

Interpreter's Corner ***June 15, 2021***

Donna Arcudi – EMWLUA Rules Interpreter

Congratulations!! We have just made it through the most unusual season!

A shout out to all the assignors for a job well done! A huge “thank you” to all the umpires who went above and beyond the call of duty!

A few questions have come my way over the past couple of weeks and I thought the answers would be beneficial for future games and the MIAA Tournament.

Please read this document in its entirety!

Question #1 – This came from a coach. During many of my games, I felt as though the umpires were allowing picks that I felt were illegal. The picks seemed to be set outside the visual field of the players. Has the rule changed?

Answer #1 – No, the rule has not changed. Please refer to the Manual, pg. 62, “The “pick” is an offensive technique in which a player without the ball uses her positioning to free a teammate by forcing the opponent to take another route. A pick may be stationary or moving.”

“A player must not set a pick out of the visual field of an opposing player which does not allow enough time and/or space to stop or change direction and result in contact.”

“The “visual field” is defined as 180 degrees using the opposing player’s head (nose) as the point of reference, not the players shoulders.”

As a reminder for our lacrosse umpires who are basketball officials, a pick in lacrosse is different than a pick in basketball.

Question #2 – Are there any rules regarding the exchange of a draw stick as there are at the college level?

Answer #2 – There is nothing in the rulebook that specifically addresses how a draw stick can be exchanged off the field. The following are guidelines for players exchanging a draw stick:

- 1) A player can take the draw and then exchange the stick with another player on the field.
- 2) The player whom she exchanged sticks with on the field, may go to the team bench area and exchange the draw stick with a stick from the team bench area. The player going to the team bench area must remain on the field.
- 3) The player who took the draw, can go to the team bench area directly and exchange her stick with a stick from a player in the team bench area.
- 4) The player in the team bench area with whom the player on the field is exchanging sticks must remain off the field for the exchange, as not to exceed the proper number of players on the field or to exceed the proper number of players allowed in the offensive or defensive sides of the restraining lines.

- 5) If the exchange of the stick is made with a coach, the coach must remain off the field.
- 6) The exchange of the stick should not be made within the substitution area. This area is for substitutions only.

Question #3 – Can players go to the bench area for a drink while the clock while the clock is running?

Answer #3 - Players are allowed to go to the team bench area for a drink while the clock is running. The following are guidelines:

- 1) The player getting the drink must remain on the field.
- 2) The coach who is giving the player the water bottle must not enter the field.
- 3) If a player is providing the water bottle to the player, she must remain off the field.
- 4) Teams must always remember to maintain the proper number of players on the field and not to exceed the proper number of players allowed in the offensive or defensive sides of the restraining lines.
- 5) Coaches may also utilize the substitution rule for players to hydrate or to take a break.
- 6) The substitution area is for the substitution of players only.

Question #4 - Can a stick check request be granted during a card or injury timeout? Stick check request may only be made by either the head coach or the speaking captain, is that correct?

Answer #4 – Rule 2-4, pg. 17, “Stick checks may be requested at any time in a game during a stoppage of the game clock and shall include immediately following goals in regulation and overtime periods in which players are still on the field. Stick checks are not permitted during an injury time out.” **The rulebook does not state that a stick check cannot occur during the administration of a card.**

Rule 2-3, pg. 16, “The official shall also inspect the pocket of any player’s crosse upon the request of the opposing head coach or **any opposing player on the field.**”

The rulebook no longer has the term “Speaking Captain.” Please refer to Rule 3-4, pg. 25 “Captains” for their responsibilities.

Question #5 – How many stick checks is a team allowed?

Answer #5 - Rule 2-7e, pg. 17, “The team requesting the stick check will not lose any of its **two allowable** requests if the crosse is found to be illegal.”

Question #6 – What is the penalty for a team if they request a third stick check?

Answer #6: a) Rule 9-1-l, pg. 52, “Illegal Stick Request: requesting any additional crosse inspections beyond the two permitted per team.”

b) Rule 9 - Penalties for Violations 1, pg. 53, “Change of possession and a free position is awarded to the opponent where the foul occurred at least 8 meters from the goal circle and 4 meters inside the boundary. The offending player will move 4 meters away in the direction from which she approached before committing the foul. All other players shall be 4 meters from the free position.”

Question #7 – Can stick check requests be made during overtime?

Answer #7 - Yes. Rule 2-4, pg. 17, “Stick checks may be requested at any time in a game during a stoppage of the game clock and shall include immediately following goals in regulation and **overtime periods** in which players are still on the field.”

Question #8 – How does play resume if a goal was scored with a stick that was found to be *illegal*?

Answer #8 - Rule 2 Penalties #3, pg. 17, “In the event that a goal was scored with a crosse that does not meet specifications, the goal shall not count, the crosse shall be removed, and play shall be resumed with a free position at the center line.”

Question #9 – How does play resume if the stick was found to be *legal*?

Answer #9 - If the stick was found to meet specifications, the game would begin with a draw between the two centers.

Question #10 – An umpire sent photos of a wrist brace that a player was wearing. There was metal on the underside of the brace that supported the wrist. The top clips were hard plastic. Did the brace need to be padded?

Answer #10 – Yes. Refer to Rule 2-7-4 Note, pg. 19, “Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, splints, etc.) on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm or shoulder are prohibited unless padded with closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½” thick. Knee braces and ankle braces that are unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design/production do not require any additional padding.”

Congratulations to those umpires selected to umpire the MIAA Tournament!

If you have any questions throughout the tournament, please email me:
interpreter@emwlua.org.