	⚡ Rule 4-Play of the Game ⚡			
4-25	Add word: "Play may be resumed immediately after the ball is signaled ready for play, if a player of the team awarded the ball is outside the <u>offensive</u> goal area..." <b>Rationale:</b> Clarifies restart location for defensive team calling time out after gaining possession. If the ball in possession of the defense is made to start outside the defensive box, then an advantage has been gained with calling time out, especially if the goalie has possession.		X	

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	⚡ Rule 4-Play of the Game (Cont.) ⚡	Passed	Failed	Discussed No Action
4-28-7	...Any suspension of play because of an apparently injured player, whether called by an official coach or captain, shall not be charged as a time-out, if such player is removed from the field as soon as possible. <u>An apparently unconscious player is determined by the game officials. The player may not return to play in the game without written authorization from a physician (M.D./D.O.). This time-out, if not charged, is an official's time-out.</u> A substitute for ... <b>Rationale:</b> Concussions are a serious matter and should such a situation occur, all parties must err on the side of safety and not permit the individual to participate until cleared by a physician. This is also consistent with other NFHS sports.	X		
	⚡ Rule 5-Personal and Expulsion Fouls ⚡			
5-11	Add after Article 2: The individual being expelled must leave the premises for the remainder of the event. If the individual is a non-adult, an authorized school person must accompany this student, otherwise the student shall be confined to the bench.” <b>Rationale:</b> The act of expulsion is serious enough that the violator should not be permitted to have any possible affect on the contest in progress. Should the expelled individual be a student, they must have a school-authorized person accompanying them for liability reasons. Should no one be available for supervision, the individual shall remain in the bench area under the supervision of the coach. Should the student continue to disrupt the progress of the game, the referee may have to suspend play.	X To be listed as Rule 7-12 (Re-number 7-12 to 7-13)		
5-11-3	Upon disqualification, adult bench personnel shall leave the field area. A disqualified team member or student bench personnel shall go to or remain on the bench. <b>Rationale:</b> Provides direction as to where ejected adults or students must go. The adults must leave, but the student must remain under the direct supervision of an adult. Note: Case Book plays covering circumstances where students must leave the bench area should be written.			X

## 4. EDITORIAL CHANGES

- a. 1-3-1: Delete reference to “outside diameter”.
- b. Rule 1-8: Change 17 and 18 to 6 and 7 respectfully.
- c. 4-5-8: Add the word “Clear” to the beginning of the definition.
- d. Rule 4-25: Added “(See 4-6-2a) at end of first paragraph.

## 5. QUESTIONNAIRE

Mr. Sparks reviewed all items in the questionnaire (attached).

The following were identified as possible items for the 2003 questionnaire:

1. Use of illegal equipment (shoulder pads, mouth guards)
2. Availability of visual timing clock and audible horn
3. Cross-check holding
4. Awarding the ball at midfield when the team in possession of the ball is offside
5. Placing balls along end line to reduce the need of ball retrievers

## **6. POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

The following items are to be included in the next publication for the 2003 season:

- a. Use of shoulder pads
- b. Rough play
- c. Timing – Last 20 seconds of Period
- d. Time out Mechanics – CBO

## **7. US LACROSSE YOUTH RULES**

Mr. Steve Stenersen, Executive Director, U.S. Lacrosse indicated that no major changes were made for the 2003 season. All changes and updates will be provided as soon as finalized so that they can be included in the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book.

## **8. CASEBOOK**

Ned Sparks assigned each member the responsibility of writing new case play situations for the rules changes, so they can be added to the rules book.

## **9. SIGNAL CHART**

The signal chart was reviewed with no suggestions for change.

## **10. COMMENTS ON 2003 RULES REVISIONS**

Each member was assigned to write new situations for the rules that have been changed and to review current casebook situations to ensure they are still current.

## **11. RULES DIFFERENCES NFHS/NCAA**

The committee approved the major differences that will be posted on the NFHS Web site.

## **12. BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND**

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**Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee**

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**Ned Sparks – Chair** has been the Executive Director of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association since 1981. He established a MPSSAA Lacrosse Committee and initiated the lacrosse State tournament. Sparks required lacrosse officials to become certified and established a rules interpreter for the purpose of providing a single voice on rules interpretations.

**William Ball – Section I (CT, MA, NH, NJ, RI, VT)** is in his 23<sup>rd</sup> year of officiating at the high school/college level. He is Supervisor of Lacrosse Officials for the state of New Hampshire. He is currently Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Exeter High School in Exeter, New Hampshire.

**Robert Royce – Section I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT)** is the Athletic Director at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. He was instrumental in getting boys and girls lacrosse recognized by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association and has been the only chairperson of the NHIAA Lacrosse Committee.

**Tom Hall - Section I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT)** has been active in lacrosse for over 40 years as a player, coach and administrator. He currently serves as the Lacrosse Coordinator for New York State and the Secondary School Awards Chairman for US Lacrosse.

**Ron Belinko – Section II (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV)** is Coordinator of Athletics for the Baltimore County Public Schools where he supervises the athletic program for 23 high schools. Ron has been active in the sport of lacrosse for over 40 years. Ron was a high school coach, and summer league official. He presently serves as the director of the Maryland Public Secondary Athletic Associations' lacrosse committee.

**Charles Burch – NFCA Representative** has been involved with lacrosse for the past 26 years as a player, coach, and state area representative to US Lacrosse. Burch was US Lacrosse Coaches Association's coach of the year five times.

**George Cook – NFOA Representative** has been involved in officiating since 1986 as a referee and administrator. Currently serves as the Lacrosse Rules Interpreter for Vermont Lacrosse Officials Association and a member of the NFOA Board of Directors serving Section I.

**John Kenney – US Lacrosse Representative** has been involved in the game for the past 36 years as player, coach and administrator. He currently serves as the President of the US Lacrosse High School Coaches Council and chairs the US Lacrosse' high school rules committee. He is also an active coach at Detroit Country Day School in Michigan.

**13. Meeting adjourned 11:30 a.m.**

Next meeting, July 27-28, 2003.