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Subject: 2005 Boys Lacrosse Rule Interpretation**

It has come to our attention that a situation exists in the sport of Boys Lacrosse that presents a potential risk to defensive players. If a goalie's stick becomes broken during the course of a game, the goalie is instructed by the official to leave the field to replace his crosse. In some instances, play continues if the team has no timeouts left or the goalie doesn't call a timeout. With play continuing in the goalie's absence, defensive players are covering the crease and potentially blocking shots with their chests without proper protective equipment.

Based on the potential risk situation that this could present, the NFHS is issuing the following rule interpretation under Rule 4-27-1:

Play should be suspended immediately if the goalie's stick or any of the other required goalie's equipment becomes broken or dislodged.

Because of this interpretation, the following situation should be added to the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Case Book:

Situation: During the course of a game, the goalie's crosse becomes broken. Ruling: The official shall suspend the game immediately and instruct the player in question to correct the situation. There shall be no penalty assessed. (Rule 4-27-1)

Editor's note: If the goalie or any other team member should do anything to purposely break any required goalie equipment to stop play, it shall be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and should be penalized appropriately under Rule 5-9.

Please communicate this interpretation to lacrosse officials and lacrosse officials associations within your state so that these situations will be handled properly for the upcoming 2005 boy's lacrosse season. We have attached a copy of this memo for your convenience.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kent Summers
Assistant Director

<<Goalie's Stick situation to Ex dir.doc>>