

In conjunction with the English Lacrosse Association Men's Playing and Referees & Rules Committees, the following Points of Emphasis have been established for the 2011-2012 Men's playing season.

Rule: Targeting the Head.

A player shall not deliberately initiate contact to an opponent's head or neck with a cross check, or any part of his body (head, elbow, shoulder, etc.) or stick. Any deliberate follow-through that contacts the head or neck shall also be considered a violation of this rule.

PENALTY—One, two or three foul, at the referee's discretion. Excessive violation of this rule may result in an expulsion from the game.

RATIONALE: The committee strongly believes targeting the head and neck area has no place in lacrosse. These types of fouls must be penalized severely and this rule accomplishes that goal.

Rule: Targeting the Head -Spearing

A player shall not block an opponent with his head. This is often seen as a check being delivered by the defence on the ball carrier. Although there has also been an increase in offensive players leading with their head into defensive players. This too could be construed as spearing.

PENALTY—One, two or three foul, at the referee's discretion. Excessive violation of this rule may result in an ejection from the game.

RATIONALE: The committee strongly believes targeting the head and neck area has no place in lacrosse. This rule protects not only the player that is receiving the hit, but also the player who delivers the spear. These types of fouls must be penalized severely and this rule accomplishes that goal.

Rule – Dissent (Unsportsmanlike Conduct):

Dissent impacts many aspects of our game but importantly this year we will have more new referees than we have ever had at one time. It is crucial that these new officials are afforded the time to develop their officiating skills in an arena of sportsmanship. Should there be unsportsmanlike conduct from players, coaches or fans than the referee at their discretion shall inflict one, two or three minute personal fouls on the player or coach as the situation determine. For conduct that is persistent, brings the game into disrepute, racial or sexual in nature then the foul shall be an expulsion foul and a report is to be sent to the relevant governing body

75.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

No player, substitute, non-playing member of a squad, coach or anyone officially connected with a competing team shall:

Enter into argument with an official as to any decision which he has made;

In any way attempt to influence the decision of an official;

Use threatening, profane or obscene language or gestures to an official or to any member of the opposing squad;

Commit any act considered unsportsmanlike by the referees;

Face Off Mechanics

Based on feedback from Worlds 2010 the following changes to the face off mechanic are being reviewed by the FIL Officiating Committee and will be trialled in England this season:

Officials can now line up to the right of the face off men (current position) or along the centre line looking in at the face off men . The official may choose which position they take up based on the needs of the game. It is suggested though that it is a mixture of both positions as each has their individual benefits and drawbacks.

The official shall remain motionless until the sounding of the whistle. There shall be no arm chop or crank as part of the mechanic. The following procedure shall be employed:

“Down together”

“Set”

“Whistle”

Officials may benefit from the use of lanyard whistles for face offs as this will minimize any hand movement when drawing the whistle to the mouth.

The NCAA Men's Officiating Committee's points of Emphasis video for 2011 illustrates the targeting the head and face off mechanics. You may find this video at:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncaa/web_video/lacrosse/2011/2011_mlax_preseason.html

Good luck this season.