



Considerations for 2020-21 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rule Modifications

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee offers this document as guidance on how state associations can consider modifications to the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Phase 3 – High Risk Sports Return to Competition

1. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

The Field (1-2-7): The Scorer's Table.

Provide adequate spacing for 6-foot social distancing between individuals.

2. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

The Field (1-2-8): Players' and Coaches' box.

Extend the players' and coaches' box to endline to ensure proper social distancing.

3. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

Player Equipment (1-9-2): Optional Equipment, Face Shields and Masks -

Clear, molded, and non-rigid face shields approved by the helmet manufacturer are allowed. Masks may be worn, but not required.

4. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

Players, Coaches, and Other Game Personal: Overall Suggestion.

Coaches and officials should attempt to maintain social distancing whenever possible during a game including stick checks, official's meetings, etc.

5. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

Time of the Game (3-1-1): Time Reduction.

Reduce the time of the game to 10 minutes per quarter.

6. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

Facing Off (4-3-1, 2, and 3): Starting Play with Facing Off.

Consider only performing the faceoff during the beginning of the game and at the beginning of the third quarter. If necessary, at the beginning of overtime play. If reduced faceoffs is implemented, then alternating possession shall be used.

7. Boys Lacrosse Rules Book Modifications

Penalty Enforcement (7-1-1): Procedure.

If there is a violation, blow the whistle quick and award ball.

Points of Emphasis and Pre/Post Game Considerations

Pregame equipment checks should be conducted after the players have placed their equipment on the field and left the field. Officials then may inspect the equipment and blow the whistle to alert the teams to get their equipment and find the results of the equipment check.

Pregame

- No equipment inspections prior to the game – Goalkeepers (new NOCSAE guideline) or field players.
- Masks for coaches and officials during coach meeting/certification.
- No line up. Coaches to relay information to their teams.
- No meeting with faceoff players (if performed).
- Meeting with Captains: One captain for each team, official wears a mask, captains stay apart, official shows coin result to each captain.
- Officials should wear a mask when instructing table personnel. Table personnel should wear mask.
- Minimize table personnel – official scorer and timekeeper, visiting team personnel should be at their team bench and not at the table. Extend the table if needed.
- Team bench areas should be more clearly marked to remind players of proper location.

Postgame

- No handshakes.
- Teams stay in their team areas, no running onto the field for dog piles

Note for review by NFHS SMAC:

Committee requests that Boys Lacrosse be moved from High-Risk Sport to Moderate-Risk Sport.