



## Winnipeg Box Lacrosse Commission 2024 Gameplay Discipline Rules

The included penalties are **automatic** suspensions. “Automatic” means that the coaches sit the player for the game count listed herein or until they are notified of a decision via their Club President.

Notification is not required.

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# Disciplinary Guidelines

## Procedure

- I. A three-member Discipline Committee led by the Official in Charge will rule upon any activity requiring disciplinary action during the season. Each Member Club will submit one member in good standing as a representative to be called upon during the season to serve on this committee. This representative may not rule on any activity involving their own Member Club. This representative must have at least one (1) year of experience as a player, coach, official or manager in Box Lacrosse.
- II. Each incident will be investigated and ruled on its own merits, and no single incident can be construed to set a precedent or affect any other incident.
- III. The committee will not limit its jurisdictions to incidents occurring on the playing area but will be concerned with the conduct and activities of all personnel involved in any aspect, or any location of any function related to the WBLC games.
- IV. The Discipline Committee can convene a discipline hearing upon its own initiative or may convene a discipline hearing upon receipt of a written complaint from any third party including but not limited to a referee, an official of a Member Club (Coach, Manager or Club President), or an owner operator of a facility used by WBLC.
- V. Upon receipt of a written complaint or report by the Discipline Committee from a third party, the Discipline Committee shall determine whether or not it will convene a discipline hearing and shall notify such third party of its decision if required. The decision of the Discipline Committee not to convene a discipline hearing may be appealed to the WBLC Commissioner. If the WBLC Commissioner determines that a discipline hearing shall convene, the Discipline Committee shall convene a hearing. The Discipline Committee shall conduct the discipline hearing in accordance with its usual procedure.
- VI. Upon a penalty resulting in an automatic suspension or a discipline hearing, the Official in Charge will notify all Club Presidents and the Commissioner of the application of the minimum suspension or if the Player or Team Official is suspended for the minimum pending a Discipline Committee hearing. The Club Presidents are responsible for notifying their Player(s) or Team Official(s) involved.

- VII. The discipline hearing must take place as quickly as possible but within a maximum of seven (7) days of the incident or receipt of the complaint from a third party. At the discretion of the discipline committee, a response may be requested from the affected party/parties. Upon receipt of this request, the affected party/parties have forty-eight (48) hours to respond or the discipline committee may commence the hearing without such response.
- VIII. The discipline hearing may occur in person, virtually or by email as decided by the Official in Charge.
- IX. The Official in Charge will communicate the decision of the Discipline Committee to the WBLC Commissioner. The WBLC Commissioner will be responsible for notifying the Club Presidents and the Head Coach and / or Manager of the team being disciplined.

## Video Review at Hearings

At the discretion of the Official in Charge, video review may be permitted for the hearing or committee referral only. All calls made on the floor will stand as called by the game officials. Video will not be used for missed calls. Video may be used to determine disciplinary action by the committee.

Video will only be considered if the following conditions are met:

- I. The video has not been posted publicly on any form of digital media, social media, webpages or set for group review.
- II. The video shows half of the floor where the incident happened (i.e. end boards to center dot).
- III. The video shows a minimum fifteen (15) seconds of floor activity prior to the incident and runs in entirety until the incident is resolved.
- IV. Off floor incidents may not need to meet II. and III. if they do not involve players on the playing surface when the incident happens.
- V. Video must be presented to the Official in Charge by the Head Coach only, within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident. The Official in Charge will then have seventy-two (72) hours to review the video to deem if it meets the criteria. The recorder of the video must be identified upon submission.
- VI. The video will not be shared as per I. after the review. If this happens the Head Coach will be referred to discipline.

- VII. If discovered by the committee additional disciplinary actions may be imposed to those involved in the incident.

## Appeals

- I. The WBLC Commissioner must receive appeals to suspensions in writing within two (2) days of the initial decision, accompanied by a \$250.00 cash deposit. If the decision remains intact, the deposit may be forfeited as determined by the appeal committee. The WBLC Commissioner and two members of the Board of Directors who are not from either of the affected Member Clubs will hear the appeal only. The decision of the appeal shall be final and no further appeals will be considered.
- II. Any suspension received that follows the minimum guidelines may not be appealed.

## Guidelines (Regular Season, Playoffs and Tournaments)

- I. Match Penalty - Players receiving a match penalty will be suspended for two (2) games. They may return to play if not notified further, however they may be suspended for additional games after the WBLC Discipline Committee reviews the incident and rules on the infraction.
- II. Bench Clearing - Players or Team Officials leaving the benches during a fight will result in the Head Coach and other team officials being immediately suspended until the incident has been reviewed and is ruled on by the Discipline Committee.
- III. Use of Suspended Players or Non-Registered Players - Use of suspended players or non-registered players will result in forfeiture of the game. The Head Coach and/all listed non-playing personnel on the official game sheet, will be suspended until the incident is reviewed and ruled on by the Discipline Committee.
- IV. Reports - The Discipline Committee may review Official Game Reports or Coach's Reports and further suspensions may result from the review.
- V. Recommended Guidelines for Suspensions - In addition to this document, the CLA Box Lacrosse Rule and Situation Handbook will be referred to in addressing all players, fans and non-playing personnel infractions.
- VI. Tournament Play - If the penalty resulting in the automatic suspension is incurred in a tournament then the individual shall be suspended from participating in the applicable number of remaining tournament games and those games shall count toward the automatic suspension. The Tournament suspension if not fully served shall carry forward into regular season and/or league playoff games only. The WBLC will uphold discipline

actions as per the MLA for actions taking place outside of the WBLC. The WBLC will not impose additional disciplinary actions upon return.

- VII. Minimum Suspensions - The Discipline Committee may not lower the amount of games suspended below the minimum guidelines set forth in this document.

## Suspended (Player, Team Official or Parent)

- I. While a Player or Team Official is serving their suspension, they may not participate in games with that same team in any capacity.
- II. Unless specified otherwise, suspensions resulting from violation of LC/Lacrosse Winnipeg playing rules, would only suspend the Player or Team Official from participating in the game of lacrosse in the capacity at which he/she received their suspension.
- III. Suspensions may only be served in regular scheduled league games, league playoff games and / or Winnipeg Lacrosse sanctioned tournaments. Suspensions cannot be served in exhibition games and suspended Players or Team Officials cannot participate in exhibition games.
- IV. Suspensions for violations of the LC/Lacrosse Winnipeg rules and regulations must be served in the next game or games the Player or Team Official participates in.
- V. All suspensions not served during the current playing year will be carried over until the next playing season.
- VI. A suspended Player or Team Official may only serve their suspension during games played by the team the Player or Team Official received the suspension for; however, a Player or Team Official is suspended from all bench activities until such suspension is served. (i.e. May not play or coach on another team.)
- VII. A Team Official who is suspended shall not be permitted in the arena where his/her team is playing one (1) hour prior, one (1) hour after and for the duration of the game. If the suspended individual is in attendance without permission, the game points will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- VIII. Any incident involving an ejected and/or suspended individual will result in immediate indefinite suspension until the appropriate governing body deals with the matter.
- IX. Any Player or Team Official suspended must be listed on the game sheet and marked as suspended to have the game count towards the suspension.

## Further Rules and Clarifications

- I. The game in which a penalty is assessed shall not be counted within the length of the suspension.
- II. Any member of Lacrosse Winnipeg that receives four (4) minimum suspensions within a two (2) calendar year timeframe will be referred to the Manitoba Lacrosse Disciplinary Committee for review.
- III. Any Player or Team Official who is ejected from a game must immediately leave the venue or go to the dressing room for the remainder of the game and may only exit to leave the facility. Failure to do so may result in further discipline.
- IV. The following are minimum suspensions. Additional suspensions will be imposed wherever conditions and circumstances warrant.

# Minimum Suspensions

The following minimum suspensions are to be applied in all Box Lacrosse games sanctioned by Lacrosse Winnipeg and will be tracked and accumulated on a yearly basis.

**The included penalties are automatic suspensions. "Automatic" means that the coaches sit the player for the game count listed herein or until they are notified of a decision via their Club President. Notification is not required.**

## 1) Gross Misconduct Penalties

- a) All Gross Misconduct penalties assessed to a player or team official will be subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee.
  - i) First Gross Misconduct – Two (2) games.
  - ii) Second Gross Misconduct – Four (4) games.
  - iii) Third Gross Misconduct – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

## 2) Match Penalties

- a) All Match penalties assessed to a player or team official will be subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee. *These exclude Match for Abusing Officials.*
  - i) First Match penalty – Two (2) games.
  - ii) Second Match penalty – Four (4) games.
  - iii) Third Match penalty – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

## 3) Major Penalties

- a) Attempted Butt Ending, Attempted Sparring and Attempted Kicking of a Player.
  - i) First Offence – One (1) game.
  - ii) Second Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the WBLC Discipline Committee.
  - iii) Third Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- b) Two Majors in one game.
  - i) First Offence – Two (2) games.
  - ii) Second Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the WBLC Discipline Committee.
  - iii) Third Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- c) Four Majors in One Season
  - i) 4th Major Penalty – Two (2) game suspension.
  - ii) 5th Major – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the WBLC Discipline Committee.



- iii) 6th Major – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

#### **4) Game Misconducts**

- a) Any Game Misconduct in the last ten (10) minutes.
  - i) One (1) game.
- b) Third Game Misconduct in a Season.
  - i) Two (2) games.

#### **5) Fighting**

- a) Fighting Majors
  - i) First Fighting Major – One (1) game.
  - ii) Second Fighting Major – Three (3) games.
  - iii) Third Fighting Major – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- b) Instigator
  - i) First Instigator – One (1) game.
  - ii) Second Instigator – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- c) Aggressor
  - i) First Aggressor – One (1) game.
  - ii) Second Aggressor – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

#### **6) Third Man In**

- i) Third Person in Altercation – One (1) game.

#### **7) Leaving Players Bench or Penalty Bench:**

- a) First to leave the players' bench during a fight for the purpose of fighting.
  - i) First Offence – Three (3) games.
  - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- b) Leaving a penalty box for the purpose of fighting.
  - i) First Offence – Four (4) games.
  - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- c) Coach of a team whose player is penalized under 7 (a or b).
  - i) First Offence – Two (2) games.
  - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- d) Coach whose player leaves but is not identified as the first to leave the players' or penalty bench during an altercation.

- i) First Offence – One (1) games.
- ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

## **8) Misconduct**

- a) Game Misconduct for Unsportsmanlike Conduct: (Assessed under Rule 28). (Not involving abuse of an official. i.e., unsportsmanlike conduct between players, or between coaches).
  - i) First Offence – No Disciplinary Action.
  - ii) Second Offence – Two (2) games.
  - iii) Third Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

## **9) Assault of an Official (Physical or Verbal Match Penalty)**

- a) *An official is defined as a referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, or any other designated officials. Gross, Match or Game Misconducts assessed under rules; 28, 48 and 62.*
- b) Any player or team official found to have physically or verbally threatened a Referee or other Game Official (Assault of an Official) shall be suspended until a hearing with Manitoba Lacrosse as well as the WBLC Discipline Committee suspension of;
  - i) 1st Offence – One Year (12 months) for the date of infraction.
  - ii) 2nd Offence – Three Years (36 Months) from the date of infraction.
  - iii) 3rd Offence – Lifetime ban.
- c) NOTE. These offences do not reset yearly and will carry forward indefinitely.

## **10) Abuse of Officials and Misconduct**

- a) *An official is defined as a referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, or any other designated officials.*
- b) All Abuse of Officials and Misconduct penalties assessed to a player or team official will be subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee.
- c) Abuse of Official by a player or coach:
  - i) 1st Offence – Two (2) games.
  - ii) 2nd Offence – Four (4) games.
  - iii) 3rd Offence – Referral to Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee
- d) Abuse of Official by non-playing personnel (Trainer):
  - i) 1st Offence – Immediate indefinite suspension, referral to the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee. As a minimum, this person will not be allowed back on the bench until they successfully complete the appropriate coaching level.