



# **Indoor Lacrosse 2019 Rule Change Proposals**

**General Assembly  
Peterborough, Ontario Canada  
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## Introduction

This document contains the Indoor Lacrosse rule change proposals for review, consideration and approval by the members at the General Assembly August 2019 – Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

The Indoor Rules Committee was not seated at the time, so a working group was created and approved by Don Blacklock – Technical Director.

<b>Working Group Composition</b>		
Tom Sutton	Working Group Chair / Men’s Officiating Chair	USA
Sean Gibson	Chair – Athletes Commission	Ireland
Greg Hart	RIC – 2017 European Box Lacrosse Championship	Canada
Christian Geschke	Men’s Rules Committee Member	Germany
Brent Columbe	Men’s Indoor Official	Canada
Brent McCauley	2019 WILC Referee-In-Chief	Canada
Kevin Forrester	World Lacrosse /NLL Referee	USA
Poly Polacek	World Lacrosse Indoor Referee	Czech Rep

The Indoor Rules Working Group were asked to recognize the historic past and honor the traditions but understand that success depends on embracing the future. The Working Group identified opportunities to provide increased player and officials safety, pace of play and where possible without losing the uniqueness of indoor lacrosse they looked to harmonize the rules with those of Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse to simplify the journeys for players, officials and fans alike. The Indoor Rules Working Group considered rules that have been adopted in the past two years by the North American professional National Lacrosse League and Canadian Lacrosse. Where considered complimentary to the “international game” these have been put forward for approval. They considered changes which would increase appeal to a wider audience, or how the rules could be simplified in order that they are easier to understand and translate to languages other than English as well as how they could be more easily applied in the context of a game. These tenants will continue to be the recurring themes that will shape rule changes into the future.

As such there are a number of changes to be considered at this GA, many of which are minor and do not have a material impact to the playing of the game, whilst others can be considered more major in nature and will require some changes to how the game is played and officiated. Each proposed rule change shows the current rule, rationale for change and the proposed wording of the new/revised rule. The wording of the rules has not been changed to reflect the recent organizational change from FIL to World Lacrosse. These changes will be made when the 2020 Rule Book is updated and published. Please ignore Rule Changes numbered **8/9/10**, as these are redundant having been previously approved by the membership in a postal vote in 2018 and have only been maintained here for numbering and tracking purposes.

To simplify voting at the General Assembly, a number of rules may be consolidated and voted on at the same time. Rule changes which may be considered as “major” changes will be voted on individually. Members will be advised at the General Assembly of the suggested approach and can advise if they would like to address individual rules which can then be voted on separately.



When approved, the changes will take effect from January 1, 2020, where at such time all World Lacrosse approved competitions shall use these rules. Member nations are free to implement rules that best suit their domestic competitions; however, it is advised that members shall consider the integrity of the game and the safety of players and officials when making any changes to the approved World Lacrosse Rules.

We thank you in advance for your interest and involvement in helping to shape rules to grow and develop lacrosse now, and into the future. Should you have any questions or require further clarification in the first instance please contact Brent Nowicki – World Lacrosse Rules Chair [bnowicki@worldlacrosse.sport](mailto:bnowicki@worldlacrosse.sport) or myself.

**Don Blacklock**  
**World Lacrosse**  
**Technical Director**  
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Rule Change Proposal #1	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 1.2.1	Goal mooring system	Eliminate requirement of mooring device and add orange as possible goal post color

**Present Rule:**

GOAL DIMENSIONS - Each goal shall consist of two vertical posts (goal posts) joined by a rigid top crossbar. These goal posts shall be four feet, nine inches (4' 9") apart, and the top crossbar shall be four feet (4') from the playing surface, all inside dimensions. The goals shall be centered relative to the width of the playing surface. The goal posts and the goal line shall be placed twelve feet (12') from the end of the enclosure, the end boards. The goal posts and crossbar shall be made of one and one half-inch (1 ½") metal pipes, also measured as two-inch (2") nominal outside diameter, and must be painted red. A magnetic net mooring system should be used for all games.

**Proposed Change:**

GOAL DIMENSIONS - Each goal shall consist of two vertical posts (goal posts) joined by a rigid top crossbar. These goal posts shall be four feet, nine inches (4' 9") apart, and the top crossbar shall be four feet (4') from the playing surface, all inside dimensions. The goals shall be centered relative to the width of the playing surface. The goal posts and the goal line shall be placed twelve feet (12') from the end of the enclosure, the end boards. The goal posts and crossbar shall be made of one and one half-inch (1 ½") metal pipes, also measured as two-inch (2") nominal outside diameter, and must be painted red or orange.

**Justification:**

Elimination of magnetic mooring requirement, This is not practical for majority of games. This was a carryover to conversion to align with NLL rules. Too much additional cost for benefit. Added orange as possible goal post color.

Rule Change Proposal #2	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 1.3	Width of goal crease line	Width of goal crease line between 2 inches and 5 inches.

**Present Rule:**

GOAL CREASE DIMENSIONS - A circle, known as the goal crease, shall be plainly marked around each goal. Mark the goal crease by using the midpoint of the goal line as the center of a circle around that point with a radius of nine feet, three inches (9' 3") to the outside edge of the goal crease circle. The circle shall continue until it reaches a point of intersection with a straight line that runs parallel with the goal line one foot (1') from the point of the base of the goal. The width of the goal crease line shall be five (5") inches.

The base of the goal crease shall then run in a straight line parallel to the end boards (Appendix 1, FIL Regulation Crease Area).

**Proposed Change:**

GOAL CREASE DIMENSIONS - A circle, known as the goal crease, shall be plainly marked around each goal. Mark the goal crease by using the midpoint of the goal line as the center of a circle around that point with a radius of nine feet, three inches (9' 3") to the outside edge of the goal crease circle. The circle shall continue until it reaches a point of intersection with a straight line that runs parallel with the goal line one foot (1') from the point of the base of the goal. The width of the goal crease line shall be a minimum of two (2") inches but no more than five (5) inches. The area of the goal crease may be painted a solid color other than white

The base of the goal crease shall then run in a straight line parallel to the end boards (Appendix 1, FIL Regulation Crease Area).

**Justification:**

This aligns with the CLA and most possibly with the other arenas around the world in regard to the 2 inch line.

Rule Change Proposal #3	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 1.4.1	Goal Net Color	Color of goal netting

**Present Rule:**

NETS MESH- The poles, posts, and crossbars shall be fitted with a cone shape netting of not more than one and one half inch (1 ½ ") mesh. Nets must be adjusted so as to permit the ball to pass completely through the imaginary plane of the goal at any place. The mesh netting must fit the goals loosely so the ball will hit the mesh and remain inside the goal line. All goal nets will be black mesh. Home club shall supply only black repair string to the referees.

**Proposed Change:**

GOAL NETTING- The poles, posts, and crossbars shall be fitted with a cone shape netting of not more than one and one half inch (1 ½ ") mesh. Nets must be adjusted so as to permit the ball to pass completely through the imaginary plane of the goal at any place. The netting must fit the goals loosely so the ball will hit the netting and remain inside the goal line. Home club shall supply repair string to the referees. It is a recommendation to use black netting

**Justification:**

There is a great deal of goal mesh that is white. Makes it easier to comply and makes black netting a recommendation.

Rule Change Proposal #4	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 3.1.4	Official's uniform	Addition of helmets and visor as Referee required equipment

**Present Rule:**

UNIFORM – The referees shall all wear similar uniforms. For all FIL events and those recognized and or approved by the FIL, including but not limited to the FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championship, the referees shall wear:

- Long sleeve, vertical black and white striped shirt; or
- Short sleeve, vertical black and white striped shirt; and
- Black long trousers with black socks; and
- Black belt; and
- Black athletic shoes.

For all FIL events and those events recognized and or approved by the FIL, including but not limited to the FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championship, the FIL board must approve variations to the above uniform.

**Proposed Change:**

UNIFORM – The referees shall all wear similar uniforms. For all FIL events and those recognized and or approved by the FIL, including but not limited to the FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championship, the referees shall wear:

- Long sleeve, vertical black and white striped shirt; or
- Short sleeve, vertical black and white striped shirt; and
- Black long trousers with black socks; and
- Black belt; and
- Black athletic shoes; and
- Black helmet with visor

For all FIL events and those events recognized and or approved by the FIL, including but not limited to the FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championship, the FIL board must approve variations to the above uniform.

**Justification:**

This is the current FIL practice is for officials to wear helmets with visors for safety issue.

Rule Change Proposal #5	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 3.2.2	Referee Duties	Referee protocol during and after game

**Present Rule:**

HEAD REFEREE DUTIES - The Head Referee shall have general supervision of the game and have full control of the game referees, minor officials, players, and non-playing team personnel during the game, including stoppages; and in case of any dispute, his decision will be final. The referees shall remain on the floor until all players have proceeded to their locker rooms at halftime and the end of the game.

**Proposed Change:**

HEAD REFEREE DUTIES - The Head Referee shall have general supervision of the game and have full control of the game referees, minor officials, players, and non-playing team personnel during the game, including stoppages; and in case of any dispute, his decision will be final. The referees shall remain on the floor until all players have proceeded to their locker rooms at halftime and at the end of game unless, the referees have reason to believe there is a potential for a confrontational situation with the referee crew.

**Justification:**

The referees should not be subject to additional abuse by players and coaches. Authority is limited due to game being over and ability to penalize.

Rule Change Proposal #6	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 3.2.5	Reporting of penalties	COMMUNICATION OF GOALS & PENALTIES

**Present Rule:**

COMMUNICATION OF GOALS & PENALTIES - The referees shall announce to the Official Scorer or Penalty Timekeeper all penalties, and for what infractions such penalties are imposed

**Proposed Change:**

COMMUNICATION OF PENALTIES - The referees shall announce to the Official Scorer or Penalty Timekeeper all penalties, and for what infractions such penalties are imposed

**Justification:**

This rule only pertains to penalties removed reference to goals

Rule Change Proposal #7	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 3.2.7 iv)	Game report	Postgame reporting requirement for different types of penalties called

**Present Rule:**

iv) Every infraction assessed as a major, a match, a game misconduct, or a gross misconduct

**Proposed Change:**

iv) Every infraction assessed as, a match, a game misconduct, or a gross misconduct

**Justification:**

FIL not requiring the need to report all majors. Just severe penalties will be reported

Approved 2017 Rule #8 – No Vote Required	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 4.2.1	Disregard Number of players on game day roster	Active player numbers for game from 16 runners and 2 goaltenders to 18 runners and 2 goaltenders

**Present Rule:**

**Proposed Change:**

**Justification:**

This rule was passed by postal vote after the 2017 GA. Included only for record

Rule Change Proposal #9 – No Vote required	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
Change	Rule	Disregard Duplicate	Disregard this was a duplicate submission of rule change #8

**Present Rule:**

**Proposed Change:**

**Justification:**

**This was a duplication of rule proposal #8. Submitted just for consistent numbering.**

Rule Change Proposal #10 – No Vote Required	2019 M Indoor	Descriptor
	Disregard	

Rule Change Proposal #11	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>New Section</b>	Rule 4.2.6	Initial goal to defend established	Establishment of which goal teams will defend at start of game

**Present Rule:**

New - No current rule

**Proposed Change:**

GOALTENDERS POSITION IN QUARTERS - Goaltenders shall be in the goal closest to their players bench in the first and third quarters and at the goal farthest to their respective benches in the second and fourth quarters

**Justification:**

Defines what ends the teams will start the game defending. Removes all other possible scenarios and eliminates confusion.

Rule Change Proposal #12	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 4.5.1	Jersey requirement	Remove requirement of name having to be on Jersey

**Present Rule:**

NUMBER AND NAME ON JERSEY - Each player and goalkeeper listed on the club's roster shall wear an individual identifying number at least ten inches (10") high on the back of his. All players of each team shall be dressed uniformly with, as a minimum, matching jerseys and shorts.

**Proposed Change:**

NUMBER ON JERSEY - Each player and goalkeeper listed on the club's roster shall wear an individual identifying number at least ten inches (10") high on the back of his. All players of each team shall be dressed uniformly with, as a minimum, matching jerseys and shorts. A players name can be added to back of jersey if desired

**Justification:**

Is it not necessary to have name on Jersey. Added cost that can be avoided

Rule Change Proposal #13	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 5.1.1	Pregame procedure for balls	Describes where balls need to be delivered to prior to contest

**Present Rule:**

APPROVED BALL - The balls shall have a smooth surface and be a solid color. Specifications are a solid rubber ball measuring between 7.75 inches (19.69 centimeters) and 8.00 inches (20.32 centimeters) in circumference, and 5.00 ounces (141.75 grams) to 5.25 ounces (148.84 grams) in weight. The home team shall supply the game balls to the Head Referee one (1) hour prior to game time and continue to supply as required. The ball in use at the end of the game shall become the property of the winning team

**Proposed Change:**

APPROVED BALL - The balls shall have a smooth surface and be a solid color. Specifications are a solid rubber ball measuring between 7.75 inches (19.69 centimeters) and 8.00 inches (20.32 centimeters) in circumference, and 5.00 ounces (141.75 grams) to 5.25 ounces (148.84 grams) in weight. The home team shall supply the game balls to the official scorer area 30 minutes prior to game time and continue to supply as required. The ball in use at the end of the game shall become the property of the winning team

**Justification:**

Balls need to be at scorer's table. This will eliminate the need for arena personnel to locate the officials

Rule Change Proposal #14	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 6.2.2	Awarding of ball incidental penalties	Describes what to do with while awarding ball for restart

**Present Rule:**

POSSESSION AFTER MINOR PENALTY - Possession goes to the team fouled, unless the penalty occurs prior to the start of a quarter or overtime period or after the whistle has sounded denoting the scoring of a goal. In these cases the play restarts with a center face-off. If the penalties are simultaneous, possession shall be awarded to the team with the lesser penalty time, or, if penalty times are equal, the ball shall remain with the team in possession at the time of the first infraction.

**Proposed Change:**

POSSESSION AFTER MINOR PENALTY - Possession goes to the team fouled, unless the penalty occurs prior to the start of a quarter or overtime period or after the whistle has sounded denoting the scoring of a goal. In these cases the play restarts with a center face-off. If the penalties are simultaneous, possession shall be awarded to the team with the lesser penalty time, or, if penalty times are equal, the ball shall remain with the team in possession at the time of the first infraction, however if ball was loose then a faceoff will restart play.

**Justification:**

Further clarification of what to do while awarding the ball.

Rule Change Proposal #15	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 6.2.3	Second in-home to serve penalty	Defines goalie can't serve penalty for another player

**Present Rule:**

BENCH MINOR PENALTY - A Bench Minor penalty involves the removal from the floor of one player from the offending team for a period of two (2) minutes. The designated in-home player shall serve the penalty time. Should the in-home player already be serving a penalty, the coach shall designate a player from his team to serve the bench minor penalty

**Proposed Change:**

BENCH MINOR PENALTY - A Bench Minor penalty involves the removal from the floor of one player from the offending team for a period of two (2) minutes. The designated in-home player shall serve the penalty time.  
Should the in-home player already be serving a penalty, the coach shall designate another player (a runner only) to serve the bench minor.

**Justification:**

Clarification that a goalie can't be player to serve penalty when in home unavailable

Rule Change Proposal #16	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 7.16.4	Player serving penalty for injured player	Clarification of when in home will serve penalty

**Present Rule:**

PLAYER INJURED AND PENALIZED

if a penalized player has been injured, he may proceed to the dressing room without the necessity of taking a seat in the penalty box. If the injured player receives a minor penalty, the penalized team shall immediately put the in-home player in the penalty box and the in-home shall serve the penalty without change.

If the injured player receives a major penalty, the penalized team shall place the in-home player in the penalty box immediately.

**Proposed Change:**

PLAYER INJURED AND PENALIZED

If a penalized player has been injured, he may proceed to the dressing room without the necessity of taking a seat in the penalty box. If the injured player receives a penalty, the penalized team shall immediately put the in-home player in the penalty box and the in-home shall serve the penalty without change.

**Justification:**

Improve consistency and repeated wording removed

Rule Change Proposal #17	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 7.16.6	Injury stoppage	Clarification of when to stop play during injury and how ball is to be awarded for restart of play

**Present Rule:**

STOPPAGE OF PLAY DURING A PLAYER INJURY - When a player is injured such that he cannot continue to play or go to his bench, the play shall not be stopped until the injured player's team has secured possession of the ball. If the player's team is in possession of the ball at the time of injury, play shall be stopped immediately unless his team is in a scoring position. In the case where it is obvious that a player has sustained a serious injury, the referee may stop the play immediately. When the referee has stopped play due to an injured player, such player must be substituted for immediately, except for a goalie, and the injured player may not return until the next non-technical stoppage of play. When the referee has stopped play and an injury occurs during the course of the stoppage, should the injury to the player result in further delay of restarting the game that injured player must be substituted immediately, except for a goalie, and the injured player may not return until the next non-technical stoppage of play.

**Proposed Change:**

STOPPAGE OF PLAY DURING A PLAYER INJURY When a player is injured and, in the opinion of a referee:

- the injury is serious; or
  - there is bleeding or blood evident; or
  - there is risk of further injury to the player or other players';
- then play shall be suspended immediately.

Otherwise, the referee shall delay the sounding of his whistle as follows:

- i) If the attacking team is in possession of the ball and, in the opinion of the referee any imminent scoring play has been completed.
- ii) If the ball is loose, then the referee shall delay the sounding of his whistle until possession is secured and, in the opinion of the referee any imminent scoring play has been completed.

**Justification:**

Defines what is to occur if the either team gains possession not just injured player's team and what to do when ball is loose. Also reduces duplicate verbiage that is covered in other rules in this section.

Rule Change Proposal #18	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Addition</b>	Rule 7.2.3	Faceoff violation	Defines faceoff violation if ball is carried from faceoff circle on back of stick. Enhances free ball movement during faceoff.

**Present Rule:**

New - Section of the rule will be added

**Proposed Change:**

If a player gains possession on a faceoff with the ball in the reverse side of his stick, and fails to move, rake or direct it (to a teammate or himself) and takes more than one step a faceoff violation has occurred and the ball will be awarded to the non-offending team.

**Justification:**

To encourage a player to draw on the faceoff and not hinder the free ball process that is preferred.

Rule Change Proposal #19	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 7.16.7	Award possession after injury	Defines shot clock timing when play is stopped for injury

**Present Rule:**

POSSESSION ON RESTART AFTER INJURY - if play is stopped by reason of an injury to a player, the ball will be given to the team in possession and the shot clock shall remain as it was when play stopped. If there is no possession, a faceoff will occur.

**Proposed Change:**

POSSESSION ON RESTART AFTER INJURY - if play is stopped due to injury to a player, the ball will be given to the team in possession and the shot clock shall remain as it was when play stopped. If there is no possession, a faceoff will occur and on possession the shot clock will reset.

**Justification:**

Reduce wording and identify shot clock will reset after a faceoff.

Rule Change Proposal #20	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 7.5.1	10 Second count	Defines player positioning relating to 10 second count

**Present Rule:**

Being across the centerline means both feet must be in the offensive half of the floor, they may not touch the centerline

**Proposed Change:**

Being across the centerline means both feet of a player in possession of the ball must be in the offensive half of the floor, they may not be touching the centerline or if a loose ball crosses the line.

**Justification:**

Better define definition of gaining the offensive end.

Rule Change Proposal #21	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.1.6	Substitution deception	Rule is not needed. Teams can use the change area of benches as long it is not illegal substitution.

**Present Rule:**

SUBSTITUTION DECEPTION - teams cannot use the bench or substitution area to deceive the opposing team. This is a technical foul and loss of possession.

The referee at his discretion may assess an illegal substitution minor penalty.

**Proposed Change:**

Delete section

~~SUBSTITUTION DECEPTION – teams cannot use the bench or substitution area to deceive the opposing team. This is a technical foul loss of possession.~~

~~The referee at his discretion may assess an illegal substitution minor penalty.~~

**Justification:**

Remove entire rule. No need for this rule. If it is not an illegal substitution they can do whatever they want in the change area. Removes confusion for referees. Also aligns with NLL

Rule Change Proposal #22	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.1.7	Touching the ball	Defines a player (non-goalie) is not allowed to touch ball with hand during play

**Present Rule:**

THUMBING THE BALL - during a live ball a player may not touch the ball with his hand, including "thumbing the ball" while cradling. The exception applies to the goalie while in the crease. The gloved hand grasping the stick handle is considered part of the stick.

**Proposed Change:**

TOUCHING THE BALL - A player may not touch the ball with his hand (including "thumbing the ball") during live ball. The exception applies to the goalie while in the crease and the gloved hand of any player that is grasping the stick handle.

**Justification:**

This change defines that a player (non goalie) cannot touch ball during play with his free hand. In current rule no mention of touching ball just thumbing.

Rule Change Proposal #23	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.1.8 & 8.1.9	Withholding ball from play	Combination of rules that describe withholding the ball from play

**Present Rule:**

8.1.8 LYING ON BALL OR TRAPPING BALL - a player not:

Lie on the loose ball; or

Trap it with his stick longer than necessary for them to gain possession and pick it up in one continuous motion; or

Withhold the ball from play in any manner.

8.1.9 WITHHOLDING THE BALL FROM PLAY - a player in possession of the ball who holds his stick against any part of their body is withholding the ball from play.

**Proposed Change:**

COMBINE 8.1.8 and 8.1.9

8.1.8 WITHHOLDING THE BALL FROM PLAY - a player shall not withhold the ball from play in any manner such as:

Lie on the loose ball ; or

Trap it with his stick longer than necessary for them to gain possession and pick it up in one continuous motion; or

hold his stick against any part of their body while in possession of the ball.

8.1.9 Delete in entirety

**Justification:**

All examples in rules 8.1.8 and 8.1.9 are withholding the ball. Combined for clarity no need for separation.

Rule Change Proposal #24	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>New</b>	Rule 8.1.1 3	Offensive interference	Technical foul for illegal offensive interference

**Present Rule:**

**NEW**

**Proposed Change:**

8.1.13 NEW - OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE - Any minor interference by an offensive player on their opponent such as: holding of stick; or knocking stick out of their hands. If action is severe a time served foul can be assessed

**Justification:**

Rulebook did not allow for a technical violation for this type of foul.

Rule Change Proposal #25	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.10.1	Crease violation	Better defines crease violation

**Present Rule:**

Any attacking player who violates the privileges of the goalie and/or crease area is subject to crease violations. The crease line is considered inside the crease.

**Proposed Change:**

A crease infraction occurs if members of either team violate the privileges as described in rule 8D. The result of infractions can range from a technical turnover to time served penalties. The crease line is considered inside the crease.

**Justification:**

Better defines what a crease infraction is.

Rule Change Proposal #26	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.10.3	Attacking player first to touch	Consistently defines a player using the crease to gain an advantage

**Present Rule:**

ATTACKING PLAYER FIRST TOUCH/INTERFERE AFTER SHOT ON GOAL - If an attacking player by his own momentum, after taking a shot on goal or making a pass, steps into the crease and then immediately out, he 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. However, if the ball is touched by the goaltender, then the attacking player who has left the crease may be the next to touch the ball.

**Proposed Change:**

ATTACKING PLAYER FIRST TOUCH/INTERFERE AFTER SHOT ON GOAL - If an attacking player by his own momentum, after taking a shot on goal or making a pass, steps into the crease and then immediately out, he 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.

**Justification:**

This statement adds confusion. It should not matter if goalie touches the ball or not if a player uses crease to gain advantage.

Rule Change Proposal #27	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.11.1	Goalkeeper Privileges	Wording changed to better explain goalie privileges with Emphasis on the protection of goalie while in the crease

**Present Rule:**

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.

Within his own goal crease area, the designated goalkeeper may stop or block the ball in any manner with his lacrosse stick or body. He may block, catch, pickup, or bat the ball away with his hand. The goalkeeper or defending player after gaining control of the ball has four (4) seconds to either pass the ball or vacate the crease. When a goaltender leaves the goal crease area he loses all goaltender privileges and protection of the crease. Should the goalie proceed up the floor with the ball, he may be checked like any other player. However, he cannot be “charged” or “slashed”, or unnecessarily roughed up. Likewise, the referee has been alerted to penalize the goalie for illegal actions both in and out of the crease

**Proposed Change:**

The privileges of the goalkeeper are intended to protect the goalie from injury and afford him the opportunity to perform the functions of a goalkeeper without interference by his opponent. Violation of this rule will result in a penalty ranging from a change of possession up to 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. Within his own goal crease area, the designated goalkeeper may stop or block the ball in any manner with his lacrosse stick or body. He may block, catch, pickup, or bat the ball away with his hand. The goalkeeper or defending player after gaining control of the ball has four (4) seconds to either pass the ball or vacate the crease.

When a goaltender leaves the goal crease area he loses all goaltender privileges and protection of the crease. Should the goalie proceed up the floor with the ball, he may be checked like any other player. However, he cannot be “charged” or “slashed”, or unnecessarily roughed up.

**Justification:**

Better defines that crease is the goalie's area and within it he is to be protected and there is a need to protect them

Rule Change Proposal #28	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.11.2	Contact with the goalkeeper	Reduce wording in this rule due to it being covered in another rule

**Present Rule:**

CONTACT WITH GOALIE IN THE CREASE – The referee, at his discretion, shall assess appropriate penalty(s) for interference when contact with the goalkeeper, or his stick, when the goalkeeper is in the goal crease area, with the exception of rule 8.12.3, “Contact Initiated By Goalie”.

If the goalie has two feet in the crease and possession of the ball in his stick and both stick and ball are outside of the crease, he may not be checked.

If a defender makes contact with the goalie’s stick while the goalie still has possession of the ball during an outlet pass, while the goalie is in his crease (deemed two feet in his crease), the defender will receive a minor penalty for goaltender interference.

If the ball is clamped outside the crease circle by the goalie, a player may rake under the goalie’s stick.

**Proposed Change:**

CONTACT WITH GOALIE IN THE CREASE – If the goalie has two feet in the crease and possession of the ball in his stick and both stick and ball are outside of the crease, he may not be checked.

If a defender makes contact with the goalie’s stick while the goalie still has possession of the ball during an outlet pass, while the goalie is in his crease (deemed two feet in his crease), the defender will receive a minor penalty for goaltender interference.

If the ball is clamped outside the crease circle by the goalie, a player may rake under the goalie’s stick.

**Justification:**

The portion struck out is a repeat of another rule.

Rule Change Proposal #29	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.13.1	illegal body check	Emphasis on player safety of a defenseless player

**Present Rule:**

It is illegal to body check an opponent from behind, above the shoulders or below the waist. It is legal to body-check an opponent in possession of the ball from the front or side, above the waist and below the shoulder. It is legal to body check an opponent while the player leave his feet to shoot, pass, or catch the ball or otherwise engage legally in offensive play provided contact is legal as outlined above, and there are no other violations and the check is not into the boards.

**Proposed Change:**

It is illegal to body check an opponent from behind, above the shoulders or below the waist. It is legal to body-check an opponent in possession of the ball from the front or side, above the waist and below the shoulder. It is legal to body-check an opponent while the player leaves his feet to shoot, pass, or catch the ball or otherwise engage legally in offensive play provided contact is legal as outlined above, and there are no other violations and the check is not into the boards. **Officials shall consider positioning of players when contact is initiated, specifically whether the player being checked is in a vulnerable and defenseless position, which many include a players' head being down or unaware of an impending hit, significant distance travelled by the player making the hit. An appropriate penalty for illegal body checking shall be assessed based on the severity of the illegal contact.**

**Justification:**

PLAYER SAFETY - this aligns with many other sports. Player safety is of utmost importance.

Rule Change Proposal #30	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.13.5	Contact on fast-breaking opponent	Emphasis on player safety of a defenseless player

**Present Rule:**

CONTACT ON FAST BREAKING OPPONENT - a goalie or player must give a fast-breaking opponent the opportunity to take one step to gain composure after receiving the ball, before body contact is allowable.

**Proposed Change:**

CONTACT ON FAST BREAKING OPPONENT - a goalie or player must give a fast-breaking opponent the opportunity to gain composure after receiving the ball before body contact is allowable. **Officials shall consider positioning of players when contact is initiated, specifically whether the player being checked is not in a vulnerable or defenseless position, which many include a players' head being down or unaware of an impending hit, significant distance travelled by the player making the hit. An appropriate penalty for illegal body checking shall be assessed based on the severity of the illegal contact.**

**Justification:**

PLAYER SAFETY - this aligns with many other sports. Player safety is of utmost importance.

Rule Change Proposal #31	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.20.1	Contact to head or neck	Emphasis on player safety. A match penalty will be assessed when a player fragrantly strikes an opponent.

**Present Rule:**

GAME MISCONDUCT - A major penalty and a game misconduct shall be assessed to a player who with force strikes another player in the head and/or neck. The actions of the player shall be deemed as egregious conduct. Criteria for this penalty shall include some of the following but is not limited to:

no attempt to play the ball; or

Leaving your feet to inflict more force; or

An upwards motion as opposed to a horizontal motion; or

Significant distance traveled and weight transfer; or

The location of contact and the level of vision of the players involved.

**Proposed Change:**

MATCH PENALTY A match penalty shall be assessed to a player who with force strikes another player directly in the head and/or neck. The actions of the player shall be deemed as fragrantly striking. Criteria for this penalty shall include some of the following but is not limited to:

no attempt to play the ball; or

Leaving your feet to inflict more force; or

An upwards motion as opposed to a horizontal motion.

**Justification:**

PLAYER SAFETY - this aligns with many other sports. Player safety is of utmost importance. A match penalty carries a GM

Rule Change Proposal #32	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.23.4	Instigator Penalty	Change instigator penalty to a minor instead of major. This will reduce the effect on team for one player.

**Present Rule:**

INSTIGATOR PENALTY ASSESSMENT - A player who is deemed to be the instigator of a fight shall be assessed the fight penalties plus the instigator penalties, all of which are:

A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for fighting; and

A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for instigator; and

A game misconduct for 2 major penalties; and

An automatic one game suspension for the team's next game.

**Proposed Change:**

INSTIGATOR PENALTY ASSESSMENT - A player who is deemed to be the instigator of a fight shall be assessed the fight penalties plus the instigator penalties, all of which are:

A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for fighting; and

A 2 minute minor, for instigator; and

An automatic one game suspension for the team's next game.

**Justification:**

Severe team penalty for one individual's actions. Reflection of appropriate discipline for this action. In FIL rules the fighter assessed an GM automatically. There is no need to assess additional majors to the same player. So player is assessed a 5 minute major and GM for fighting and then the additional two for instigator.

Rule Change Proposal #33	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.23.6	Aggressor Penalty	Change aggressor penalty to a minor instead of major. This will reduce the effect on team for one player.

**Present Rule:**

AGGRESSOR PENALTY ASSESSMENT - A player who is deemed to be the instigator of a fight shall be assessed the fight penalties plus the aggressor penalties, all of which are:  
 A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for fighting; and  
 A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for aggressor; and  
 A game misconduct for 2 major penalties; and  
 An automatic one game suspension for the team's next game.

**Proposed Change:**

AGGRESSOR PENALTY ASSESSMENT - A player who is deemed to be the aggressor of a fight shall be assessed the fight penalties plus the aggressor penalties, all of which are:  
 A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for fighting; and  
 A 2 minute minor, for aggressor; and  
 An automatic one game suspension for the team's next game.

**Justification:**

Severe team penalty for one individual's actions. Reflection of appropriate discipline for this action In FIL rules the fighter assessed an GM automatically. There is no need to assess additional majors to the same player. Player is assessed a 5 minute major and GM for fighting and then the additional two for aggressor.

Rule Change Proposal #34	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.23.7	Instigator Aggressor	Change instigator and aggressor penalties to a minor instead of major. This will reduce the effect on team for one player.

**Present Rule:**

PENALTY IF BOTH INSTIGATOR AND AGGRESSOR - A player who is deemed to be both the instigator and an aggressor of a fight shall be assessed the fight penalties plus the instigator penalties plus the aggressor penalties, all of which are:

- A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for fighting; and
- A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for instigator; and
- A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for aggressor; and
- A game misconduct for 2 major penalties; and
- An automatic one game suspension for the team's next game.

**Proposed Change:**

PENALTY IF BOTH INSTIGATOR AND AGGRESSOR - A player who is deemed to be both the instigator and an aggressor of a fight shall be assessed the fight penalties plus the instigator penalties plus the aggressor penalties, all of which are:

- A 5 minute major and game misconduct, for fighting; and
- A 2 minute minor for instigator; and
- A 2 minute minor, for aggressor; and
- An automatic one game suspension for the team's next game.

**Justification:**

Severe team penalty for one individual's actions. Reflection of appropriate discipline for this action. In FIL rules the fighter assessed an GM automatically. There is no need to assess additional majors to the same player. Player is assessed a 5 minute major and GM for fighting and then the additional four minutes for instigator and aggressor.

Rule Change Proposal #35	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.23.8	Unwilling Combatant	If a player is an unwilling combatant they should not be assessed a penalty for fighting

**Present Rule:**

UNWILLING COMBATANT - At the discretion of the referee, the game misconduct penalty shall be waived for an unwilling combatant in the fight, if the opposing player was clearly the instigator of the incident.

**Proposed Change:**

UNWILLING COMBATANT - If player has been defined by rule as an unwilling combatant he is not to receive a fighting penalty but may be subject to other penalty types.

**Justification:**

Unwilling combatant by definition of rule 8.23.1 did not participate in a fight so there should be no major for fighting and game misconduct penalty assessed.

Rule Change Proposal #36	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.23.1 1	Fighting	Clarification of equipment removal during a fight.

**Present Rule:**

EQUIPMENT REMOVAL PRIOR TO OR DURING A FIGHT PENALTY ASSESSMENT - A player who removes his equipment prior to or during a fight on his own accord shall be assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. Any combination of the jersey removal and equipment removal will result in a minor penalty being assessed

**Proposed Change:**

EQUIPMENT REMOVAL PRIOR TO OR DURING A FIGHT PENALTY ASSESSMENT - A player who removes his equipment prior to or during a fight on his own accord shall be assessed a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. Any combination of the jersey removal and equipment removal will result in one minor penalty being assessed. This is not to include helmet or gloves.

**Justification:**

Clarification that equipment means other than helmet and gloves.

Rule Change Proposal #37	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule 8.30.2	Abuse of Officials	Abuse of Officials changed from Game Misconduct to a Gross Misconduct penalty that requires a review by NGB

**Present Rule:**

GAME MISCONDUCT - Any player assessed a physical abuse of Officials penalty shall be assessed a game misconduct.

**Proposed Change:**

GROSS MISCONDUCT Any player assessed a physical abuse of Officials penalty shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct.

Any player assessed a physical abuse of Officials penalty for making deliberate contact with a referee will be reviewed by the NGB to determine the appropriate discipline for this type of severe penalty. This situation is serious and should at a minimum be considered for suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Justification:**

Serious action by player. Demonstrates lack of respect. Consistent with the NLL

Rule Change Proposal #38	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>New</b>	Rule 8.30.3	Abuse of Officials	Added Abuse of Officials penalty as a Gross Misconduct that requires a review by NGB

**Present Rule:**

NON-PLAYER STRIKING AN OFFICIAL - Any Club Executive, Manager, Coach or Team Staff who holds or strikes a referee or minor official, shall be automatically suspended from the game, ordered to the dressing room. A bench minor will be assessed against the offending team. The Head Referee shall report the incident on the game sheet or special incident report.

**Proposed Change:**

GROSS MISCONDUCT Any non-player assessed a physical abuse of Officials penalty shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct.

Any Club Executive, manager, Coach or Team Staff (non-player) assessed a physical abuse of Officials penalty for making deliberate contact with a referee will be reviewed by the NGB to determine the appropriate discipline for this type of severe penalty. This situation is serious and should at a minimum be considered for suspension for the remainder of the season.

**Justification:**

Serious action by non- players associated with a team. Demonstrates lack of respect. Consistent with the NLL

Rule Change Proposal #39	2019 M Indoor		Descriptor
<b>Change</b>	Rule Appendix E	FIL World Event Rules	Added discipline for Abuse of Officials penalty at World Championship event

**Present Rule:**

When playing in a FIL world championship event any player or team personnel who is administered a major penalty for fighting shall receive the penalties as detailed in this rulebook. In addition, they shall not participate in any remaining games their team plays in that FIL world championship.

Not participating in the game includes but is not limited to:

- Shall not be listed on the game sheet;
- Shall not dress in the team uniform;
- Shall not be on the playing surface for the game or the team warmup;
- Shall not be in the team bench area for the game or the team warmup;
- Shall not be on the floor or bench area for any ceremonies or presentations after the game.

The event Discipline Committee shall automatically review any incident resulting in the administration of a major penalty for fighting and further penalties and sanctions may be administered as a result of the findings of the event Discipline Committee.

**Proposed Change:**

When playing in a FIL world championship event any player or team personnel who is administered a major penalty for fighting or gross misconduct for abuse of officials shall receive the penalties as detailed in this rulebook. In addition, they shall not participate in any remaining games their team plays in that FIL world championship.

Not participating in the game includes but is not limited to:

- Shall not be listed on the game sheet;
- Shall not dress in the team uniform;
- Shall not be on the playing surface for the game or the team warmup;
- Shall not be in the team bench area for the game or the team warmup;
- Shall not be on the floor or bench area for any ceremonies or presentations after the game.

The event Discipline Committee shall automatically review any incident resulting in the administration of a major penalty for fighting and further penalties and sanctions may be administered as a result of the findings of the event Discipline Committee

**Justification:**

There was no mention of discipline for abuse of officials.



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