



To: Women's Lacrosse Community

From: Ericka Leslie, Rules Interpreter

Cathy Russo, Youth Rules Interpreter

Lissa Fickert, Rules Chair

Jen Dorff, WGOSC Chair

Stefanie Smith, NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor

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Subject: Rule Interpretations, Clarifications and Approved Rulings for US Lacrosse.

The playing level rule interpretation (USL/NCAA) is indicated in parentheses. We remind everyone that information regarding all rules is posted throughout the season on:

US Lacrosse website: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/rules.aspx>

US Lacrosse Central Hub: <https://uslacrosse.arbitersports.com/front/108525/Site/Page-Content/Home>

NCAA Central Hub: <http://ncaawomenslacrosse.arbitersports.com/front/107529/Site>

Alternate Possession for stick head falling off (USL/NCAA)

Should the head of a stick fall off while in a throwing or shooting motion, that stick is illegal. If the ball has entered the goal, the goal shall not count. The stick is taken to the table. The restart shall be by alternate possession procedure.

Should the head of a stick fall off while in the act of taking the draw, that stick is illegal. The stick is taken to the table. The restart shall be a draw.

Should the head of the stick fall off at any other time, this is a broken stick and is illegal. However, since that player is not in possession of the ball, there is no change of possession and alternate possession procedure does **NOT** apply. Time out may be taken for a replacement and to take this broken stick to the table. (If the player is not involved in the play and wishes to exchange for a legal

stick or sub off, then a timeout is probably not necessary). If a player is involved in/near the play, timeout should be taken to replace the stick and resume in the same relative positions for the restart.

Stick checks (USL)

Pregame – Pocket depth, measure length if suspicious. Visual check for shooting strings and new stringing rules – pocket attachment, thong distance, bunching and obvious head alterations. Do a further check if suspected violation.

Requested – must be by number. Check pocket depth only unless a measurement is specifically requested (measurement request must be by head coach only. A player from the field may only request a pocket check.) Measurement of the stick length is all that will be included.

(Rule 5, Sections 27-29; p. 42-43)

Rulebook Edit (USL)

On page 55, Section 10, Delete c.

Team Fouls/Offside

Section 10: If the defense fouls and the play ends with another major foul by the defense:

a. inside the 8m arc: penalize this foul, not the offside foul.

b. outside the 8m arc, but inside the 12m fan: penalize this foul, not the offside foul.

~~c. outside the 12m fan – penalize the offside foul (move the free position up to the top of the 12m fan, clear the lane)~~

Dangerous Play Definition (USL/NCAA)

Player actions that are rough, threatening, and/or are without regard to player safety. May be carded.



DANGEROUS PLAY

3 Seconds (USL)

The criteria for determining 3 seconds has not changed. It is still a major foul and may be flagged.

The difference in the rule for 2016 is the location of the penalty administration. It is now awarded at the spot of the **ball** rather than the spot of the **foul**.

AR 1: If the ball is outside the critical scoring area when a three-second violation occurs, the penalty shall be administered at the spot of the ball. All others shall remain in their same positions and no closer than 4 meters to the free position, offender is placed 4 meters behind.

AR 2: If the ball is inside the critical scoring area and below goal line extended, the penalty shall be administered at the closest dot, all other players 4 meters away and offender is placed 4 meters behind.

AR 3: If the ball is inside the critical scoring area, outside the arc and above the goal line extended, the free position shall be administered at the spot of the ball, offender placed 4 meters behind and the lane is cleared.

AR 4: If the ball is inside the arc, the free position shall be administered at the hash mark closest to the spot of the ball, offender placed 4 meters behind and the arc is cleared.

FAQs

QUESTION: Does the new signal for alternate possession differ between USL & NCAA? They look different in the book.

Answer: They are but are not supposed to be. Use USL signal.

QUESTION: How should the possession arrow be indicated - facing goal being attacked or bench side?

ANSWER: USL and NCAA have decided to allow both methods. Whichever is chosen, it must be clearly explained in pre-game with the timer/scorer and coaches.

QUESTION: What is the penalty if a 13th player is identified on the field after the umpire's hands are on the sticks for a draw?

ANSWER: Do not allow the substitution. Make sure no players are standing in the substitution area. Free position for the opponent at the center. The opposing center is placed 4m away to either side at an angle of 45 degrees to the centerline toward the goal she is defending in front of the free position.

QUESTION: Does the opponent have a choice as to which side she stands on for alternate possession in the CSA above the goal line extended?

ANSWER: Yes. The opponent can choose either side of ball along the GLE. This allows a player now defending a player going into CSA or coming out of CSA the choice of how to defend the player awarded the AP on GLE.

QUESTION: What is player placement on a Slow Whistle situation & the attack fouls above the GLE?

ANSWER: These are offsetting fouls and alternate possession applies. The question asks about "above GLE". Alternate Possession is awarded at designated spot nearest to the spot of the foul that caused play to stop. Therefore, it will either be spot of the attack foul if outside of CSA or at the 8m mark on the Goal Line Extended if the attack foul is in CSA. The official designates on which side of the goal the free position shall be administered on the GLE. The opponent chooses whether to stand on the GLE closer to the goal than the free position or on the GLE outside of the free position. If the player is standing closer to the goal and is in the penalty lane because the attack has been awarded the ball, she must clear out of the lane and be below the GLE.

(Rule 5, Section 29, p. 61; Page 37, Rule 5 Section 20 paragraph 2 and 4; AR 5-16)

QUESTION: If a flag has been raised and the scoring play ends without additional foul (s) or a shot on goal, the free position will be awarded at the position of the ball when the flag was raised. Will the player who had the ball be the one being moved back to the spot of the ball, and the offender moved 4m behind, or would we give the ball to the closest attacker to the spot where the ball was, and then move the offender, or any defender near the spot?

ANSWER: Award ball to the player fouled or to the attack player nearest the spot of the foul when the flag was raised. The offending player or nearest defense player is penalized according to Major Foul conditions. Best practice should be to award the ball to fouled player and putting offending player behind. (Page 60, Rule 7, Section 25). (Page 60, Rule 7, Section 26).

QUESTION: Should we teach our officials to look for drilled holes in sticks and determine if they are filled correctly? Should they be looking at shooting strings and verify that they are tied to the sidewalls on both sides?

ANSWER: Yes, but these will be pretty obvious upon a quick inspection of the stick. Some sticks are being sold that have the shooting string attached to only one side. This must be fixed. The holes that have been drilled to allow for the “aftermarket” thong lock are in the ball stop. Officials should determine if the holes have been filled in.

QUESTION: Will the NCAA rule interpretation for the draw be the same interpretation for USL rule? [NCAA rule 5, section 2, note: once the officials hands are on the drawers' sticks, the draw is being set, and no substitutions may occur. If a team attempts to substitute it will be considered an illegal substitution.](#)

[Players from behind RL's cannot switch with players around circle.](#)

[Cannot switch drawers](#)

Page 39, Rule 5, section 22, b

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: At the pre game stick check, officials will check pocket depth. If we are suspicious of a too long/short handle, we will measure the overall length.

ANSWER: Correct

QUESTION: We are to perform the pocket depth and perhaps turn a blind eye to other issues about stringing. Yes?

ANSWER: Pocket depth is the same as previously. Officials should **not** turn a blind eye to any other issues regarding stringing. Visual inspection of the stringing rules should be as in-depth as previously done (i.e. - shooting strings). If obvious suspected violations should occur, they need to be addressed.

QUESTION: If we suspect modifications to the head, I would think we would address that.

ANSWER: Absolutely!!

QUESTION: I feel like I will ask our officials (and inform our coaches), that we will be checking to see that thongs and shooting strings meet all requirements, and that stringing attached to the sidewalls must also meet the 1.5 inch distance rule.

This can all be done with a quick visual inspection at the same time as we look at the shooting string

coils, which we are used to doing.

Does that sound right?

ANSWER: Yes. If the pockets appears to be pre-manufactured and not altered, then no measurements of thong distance is necessary. However, if it appears to be altered, not attached correctly, or is not pre-manufactured and seems to potentially violate the criteria, more thorough inspection is warranted which may include measurement. US Lacrosse **IS** allowing the looping over the ball stop that is **NOT** allowed in NCAA. However, beginning with the 2017 season no knots above the ball stop **WILL** also be in effect for USL.