LACROSSE CANADA

Lacrosse Canada Officiating Program
D2/D3 Officials Clinic Material

Purpose of this material

- How to feel more comfortable on the floor
- Explore game management skills
- Work towards consistent game play standards
- Introduce higher level mechanics
- Develop professionalism and communication skills
- Constructive discussion(s) with your peers without judgement

Expectations

- You come to your online clinic prepared by having read the material provided to you prior to your clinic
- You are respectful to the facilitator and your fellow Officials
- You are engaged and are willing to ask questions when you have them (if you have a question someone else probably has the same one)
- We will use a **Parking Lot** for questions to return to if need be.
- You have downloaded the 2026 World Lacrosse Rule Book.
- You have downloaded the 2026 LC Penalty Chart

Session Topics

- Reasons For Being An LC Official
- Rule of Two
- Safety
- Equipment
- The Playing Surface
- Three-Official System
- Face-Offs
- Goal Crease
- Technical Infractions
- Penalty Shots
- Signals
- Shot Clock
- What Makes A Great Official
- Communication
- Abuse of Officials
- Written Exam

The Rule of Two

- A policy to protect both minor aged, and adult, participants.
- How to abide by the Rule of Two:
  - the first Official to arrive uses the Official's room to change immediately
  - the second Official to arrive uses the Official's room to change while the first Official waits outside the Official's room
  - once both Officials are changed, they should then meet just outside the Official's room for their pre-game meeting
  - Officials may lock their belongings in the Official's room but cannot use the room at the same time to dress or meet
  - following a game, if you feel it is unsafe to be alone outside the Official's room, invite another adult to the Officials room

Safety

Unsafe Playing Surface

How Am I Involved?

Safety (Unsafe Playing Surface)

- What do I do with an unsafe playing surface?
  - you will need to ensure that the playing surface is safe to play on, if it is not:
    - speak to the arena attendant and see if the issue can be fixed
    - if it cannot be fixed, call your OIC and inform them of the situation and cancel the game if you are advised to
    - if you are unable to contact your OIC or assignor, you make the call on the game
    - if the game is cancelled, you will need to submit an arena report at your earliest opportunity
    - for any arena issues, please fill out an “Arena Condition Report” found under the Reports menu item on the ALRA website

Safety (How Am I Involved?)

- How am I involved with player safety?
  - pre-game coach's "check-in"
  - removal of obvious unapproved equipment
  - ensuring all equipment is worn properly when players are on the floor
  - if you see equipment not being used/worn properly, inform the respective coach

Equipment

Player

Approved Helmet

Goalkeeper

Equipment (Player)

- What equipment is a player required to wear?
  - helmet with attached facemask and chinstrap
  - intraoral mouthguard
  - lacrosse gloves
  - chest pad / shoulder pads
  - back / kidney / rib pad
  - athletic support (cup / jill)
  - slash guards / elbow pads (recommended but not required)
  - bicep pads (recommended but not required)

Equipment (Approved Helmet)

- What are the requirements of an approved helmet?
  - all straps fastened
  - helmet brim above the eyebrows
  - chinstrap fastened snug under the chin
  - CSA/NOCSAE approved

Equipment (Goalkeeper)

- What equipment is a goalkeeper required to wear and how must it be worn?
  - helmet with attached facemask, chinstrap, and throat guard (not just a throat guard anymore)
  - intraoral mouthguard
  - gloves
  - chest pad
  - pants
  - leg pads
  - athletic support (cup or jill)
  - equipment must conform to the shape of the body
  - jersey cannot cover the 7 hole or make gussets (wings) under the arms

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The Playing Surface

Know the terminology

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The Playing Surface (Terminology)

- Change Areas (home & away)
- Restraining Lines (attacking & defending)
- Zones (attacking, defensive, and neutral (center))
- Goal Creases
- Goal Line
- Face-Off Dot
- Officials Crease

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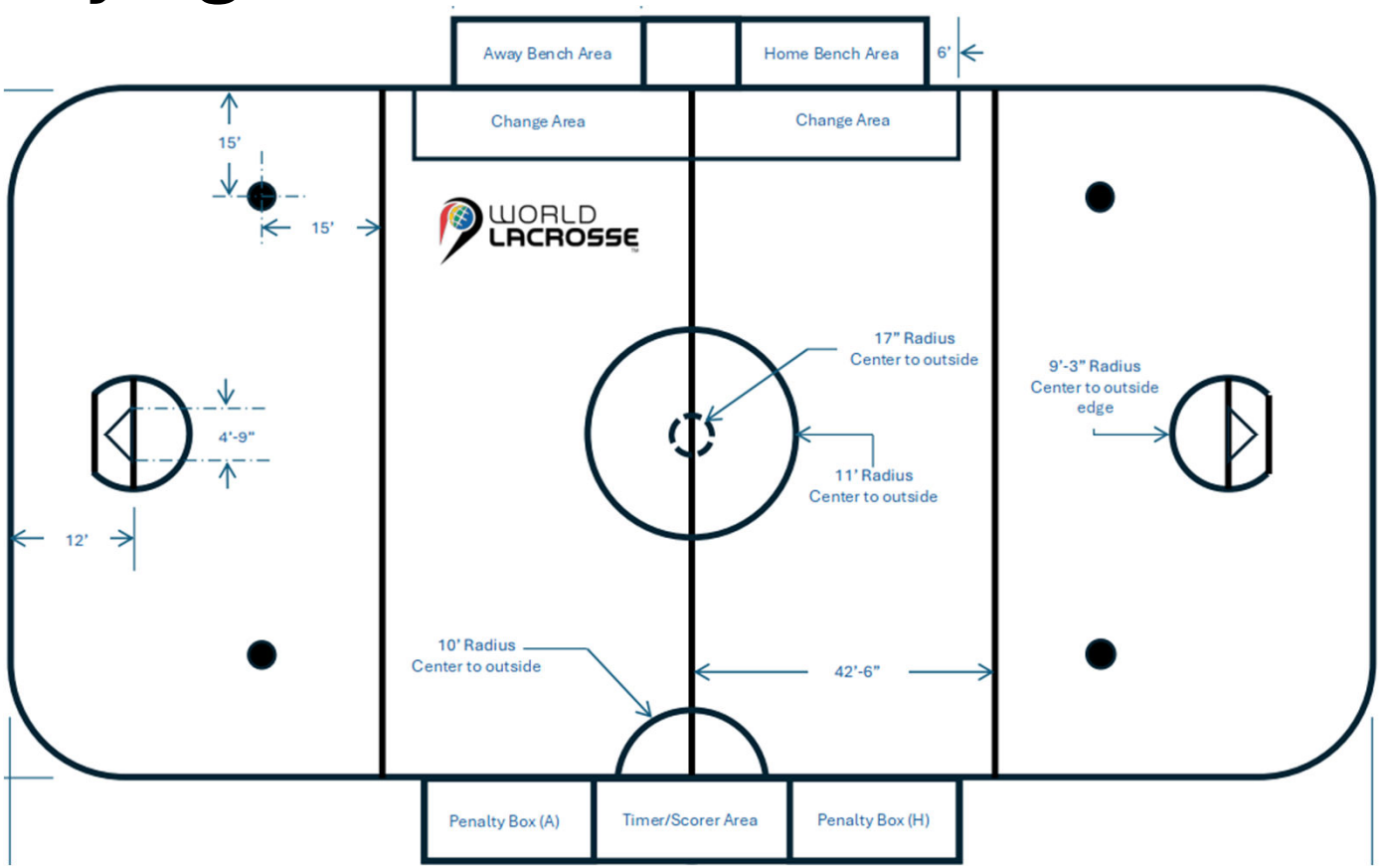
The Playing Surface



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Three-Official System

Positioning

Floor Coverage

Transitioning

Post-Goal Mechanics

Post-Penalty Mechanics

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Three-Official System (Positioning)

- Provides additional coverage in areas that are “often missed”
- Comes with specified areas of responsibility
- Comes with added expectations … another set of eyes should reduce the number of misses
- Has dedicated mechanics for the Lead Official (LO) Single Side Official (SSO) and the Trail Official (TO) in all circumstances.

Three-Official System (Positioning)

- The action area is the middle of the floor where most of the “off-ball” infractions occur:
  - late hits
  - moving screens
  - holding, etc
- The 3 Official system is designed to provide coverage to this area on the floor to ensure that penalties/violations are not missed
- The Single Side Official (SSO) and the Trail Official (TO) are largely responsible for fouls occurring in this area during settled offensive situations

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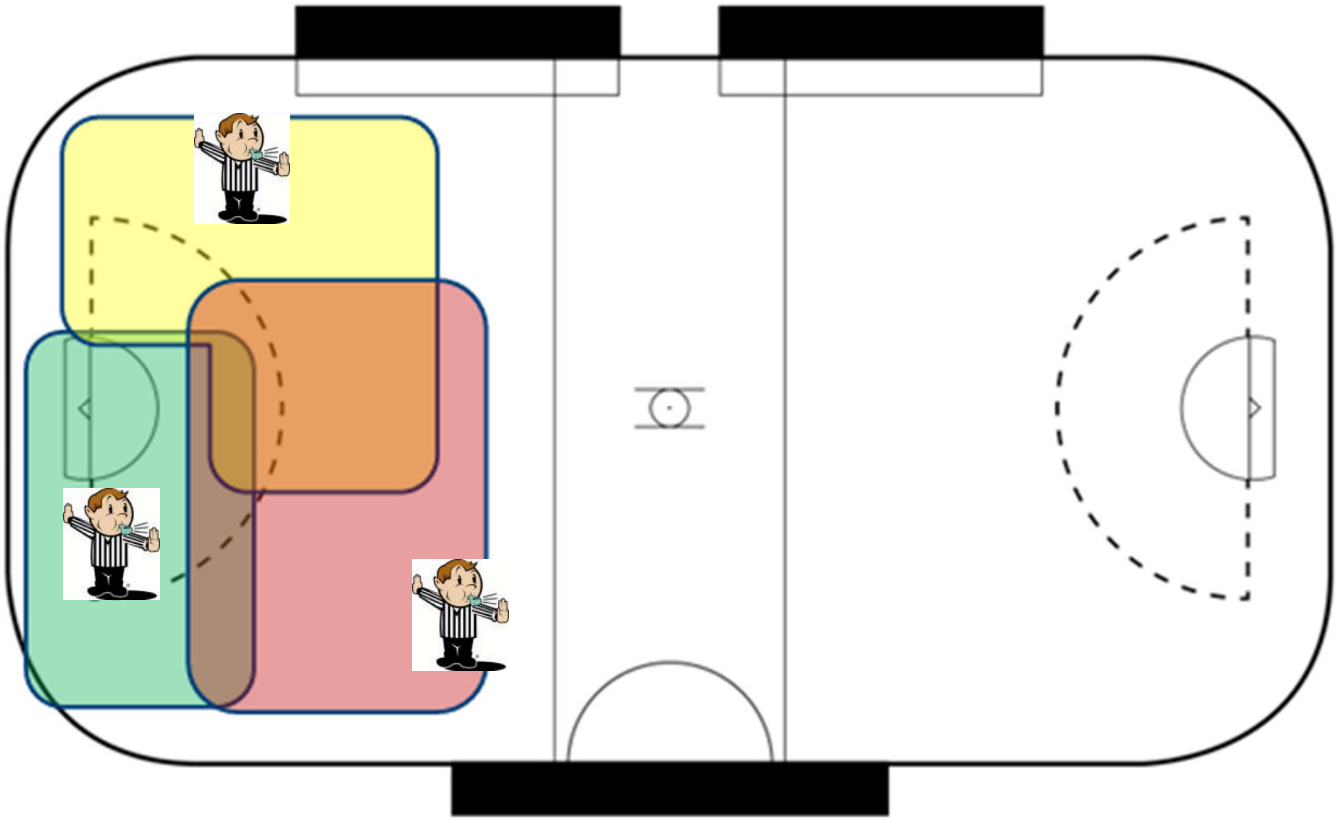
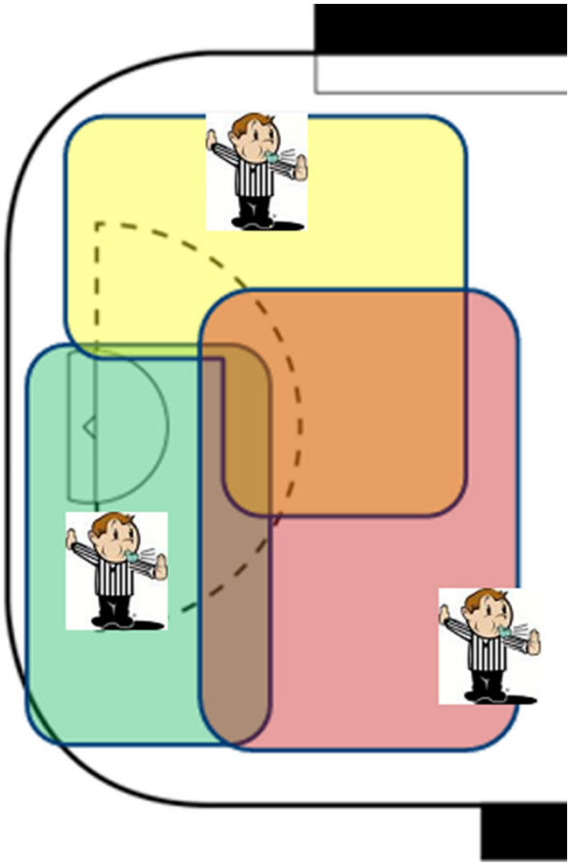
Three-Official System (Floor Coverage)



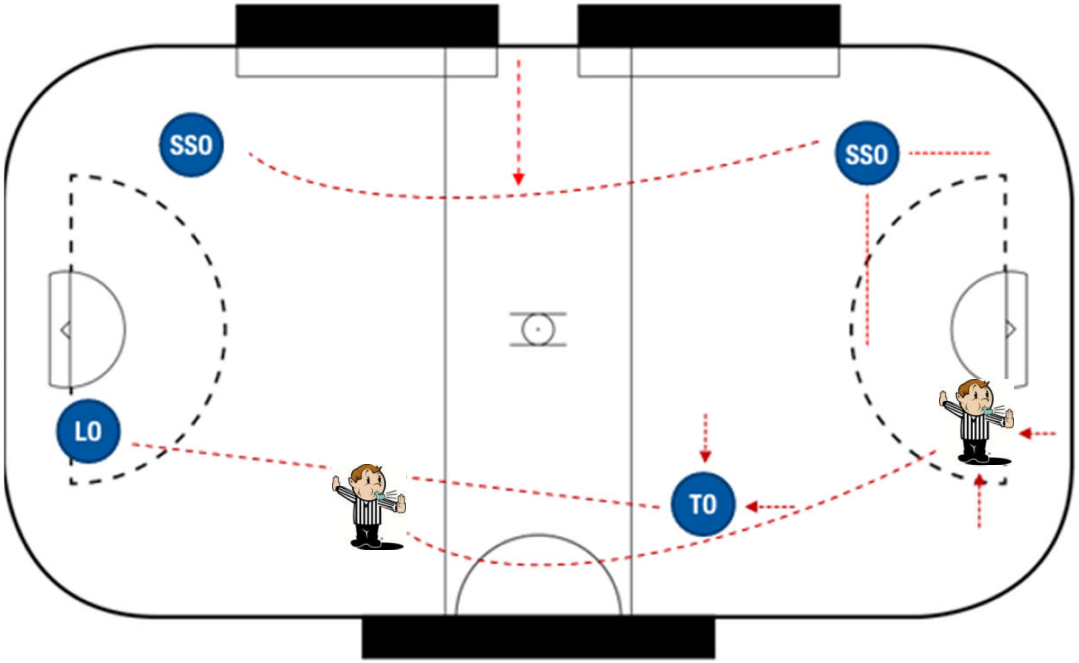
Three-Official System (Floor Coverage)

- Lead Official (LO)
  - positioned 1-2 steps above GLE, in close proximity to the crease to created the best possible sightlines relative the play
- Single Side Official (SSO)
  - positioned at a 45 degree angle to the closest post about 12 feet above the top of the crease
- Trail Official (TO)
  - Positioned nearer to the side boards to create a wide angle that allows for sightlines through players



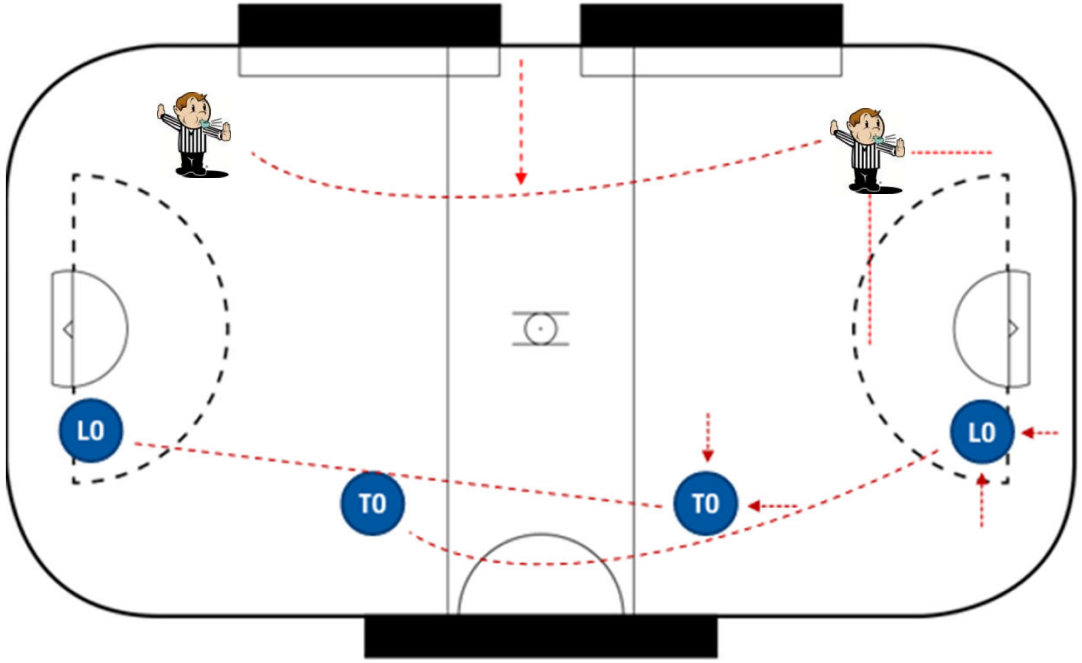
Three-Official System (Transitioning)

- TO to LO:
  - curved running pattern with body open to the floor, settling into LO position ahead of the first player



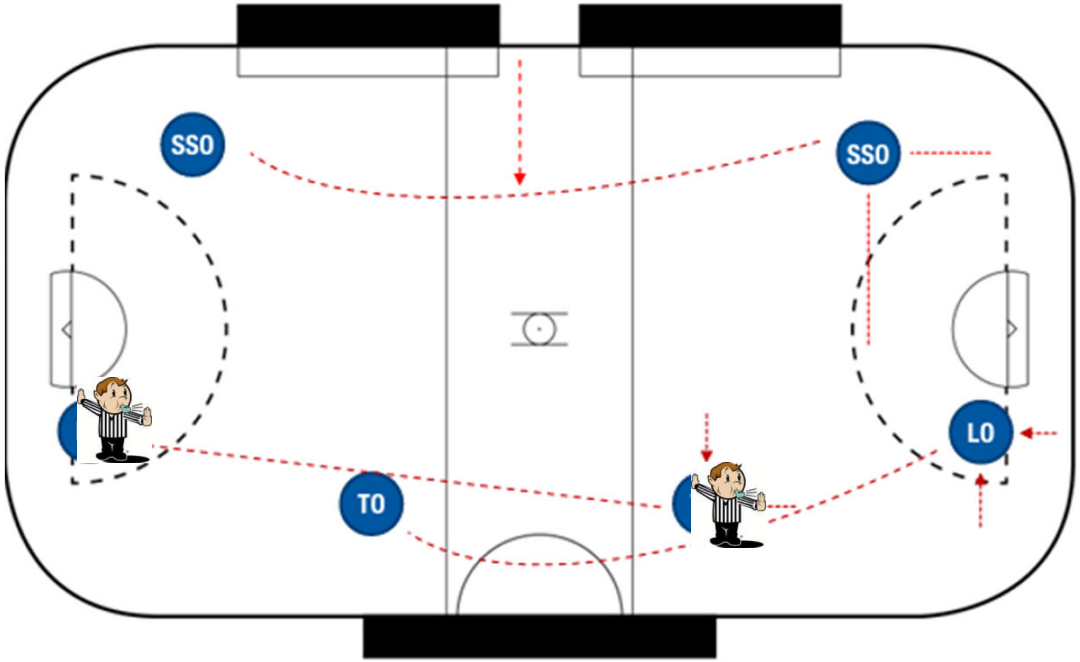
Three-Official System (Transitioning)

- SSO:
  - in pursuit of the play, arcs away from the bench, running slightly behind the ball-carrier



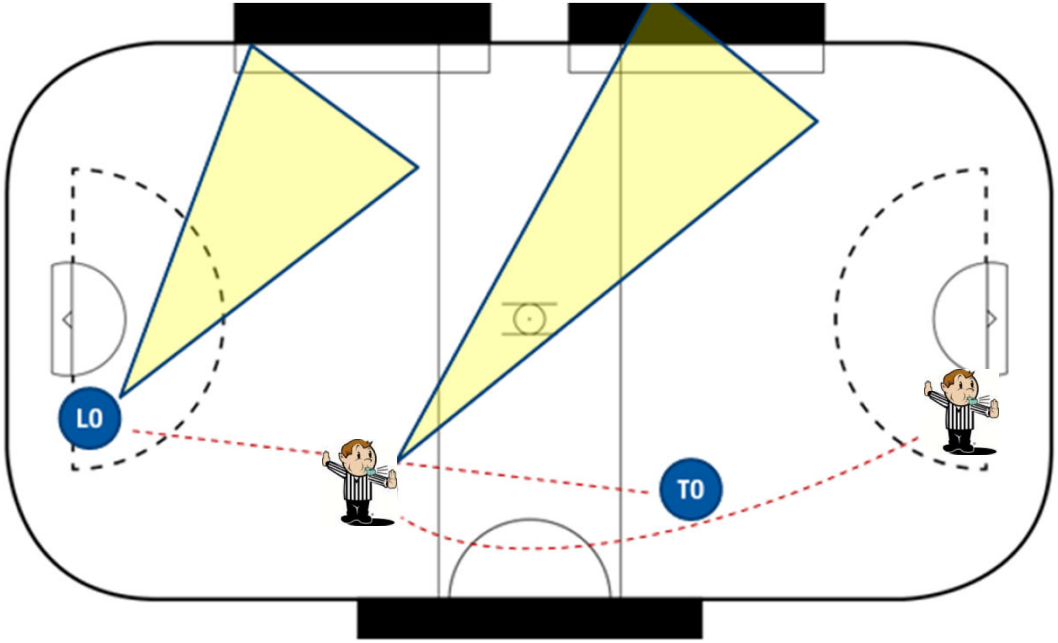
Three-Official System (Transitioning)

- LO to TO:
  - straightened running up the floor just behind the last player



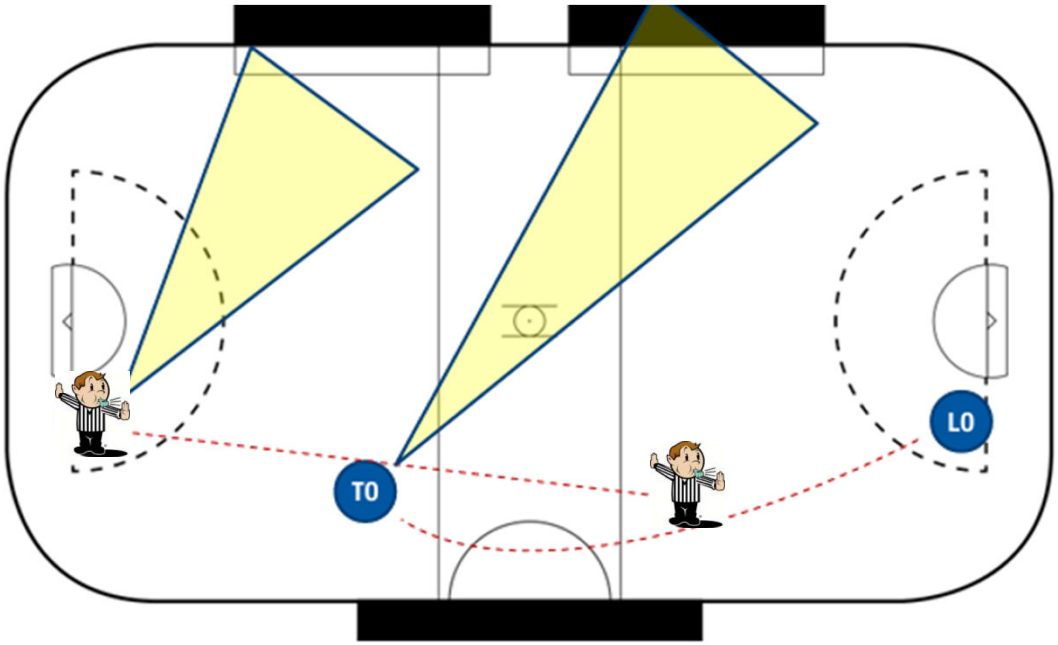
Three-Official System (Transitioning)

- TO to LO:
  - responsible for their nearest bench, ahead of the first player



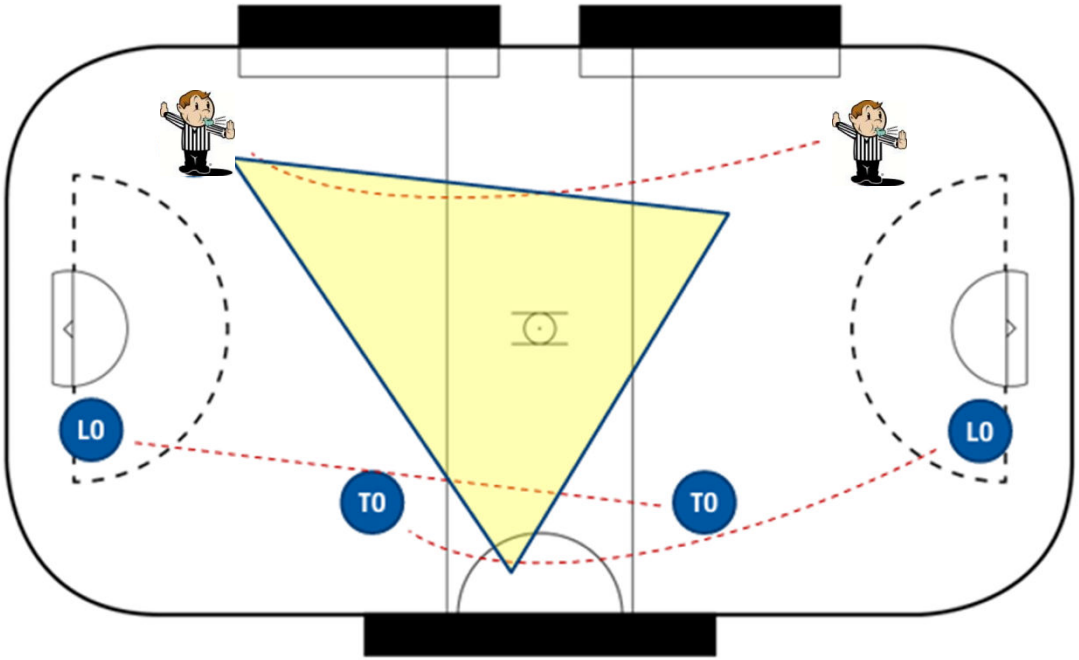
Three-Official System (Transitioning)

- LO to TO:
  - responsible for their nearest bench, behind the last player



Three-Official System (Transitioning)

- SSO:
  - responsible for the on-ball activity moving up the floor in pursuit of the play



Three-Official System (Post-Goal Mechanics)

- Lead Official (LO) to Single Side Official (SSO):
  - retrieves the ball and goes to the face-off
  - always faces the same direction regardless of which net has been scored on (easy exit side)
- Single Side Official (SSO)
  - immediately goes to the goal celebration area
  - moves with players to the benches watching for infractions
  - goes to the furthest restraining line from the goal that was just scored on
- Trail Official (TO)
  - moves to the middle of the floor until LO presents the ball
  - once ball is presented, TO goes to report the goal to timekeepers
  - goes to the restraining line of goal that was just scored on

Three-Official System (Post-Penalty Mechanics)

- Calling Official to Trail Official (TO)
  - Official who calls the penalty takes the penalty to the box, reports the penalty, and then restarts play
  - does not start play until penalty time is on the clock
- Non-Calling Officials
  - set up as LO and SSO as required in a way where all players are in view peripherally
  - must be of coverage at the benches, creases, etc. as the situation demands
  - awareness of the game clock is important ensuring we start play as soon as the penalty is posted

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Face-Offs

Purpose

Requirements

Violations

Contesting the Ball

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Face-Offs (Purpose)

- What is the purpose of a face-off?
  - understated importance of the game (you need the ball to score)
  - provides a neutral possession

Face-Offs (Requirements)

- What are the requirements of the players taking the face-off?
  - players facing-off shall stand on the same side of the centerline of the floor as the goal each is defending (right shoulder to their goalie)
  - their sticks should be resting on the floor along the centerline
  - both hands and feet of each player facing-off must be to the left of the throat of the stick
  - the hands of each face-off player must:
    - be on the handle of the stick
    - must be touching the floor
    - must not touch any strings
  - their feet may not touch the stick

Face-Offs (Requirements) continued

- What are the requirements of the players taking the face-off?
  - no portion of either stick may touch
  - nor may either player be in contact with their opponent's body by encroaching in their opponent's territory
  - the walls of the stick must be approximately 8 inches apart touching the floor
  - the sticks must be placed so that they are parallel to the centerline
  - the players facing-off must keep their feet behind the center line
  - once the players have assumed their respective positions, the Official conducting the face-off shall say "set"
  - players must remain motionless until the whistle is blown

Face-Offs (Violations)

- What are common face-off violations?
  - movement by any player facing-off after the “set” command
  - when the ball is stuck in the back of a player’s stick upon facing-off
  - stepping on or kicking of an opponent’s stick shall be illegal
  - if a player gains possession on a face-off with the ball in the reverse side of the stick, and fails to move, rake, or direct it (to a teammate or themself) and takes more than one step, a face-off violation has occurred
  - if a player lined up on the restraining line steps on or crosses the restraining line before the whistle blows
  - when there are coincidental multiple violations (e.g. at the restraining line and face-off spot) the face-off violation shall determine possession

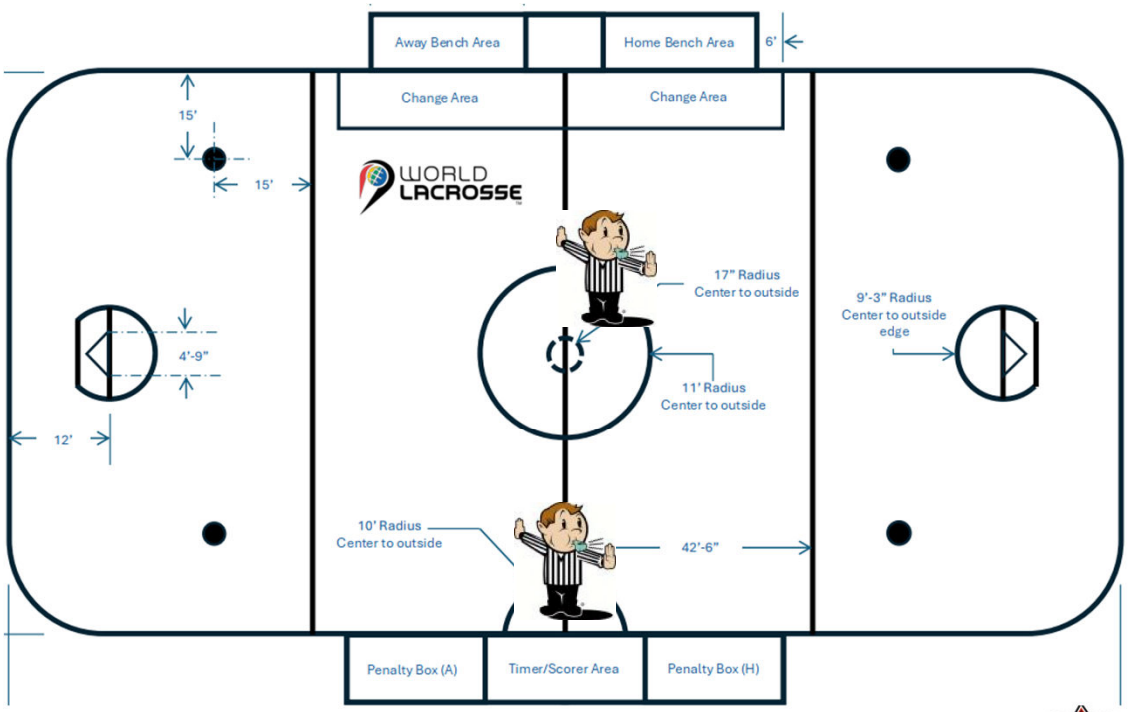
Face-Offs (Responsibilities 2 Officials)

Responsibilities of Official 1:

- face-off and face-off infractions
- becomes the Trail Official (TO)

Responsibilities of Official 2:

- restraining line violations
- follows the direction of the ball
- becomes the Lead Official (LO)



Face-Offs (Responsibilities 3 Officials)

Responsibilities of Official 1:

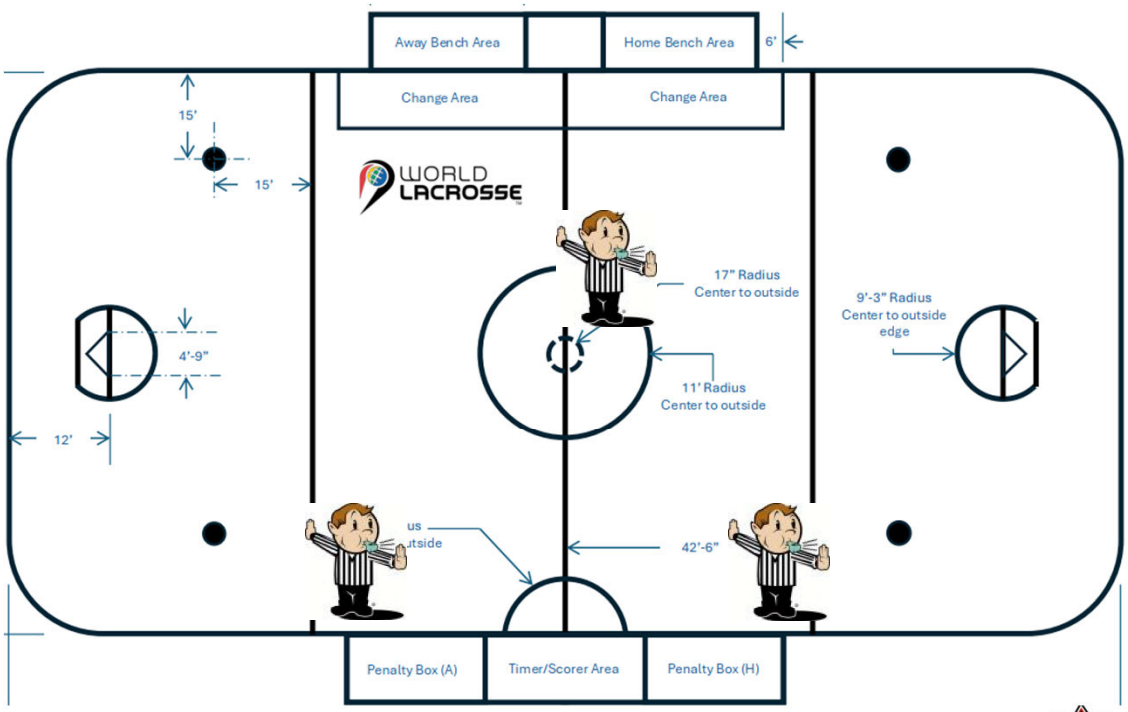
- face-off and face-off infractions
- becomes Single Side Official (SSO)

Responsibilities of Official 2:

- restraining line violations
- becomes Lead (LO) or Trail (TO) depending on which way the ball goes

Responsibilities of Official 3:

- restraining line violations
- becomes Lead (LO) or Trail (TO) depending which way the ball goes



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Goal Crease

Infractions

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Definition
  - a crease infraction occurs of members of either team violate the privileges as described in rules 8.9 and 8.10
  - the result of infractions can range from a technical turnover (possession) to time-served penalties
  - the crease line is considered inside the crease

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Attacking player in the crease
  - an attacking player in possession of the ball, is in violation of the crease if any part of their body is on the line or inside the crease
  - a player who is in contact on the crease line, or in the crease, with their stick only is not in violation of this rule.

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Attacking player first touch/interfere after shot on goal
  - if an attacking player by their own momentum, after taking a shot on goal or making a pass, steps into the crease and then immediately out, is not in violation of the goal crease area provided the attacking player is not the first to touch the ball and does not directly interfere with any opposing player who is attempting to pick up the ball

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Attacking player in/through the crease to gain an advantage
  - an attacking player who is in contact in the opposing crease and exits, thereby gaining an advantage as deemed by the discretion of the Official, and makes contact with the ball or directly interferes with an opposing player who is attempting to pick up the ball, is in violation of the crease and possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team
  - an attacking player who is not in possession of the ball but is in contact with the opposing crease, and then exits the crease and is the first to receive a pass immediately after exiting the crease, is in violation of the crease and possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Attacking player in/through the crease to gain an advantage on defender
  - an attacking player who is in contact with the opposing crease and exits, thereby gaining an advantage as deemed by the discretion of the Official, and initiates contact on an opponent who has possession of the ball, is in violation of the crease and will be assessed **a delay of game minor penalty**

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Non-shooter in the crease when a teammate shoots
  - a non-shooter who is in the opposing crease must vacate the crease by establishing body contact on the floor outside the crease, with no part of the body contacting inside the crease, prior to the ball crossing the plane of the goal for a goal to be awarded

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Contact with the Goalkeeper
  - a crease violation occurs when contact is made between the attacking player, and/or their stick, and the goalkeeper while the attacking player is in the crease
  - it is not a crease violation when a goalkeeper reaches out with their stick and makes contact with an attacker who is in the crease
  - the attacking player is in violation of the crease when that attacking player, while in the crease, makes contact with a defender, and as a result the defender then makes contact with the goalkeeper
  - incidental contact, at the discretion of the Official, by an attacker who is in the act of shooting on a goalkeeper, and then makes contact with the goalkeeper's body or stick, which in no way affects the ability of the goalkeeper to attempt to make a save or play on the ball, shall not result in a crease violation provided the ball enters the goal

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Contact with the Goalkeeper (continued)
  - if the ball does not enter the goal from the attacker shooting, and contact is made within the crease between the goalkeeper and the shooter, play will be stopped immediately and possession awarded to the non-offending team
  - at the discretion of the Official, the attacker and goalkeeper may be subject to a penalty as per Rule 8.12, “Contact on goalkeeper initiated by attacker and contact initiated by goalkeeper”
  - an attacking player who makes incidental contact with the goal posts and or mesh shall not constitute a crease violation

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Attacking player and the ball in the crease
  - a crease violation occurs when an attacking player is in the crease at the same time as the ball and inhibits, and/or interferes with, the goalkeeper's attempt to retrieve the ball, and/or resume play, and/or perform normal duties of play
  - play shall be stopped immediately and possession awarded to the non - offending team
  - should the attacking player be in the crease at the same time as the ball, and in no way affects the goalkeeper to perform normal duties of play, play shall continue with no crease violation
  - however, should a goal be scored in this scenario it would be disallowed

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Goalkeeper handball
  - a goalkeeper may catch the ball while in their crease (deemed two feet in their crease) with the gloved hand but cannot throw the ball with their hand; the goalkeeper can only put the ball in the stick with their hand and throw with the stick
  - if the goalkeeper throws the ball with their hand, possession shall be awarded to the non-offending team
  - a goalkeeper is permitted to use their hand to drop the ball into a teammates stick within their crease only
  - a goalkeeper cannot use their hand to grasp, touch or hold the ball outside their crease
  - a violation results in possession to the non-offending team

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- No re-entry by a player or goalkeeper
  - it is a crease violation for a player, or goalkeeper, while in possession of the ball outside the crease, to re-enter the goal crease area (back-in)
  - nor may the player or goalkeeper remain in the goal crease area, in possession of the ball, for longer than five (5) seconds

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- No re-entry by the ball
  - a goalkeeper, or a defending player, in the crease is not allowed to make contact with a ball that has been deliberately directed, or passed back, to the crease by a teammate
  - this would include a ball after being deliberately directed hits the dasher board and then enters crease, or a ball that is deliberately directed that rolls through the crease and a goalkeeper, or a defending player in the crease, then makes contact with the ball
  - if a deliberately directed ball is deflected by an offensive player this will not be considered re-entry
  - a defender, while in the crease, is allowed to pick up a non-deliberately directed loose ball outside the crease

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Checking a non-goalkeeper who has possession in the crease
  - when a defending player, other than the goalkeeper, is in their own crease with possession, opposing players may not enter the crease to body-check said player
  - opposing players may check the stick of the ball carrier when said player has two feet in the crease and the ball and stick is outside the crease
  - opposing players may attempt to intercept a pass by said player and stick-on-stick contact is allowed outside the crease
  - violation of this rule shall result in a two (2) minute minor penalty or more serious penalties if warranted

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Ball ensnared in the back of the net (netting)
  - should the ball be continuously contacting or resting on the back of the net (netting), the Official shall stop play and the ball is awarded to the goalkeeper in their crease

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Penalty shot
  - should a player, in their own end, deliberately fall on the ball in their crease, in front of their goal line, or deliberately closes their hand on the ball in the crease in front of their goal line, a penalty shot will be awarded to the non-offending team (see rule 6.9.6)

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Goalkeeper privileges
  - the privileges of the goalkeeper are intended to protect the goalkeeper from injury and afford them the opportunity to perform the functions of a goalkeeper without interference by an opponent
  - violation of this rule will result in a change of possession, a penalty, or the awarding of a penalty shot
  - only a designated goalkeeper as recorded in the official scorebook/game sheet has the privileges of the goalkeeper and crease area
  - should there be six (6) players from the same team on the floor (outside of the crease) without a designated goalkeeper, then no one has the privileges of the goal, goalkeeper and/or the crease

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Goalkeeper privileges (continued)
  - within their own goal crease area, the designated goalkeeper may stop or block the ball in any manner with their lacrosse stick or body
  - they may block, catch, pickup, or bat the ball away with their hand
  - the goalkeeper, or defending player, after gaining control of the ball, has four (5) seconds to either pass the ball out of the crease or to vacate the crease
  - when a goalkeeper leaves the goal crease area, they lose all goalkeeper privileges and protection of the crease
  - should the goalkeeper proceed up the floor with the ball, they may be checked like any other player
  - however, they cannot be “charged” or “slashed”, or unnecessarily roughed up

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Contact with the goalkeeper in the crease
  - if the goalkeeper has two feet in the crease, possession of the ball in their stick, and both stick and ball are outside of the crease, they may not be checked
  - if a defender makes contact with the goalkeeper's stick while the goalkeeper still has possession of the ball during an outlet pass, and while the goalkeeper is in their crease (deemed two feet in their crease), **the defender will receive a minor penalty for goalkeeper interference**
  - if the ball is clamped outside the crease by the goalkeeper, a player may rake under the goalkeeper's stick

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Contact on the goalkeeper initiated by the attacking player
  - if an attacking player, in the act of diving or jumping into the crease, physically initiates contact with the goalkeeper, and the ball enters the goal, the goal will be disallowed, and an appropriate penalty will be assessed to the attacker
  - incidental contact by an attacker in the act of shooting on a goalkeeper with the body or stick, which in no way affects the ability of the goalkeeper to attempt to make a save or play the ball shall not be penalized
  - the Official, based on the severity of the infraction, may assess:
    - a minor penalty
    - a major penalty
    - a major penalty and game misconduct
    - a match penalty

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Contact initiated by the goalkeeper
  - a player of the attacking side is physically interfered with by contact solely initiated by the goalkeeper, the attacker shall not receive a penalty for goalkeeper interference
  - the goalkeeper may be subject to a penalty
  - should the ball enter the goal after this contact has been made, provided there is no crease violation, the goal shall be allowed

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Time and distance between the shot and contact on the goalkeeper initiated by the attacking player
  - if a legal shot is taken, and the ball enters the net, and the shooter then enters the crease and contacts the goalkeeper, the goal shall be awarded provided the goalkeeper has time and distance to play the shot, the ball enters the goal long before the contact is made, and the ball enters the goal before the shooter enters the crease
  - a penalty to the attacker can be assessed if avoidable contact is made

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Contact initiated by the defender on an attacker into the crease
  - if a player of the attacking side is illegally interfered with by the action of a defending player, so as to cause them to be in the goal crease, and the ball should enter the net while the player so interfered with is still in the goal crease, the goal shall be allowed
  - a defender, who illegally interferes with an attacker while the attacker is in the act of diving or jumping into the crease, resulting in contact on the goalkeeper solely because of the defender's actions, the defender shall be assessed appropriate penalties and the goal shall count
  - at the discretion of the Official, if the attacking player is fouled causing them to be in the crease and the attacking player does not use their best efforts to immediately vacate the crease, and a goal was scored, the goal shall not be allowed

Goal Crease (Infractions)

- Avoidable contact by an attacker on the goalkeeper
  - a penalty shall be assessed to a player of the attacking side who, having been interfered with, fails to avoid making contact with the goalkeeper
  - unavoidable contact by the attacker will be penalized

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Technical Infractions

Possession Calls

Injuries

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Technical Infractions (Possession Calls)

- Technical infractions include:
  - crease violations
  - illegal screen
  - illegal procedure
  - injuries
  - loose ball push (on the back)
  - minor interference
  - offensive interference
  - offensive ward off
  - touching the ball with your hand
  - withholding the ball from play

Injuries (Who Gets Possession)

- Who gets possession?
  - blue team has possession … blue team's player is injured:
    - blue team keeps possession (no reset on the shot clock)
  - red team has possession … blue team's player is injured:
    - red team keeps possession (no reset on the shot clock)
  - neither team has possession (ball is loose) … either team's player is injured:
    - face-off at center
  - **the injured player may not return to the floor until after the next non-technical stoppage of play (breach of this rule is a minor penalty)**

Penalty Shots

Criteria

Offences That Lead to Penalty Shots

Penalty Shots (Criteria)

- What is the criteria for a penalty shot?
  - a penalty shot is designed to restore a scoring opportunity which was lost as a result of a foul being committed by the offending team, based on the parameters as set out in these rules
  - any dressed player on the offended team may take the penalty shot
  - regardless of the outcome of a penalty shot, play we will restart with a face-off at center

Penalty Shots (Offences)

- What type of offences can result in a penalty shot?
  - a team is down two players and an additional penalty to a third player is assessed
  - there is insufficient playing time left when an illegal substitution penalty is assessed
  - throwing the stick
  - crease violation
  - holding
  - tripping
  - intentional displacement of the goal on a breakaway
  - illegally entering the game and interfering with the ball carrier on a breakaway

Penalty Shots (Offences)

- Insufficient playing time when illegal substitution penalty assessed
  - if by reason of insufficient playing time remaining, or by reason of penalties already imposed, and a bench minor is imposed for illegal substitution (too many players), which cannot be served in its entirety within the legal playing time, or at any time in overtime, the non-offending team shall be awarded a penalty shot

Penalty Shots (Offences)

- Throwing the stick
  - when any member of the defending team, including anyone on the bench, deliberately throws or shoots any part of a stick or any other object, at the ball or ball carrier on a breakaway or an attacker attempting to pick up a loose ball, the referee shall allow the play to be completed and if a goal is not scored, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team

Penalty Shots (Offences)

- Breakaway definition
  - a player with a **breakaway** is defined as a player in control of the ball immediately transitioning from defense to offense with an unobstructed path to the goal and a reasonable scoring opportunity
  - this shall be the definition of a breakaway

Penalty Shots (Offences)

- Crease
  - should a player, in their own end, deliberately fall on the ball in their crease in front of the goal line, or deliberately close their hand on the ball in their crease in front of the goal line, a penalty shot will be awarded to the non-offending team
  - see rule 8.10.16

Signals

New Signals

Signals (Technical)

30 Second Violation

10 Second Violation

Signals (Technical)

Time Out

Ball Out of Bounds

Signals (Technical)

Illegal Screen

Loose Ball Push

Signals (Technical)

Withholding

Pinning

Signals (Technical)

Goaltender Interference

Penalty Shot

Signals (Technical)

Batting Ball in the Net

Signals (Penalty)

Illegal Substitution

Intentional Dead Ball Contact

Signals (Penalty)

Game Misconduct

Fighting

Signals (Penalty)

Face Masking

Head Butting

Signals (Penalty)

Dangerous Contact to the Head

LACROSSE CANADA

Shot Clock

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Shot Clock

- What time counts are somewhat associated with the shot clock?
  - 5 second count (to move the ball out of the crease)
  - 10 second count to clear the ball over the center line during man-down situations for the shorthanded team (U11 – U15)
  - 10 second count to clear the ball over the center line for all possessions regardless of floor strength (for U17 and above)

Shot Clock

- What is the definition of possession?
  - the ball is in the player's stick and they have control ie. they can make a lacrosse play
- What counts as a shot?
  - the shot must originate from the head of the stick while it is in front of goal line extended
- What do I do when there is no functioning shot clock?
  - use a phone or stopwatch, use the game clock
  - time-keeper signal when there is 10 seconds left in the possession and then the Trail Official hand-counts the remaining 10 seconds

What Makes a Great Official

Professionalism

Consistency

Game Management

Use of Voice

Use of the Whistle

Professionalism (Defined)

- Professionalism
  - is the consistent display of ethical behaviour, responsibility, and respect in one's role or field
  - it involves meeting high standards of conduct, communication, and competence regardless of the situation
  - professionals are reliable, accountable, and committed to doing what is right … not what is easy

Professionalism (Importance)

- Why is professionalism important?
  - the better your reputation, the more credibility you will have
  - the stronger our credibility, the easier our job becomes
  - beware the social media trap
    - be aware of the policies in place
    - someone is always looking to affirm their negative suspicions, do not give them the ammunition they are looking for
    - refrain from any negative feedback regarding coaches, players, and especially other Officials!

Consistency

- Bring the same game every game
- When you walk into a room of people that know you, they know what they are getting
- When you run onto the playing surface the players should know what they are getting as you strive to bring the same game to the table each night

Game Management

- Officiate the game, not the score
- Bring the same game every game
- Be proactive
- Expect the unexpected
- Who is playing tonight and is there a history?
  - read
  - review
  - remember
- An important part of Officiating is good communication

Game Management (Awareness)

- Looking and listening
  - every game has its own unique style and rhythm
  - types include chippy, easy, fast, intense, rivalry, slow
  - the Officials are responsible for adapting to the feel of the game
  - some games are low maintenance, while others require plenty of intervention
  - make the calls that NEED to be made and keep the focus on the players and the game itself as much as possible

Game Management (Awareness)

- Looking and listening
  - we watch the game as best we can, but some of the best opportunities to pick up on trends, frustrations, or attitudes in the game are to listen in on the players and benches, when possible (stoppages, dead ball situations)
  - the more information we gather, the more appropriate our course of action will be

Game Management (Awareness)

- Constant communication (Officiating crew)
  - when you see or hear things that give you insight into the games going on within the game, SHARE them with your partner(s) at stoppages and period breaks
  - the more we know, the better prepared we can be as the game progresses

Game Management (Anticipation)

- Trends
  - many teams spend the first period trying to “feel out” their opponent and the Officials
  - this will start to show trends in their behaviour, which can allow us to reasonably anticipate and prepare for the evolution of the gameplay as time passes
  - newer players may appear to have a reckless nature about them, so it is important to keep these players in view when you feel they are more likely to commit a foul
  - acting quickly, by using your voice to deter them, can quickly save your game from a major incident

Game Management (Anticipation)

- Red Flags
  - noticing unsportsmanlike/intimidation/provocative behaviour early, and taking action verbally, or with a call, can mitigate or even eliminate emotional outbursts
  - statement calls" making a call on a "borderline" play early in the game will give the teams a boundary to adapt to, and will make penalty calls easier to "sell" later in the game

ONCE YOU SET THIS STANDARD, YOU MUST MAINTAIN THAT STANDARD FOR THE REST OF THE GAME!!

Game Management (Anticipation)

- Timing
  - the optics of an Official “picking on” a team, or trying to “even up the score”, will jeopardize your rapport with the teams, and could lead to one team acting out
  - don’t ruin your own game
  - talking with both teams during gameplay drastically decreases the chances of appearing to favour one team over the other
  - we know that no Official would swing a game, but perception is reality in the eyes of the teams and the fans
  - no one said that perception is accurate or fair but as Officials we must respect this

Game Management (Adaptability)

- Games, trends, and thresholds are dynamic
  - as the intensity increases, Officials must be even more aware of all of the factors at play before making calls that could adversely affect the outcome of the game
  - we must be able to adapt to the feel of each game, because no two games are exactly alike
  - disparity in skill is a major contributor to a variable standard of play

Game Management (Adaptability)

- Consequences of calls versus non-calls
  - before you decide on making a call, consider the impact your call will have on the game
  - although an action may technically violate a rule, a perfectly placed non-call may be the best course of action
  - **this is for technical infractions only … NEVER FOR SAFETY CALLS**

Game Management (Adaptability)

- Maintaining rapport as intensity increases
  - as game flow changes and as tensions rise, your credibility will be your biggest asset
  - stay calm, be approachable, but do not be pressured into “staying out of it”
  - if someone’s safety, or a scoring opportunity is at risk, you will be respected for making the right call

Game Management (Game within a Game)

- Player to player
  - up to 5 “mini-games” happening at once on the floor at any given time
  - we must be aware of ongoing tension between certain players
  - this will help us justify calls, if needed, but also allow us to deter a situation verbally before it escalates
  - players have endless way of getting into an opponent’s headspace

Game Management (Game within a Game)

- Player to player (continued)
  - Officials must decide on what threshold we can tolerate, while keeping the game's focus on lacrosse, and obeying the rules of sportsmanship and safety
  - being talkative with the players can help with this behaviour
  - "keeping score" between players throughout a game is not a skill that every Official has, however with experience, it can be developed over several years
  - this is not ok in minor lacrosse … call what needs to be called

Game Management (Game within a Game)

- Benches
  - chatter from the benches is an inevitable part of this passionate game
  - talk from the benches may be directed at teammates, the opposing team, or the Officials
  - it is important to know where the line is between “feeling out” an Official and abuse
  - abusive behaviour, regardless if profanity or title is used must be addressed and penalized if not rectified
  - there is no reason for an Official to be distracted from the play by way of talk from the bench
  - use the stop sign and a stern warning to coaches who persistently demand your attention during dynamic play and/or stoppages

Game Management (Game within a Game)

- Official “Head Games”
  - Officiating from the bench >> this is an entry level tactic attempting to publicly make the Official look incompetent or complacent
  - do not tolerate this behaviour
  - instruct the coach to stop immediately and then assess a bench minor penalty if the behaviour persists
  - there is no reason to justify a minor penalty or technical infraction to a captain
  - a good standard to follow is to always take a second to explain major penalties, and do not entertain repeated questions regarding minor penalties

Game Management (Keep the game moving)

- Dangers of “dead-ball” time
  - the situation with the highest risk for an Official is during a dead ball
  - with no ball in play, players are left to loiter with their opponents giving them a perfect opportunity to engage in head game, or take cheap shots while the Officials may be busy and looking elsewhere
  - the best deterrent for this is to keep the dead ball time to an absolute minimum

Game Management (Keep the game moving)

- Center of attention
  - we want to keep the focal point of the game on the ball as much as possible
  - lengthy stoppages and frequent conversations with players/coaches will heighten suspicion of an Official's competency and confidence
  - don't let yourself become the center of attention
  - the more focus an Official gets, the harder their job is
  - make calls quickly, and restart play as soon as possible (without compromising safety and fairness)

Game Management (Keep the game moving)

- Penalty administration
  - if you are not reporting the penalty, get to your restart position quickly and keep all players in your line of sight
  - report penalties to the minor officials with assertiveness and big/bold signals
  - this allows the minor officials to quickly get the penalty on the clock and limits the chance of a captain asking for clarification on your call
  - DO NOT start play without making eye contact with your partner first
  - double restarts make the Officiating crew look unprofessional
  - clear, efficient penalty administration is one of the fastest ways to build respect and rapport with everyone involved in the game

Game Management

- The Official's communication with participants and others is undertaken in a variety of ways which include:
  - voice - communicating decisions/rulings
  - whistle - communicating to participants to do something
  - indications - communicating a decision nonverbally
  - body language - communicating a feeling/emotion

LACROSSE CANADA

Communication

Optics

Gameplay

Selling Calls

Mistakes

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Communication

- Optics
  - perception is reality for teams, coaches, and spectators
  - if we are seen as calm, objective, approachable, and engaged, the chances of the arena turning on you are significantly decreased

Communication

- Gameplay
  - verbal and non-verbal communication during dynamic play are your best tools for governing a smooth, safe and fair game
  - examples include
    - talking out loose balls and off-ball play
    - being in the right position
    - running hard ie high effort level
    - giving clear directions and explanations
  - the more consistently you communicate during a game, the less likely it is that serious incidents will occur

Communication

- Selling Calls
  - selling calls is somewhat of an art form
  - big clear signals, great positioning, and assertive voice/body language all contribute to effective selling of a call
  - this is especially important when calls are close or can adversely affect the outcome of a game
  - can you sell a crease/goal call from the restraining line with a weak signal and timid body language?

Communication

- Mistakes
  - although it may seem counter-intuitive, **Officials must own blatant mistakes right away**
  - correct the situation immediately and resume play as soon as possible
  - you do not need to apologize … just own it and say you will try to do better
  - this kind of integrity will go along way in earning the respect and rapport of teams, coaches and fellow Officials
  - some coaches in higher levels do know the game better than we do and trying to fool them will only burn us as Officials, in the end

LACROSSE CANADA

The Circle Of Influence

Positioning creates presence and reduces the chances of violating rules.

Easily our most valuable tool after positioning to help guide players to better choices.

Ensure to follow this sequence when enforcing rules of the game. If we aren't in position, and we don't use our voice, we will have to make more calls, and the game will not run as smoothly.

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Voice

- Before you need to use your whistle, use your voice.
  - be proactive in your communication ie. if you can talk a player out of a penalty, or technical infraction … do it
  - loose ball battles … use your voice to let the players know you are there and when the ball is gone
  - verbal warnings help sell penalty calls
  - players, and coaches, will appreciate the communication

Whistle

- What is the value in a good whistle?
  - it should immediately stop play
  - draws all attention in the arena to the Official who blew their whistle
  - there are different types of whistles for different situations

LACROSSE CANADA

Abuse Of Officials

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Abuse Of Officials

- How do I administer Unsportsmanlike Conduct (USC) penalties to players?
  - minor penalty
  - misconduct penalty (10-minute without a minor associated with it)
  - game misconduct for second 10-minute misconduct, or continuing to act out after the first 10-minute misconduct
- How do I administer USC penalties to non-playing personnel?
  - talk first … bench minor … game misconduct (Head Coach)
  - bench minor … game misconduct (all other bench personnel)
  - you must submit a game report and ensure the game misconduct is recorded properly on the game sheet

Abuse Of Officials

- What impact can I have on Abuse of Officials?
  - contributing to the new standard of showing that abusing Officials is not acceptable
  - setting the tone for the next Official the coaches may see
  - contributing to either escalating emotions or smoothing out emotions
- What are the consequences of Abusing Officials?
  - greater than 55% attrition rate annually (two Officials join, at least one of the them quits)
  - poor reputation for the sport

Abuse Of Officials

- Who is available to support me in cases of Abuse of Officials?
  - your partner for that particular game (talk after the game or during intermission)
  - your OIC or Assignor(s)
  - members of the ALRA Executive and Board

LACROSSE CANADA

Written Exam

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Written Exam

- Reminder that you registered for a specific material review/exam date and time
- Please ensure that you are on time and prepared with any questions you may have
- During the review, we will address any questions the group may have as well as go over the game sheet, game sheet entries, and game sheet responsibilities
- After going through this clinic material, and watching the game sheet video, you should be prepared to do your D2/D3 Exam

Written Exam

- The exam itself is a critical learning tool, not just a formality
- When taking your exam, please take your time and read questions thoroughly
- The multiple-choice exam will test your rule knowledge and your understanding of certain situations

Please Remember

- We are the 3rd team on the floor
- It is the player's game, not ours
- Strive to improve every game
- Always ask questions of senior Officials
- Making mistakes is how you will learn (and you are going to make mistakes) … All we ask is that you **learn** from your mistakes

Have fun and enjoy yourself!!

More Information

- If you require more information on being an Official, please visit the Lacrosse Canada website (lacrosse.ca) or the Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association website (alra.ca)
- If you are unable to find what you are looking for at either of those websites, please contact the appropriate member of your ALRA Board of Directors
- All ALRA BoD emails can be found on the ALRA website under the 2026 Board of Directors link on the home page