

Primer on Wiping Off a Technical Foul Following a Goal

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Somewhere, somehow the correct procedure for wiping off a live-ball technical foul following a goal got muddled. It's time to clear this up so we're all consistent on it.

The proper procedure to wipe off a live-ball technical foul after a goal is for one official to report the situation to the table area and both teams so everyone is clear on the situation. For example, if there is a flag down for holding and a goal is scored these are the steps to follow:

1. Confirm with partners that the penalty is a technical and that it will be wiped off.
2. Goal is good.
3. There was a hold.
4. The hold is wiped off by the goal.
5. Goal is good.
6. Prepare for the next restart.

Page 94-96 of the [NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book](#) has illustrations of each signal. Here is how the reporting looks with those images:



Goal is good



There was a
hold

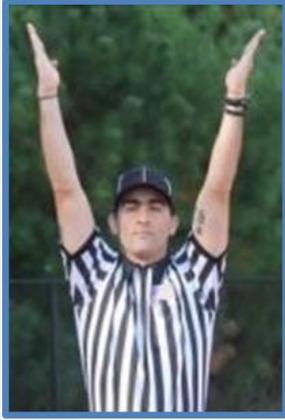


The hold is
wiped off by
the goal

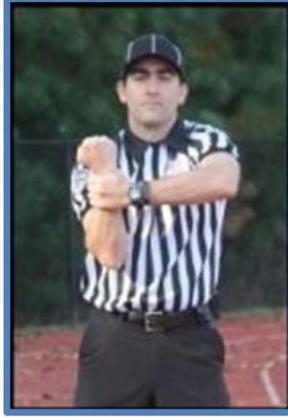


Goal is good

Here is how the reporting looks with pictures:



Goal is good



There was a hold



The hold is wiped off by the goal



Goal is good

I have plenty of written observations from LAREDO clinicians, and lots of game film where one official from GLE pulls a flag out and squishes it above his head to signify that the penalty is wiped off.



Inadvertent flag

That is not the correct procedure! That signal is for an inadvertent flag (stated on page 94 of the NFHS rules book). Further, the flag was not inadvertent. The official who threw it had a legitimate technical foul so the flag wasn't a mistake and it should not be signaled as one. Because a goal was scored during the flag down, slow whistle (FDSW) the technical foul gets wiped off and the player does not serve time in the penalty box.



Rule 7.13.3 states: “In the event of an inadvertent flag, play shall be suspended at the earliest opportunity that does not interfere with an imminent scoring opportunity. The team with possession when the flag was thrown shall retain possession. If the ball was loose outside the crease, possession shall be awarded by alternate possession. If the ball was loose inside the crease, award to the defensive team laterally outside the goal area.”

If an inadvertent flag happens that is the procedure you follow to award possession after killing the play when there is no longer an imminent scoring opportunity. Confer with your fellow officials so the crew knows what is going on, and then the official who threw flag incorrectly should signal and state: “Inadvertent flag, [team color] ball.” Because this is an officiating error the official closest to the team bench should flip the 20-second timer on to allow the teams to get their correct personnel on the field.

Once more the four step procedure for wiping of a goal goes like this:

1. Official comes to the wing line and reports that the goal is good.
2. There was a technical foul.
3. The technical foul was wiped off by the goal.
4. Goal is good.

Why should we do this? First we’re informing the table and both teams that no one is serving penalty time for the flag thrown before the goal.

The other reason is to confirm the good goal. That is why the first and last thing the official signals is “goal is good” to emphasize that the goal is good and so that the last signal people see isn’t the “technical foul is wiped off by the goal” signal which could be misinterpreted as a no goal signal when reporting.

This is a great opportunity to show both teams that the officiating crew is working as a team to get the call right and properly communicates the situation to the coaches so they can prepare their teams for the next restart.

Remember, before the official goes to report that the technical foul is wiped off the crew **must** make sure they understand the situation first.