

## MEN'S LACROSSE RULE CHANGES 2008

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This document summarises the changes made to the FIL Rules and the ELA Rules in 2008.

In what follows, the changes made in 2008 are underlined.

## **CHANGE 1.1 THE BALL STUCK IN A STICK**

Add a new Rule 58.4, under WITH-HOLDING THE BALL FROM PLAY:

If the ball becomes caught in any part of a player's stick, then the player is with-holding the ball from play.

In such circumstances, a referee shall immediately blow his whistle and award the ball to the player's opponents.

This Rule shall not apply to the designated goalkeeper when he is within his goal crease.

If the ball becomes caught in the stick of the designated goalkeeper when he is within his goal crease, then the defensive team shall be awarded the ball 20 yards (18.29 metres) laterally from the cage.

Delete Rule 84.3.

Re-number Rule 84.4 as 84.3.

Re-number Rule 84.5 as 84.4.

Re-number Rule 84.6 as 84.5.

Re-number Rule 84.7 as 84.6.

Amend the new Rule 84.4 to read:

Rule 84.3 shall not apply to the designated goalkeeper when he is within his goal crease.

If, in such circumstances, the ball becomes caught in the stick, clothing or equipment of the designated goalkeeper, then the defensive team shall be awarded the ball 20 yards (18.29 metres) laterally from the cage.

## **CHANGE 2.1 WHEN IS A GOAL SCORED**

Amend the first sentence of Rule 38.1 to read:

A goal counts one point, and is scored when the ball, *whether loose or not*, passes from the front completely through the imaginary plane formed by the rear edges of the goal line as a base, the cross-bar as the top, and the goal posts as the two sides.

Delete AR 38.1 and AR 38.2.

## **PROPOSAL 2.2 THIS PROPOSAL WAS LOST AT THE 2008 ILF MEETING**

### **CHANGE 2.3 THE PLAYER/COACH**

Amend Rule 22.4 (renumbered as 22.5 in Change 4.6 of this document) to read:

One or more of a team's coaches may be a player/coach.

The officials *and the opposing head coach* must be informed of the shirt number of any such player/coach before the start of the game.

When a player/coach is in the coaches' area, he may not be wearing his helmet.

## **CHANGE 2.4           SIMULTANEOUS FOULS DURING AN INTERVAL**

Amend Rule 81.1 to read:

*When a member of a team commits a foul, and then a member of the opposing team commits a foul, then the fouls shall be considered simultaneous fouls, provided that the fouls are not separated by a whistle which has restarted play, or by the scoring of a goal, or by the end of a period.*

Amend AR 34.13 to read:

*A period ends with a Blue player in the penalty box, and Red in possession.  
Red are awarded the ball.*

*During the break, a Red player commits a foul.*

*RULING: The next period starts with a Blue ball.*

Amend AR 34.14 to read:

*A period ends with a Blue player in the penalty box, and Red in possession.  
Red are awarded the ball.*

*During the break, a Red player and a Blue player commit fouls.*

*RULING: The ball is awarded to the team having less total penalty time of the two simultaneous fouls which happened during the interval.*

*If the two penalty times are equal, then Red are awarded the ball.*

Amend AR 34.15 to read:

*A period ends with both teams at full strength or with the same number of players in the penalty box.  
A face-off is called.*

*A player then commits a foul in the interval.*

*RULING: His opponents are awarded the ball at the centre.*

## **CHANGE 2.5           THE GUARD STOP**

Amend Rule 15.7 to read:

*There may be a guard stop at the throat of the crosse.*

*The stop must be perpendicular to the handle of the crosse and wide enough to let the ball rest loosely on the stop.*

*The stop shall be constructed so that no part of the ball can be under the stop.*

*The guard stop or, if no guard stop is fitted, the throat of the crosse, shall be a minimum of 10 inches (25.4 centimetres) from the outside edge of the head of the crosse.*

## **CHANGE 2.6           LOSS OF HEAD DURING PLAY IS A TECHNICAL FOUL**

Add a new Rule 63.3:

*If, as a player shoots, passes the ball, attempts to play an opponent or attempts to play a loose ball or a ball in flight, the head of his stick comes off, then that player has committed the technical foul of using an illegal stick.*

Add a new paragraph viii) to Rule 38.2

viii) when the head of the shooter's crosse comes off during the shot or the follow-through.

### **CHANGE 3.1 SIMULTANEOUS FOULS**

Amend Rule 81.2 to read:

*When simultaneous fouls have been committed, the following rules shall apply:*

*i) All fouls being technical, the fouls cancel, and the team in possession at the time of the first simultaneous foul retains possession where the ball was when the whistle sounded. If no team was in possession at the time of the first simultaneous foul, the ball is faced where it was when the whistle sounded.*

*ii) If at least one of the fouls is a personal foul, then penalty time shall be served for all the fouls, and the following rules shall apply:*

*- If one team incurs more total penalty time than the other, then the team with the lesser total penalty time shall be awarded the ball.*

*- If the total penalty times are equal, then the team in possession of the ball at the time of the first simultaneous foul shall retain possession of it.*

*- If the total penalty times are equal, and neither team had possession of the ball at the time of the first simultaneous foul, then the ball shall be faced where it was when the whistle blew.*

*iii) For the purpose of totalling penalty time in the case of simultaneous fouls, an expulsion foul shall count as a 3-minute penalty.*

*iv) There shall be no free clear after simultaneous fouls.*

### **CHANGE 3.2 THE STICK-ON-STICK HOLD**

Add a new AR 55.4:

Red at a face-off or a loose ball situation, covers the ball to draw it back.

Blue clamps on top of Red's stick and, therefore, on top of the ball "via" Red's stick.

RULING: With-holding by Blue. Red ball. No send-off.

Add a new AR 55.5:

Red, at a face-off or a loose ball situation, gets his stick under the ball, so that Red's stick, still on or near the ground, has the ball in it.

Before Red can do anything else, Blue clamps on top of Red's stick and thus stops Red going anywhere.

RULING: With-holding by Blue, whether the ball is covered or not. Red ball. Blue serves 30 seconds for the technical foul.

### **CHANGE 3.3 ILLEGAL CROSSE**

Re write Rule 63.1 to read:

*Should it come to the attention of a referee that a player is using a crosse (other than trick construction or stringing) which is illegal under the provisions of Rules 15 or 16, then the referee shall inflict a technical penalty on that player and he shall demand that the player adjust the crosse to conform to specification, or exchange it for another.*

Rule 63.2 remains unchanged.

### **CHANGE 3.4            ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT**

Re-write Rule 64.1 to read:

*Should it come to the attention of a referee that a player is wearing equipment which is illegal under the provisions of Rules 17 or 18, then the referee shall demand that the player conform to specification.*

*The first such occurrence by a player shall not constitute a technical foul.*

*Should the player fail to conform to specification, then he shall be compelled to withdraw from the game until such time as he has complied with the regulations governing equipment, a substitute being allowed for him immediately.*

Rule 64.2 remains unchanged.

### **CHANGE 3.5            GRASPING THE HEAD OF THE STICK**

Amend Rule 58.3 to read:

*A player with the ball in his possession may not grasp any portion of the head of the stick with his hand, so that it becomes more difficult for the opponent to dislodge the ball from the ball-carrier's stick.*

### **CHANGE 3.6            GOALKEEPER PLAYING WITHOUT HIS STICK**

Amend Rule 59.2 to read:

*No player, other than the designated goalkeeper when he is in his crease, shall take part in the play of the game in any manner unless he is grasping his crosse with at least one hand.*

*A goalkeeper who loses his stick when he is outside his crease must retrieve his stick before he can take any further part in the game.*

*No player may play with a broken crosse.*

Add a new AR 59.1:

*Red shoot. The shot goes wide and goes out-of-bounds.*

*The Blue goalie, without his stick, is inside his crease and is the nearest player to the ball as it goes out-of-bounds.*

*RULING: The ball is awarded to Blue, as the goalie, inside his crease, is allowed to play without his stick.*

Add a new AR 59.2:

*Red shoot. The shot goes wide and goes out-of-bounds.*

*The Blue goalie, without his stick, is outside his crease and is the nearest player to the ball as it goes out-of-bounds.*

*RULING: The ball is awarded to the team of the next-nearest player, as the goalie, without his stick, does not count as a player for the purposes of the out-of-bounds call.*

### **CHANGE 3.7 TIME-OUT REQUEST WHEN THE BALL IS IN FLIGHT**

Add a new AR 44.1:

A Red player, in possession of the ball in his own half of the field, passes the ball to a team-mate who is in his opponents' half of the field.

The pass is such that the referees consider that the ball is in the possession of the Red team.

As the ball is in flight, a Red coach calls a time-out.

RULING: If, at the instant that the coach begins to make his time-out call, the ball has not passed the centre line, and is thus in flight over the Red defensive half of the field, then the time-out call is illegal.

RULING: If, at the instant that the coach begins to make his time-out call, the ball has passed the centre line, and is thus in flight over the Red attacking half of the field, then the time-out call is legal.

RULING: Similar considerations would apply if the Red player were passing the ball back into his defensive half of the field.

### **CHANGE 3.8 STICK EXCHANGE**

Amend Rule 59.3 to read:

Players who are legally on the field of play may exchange crosses with each other.

If a player who is on the field of play wishes to exchange his crosse for another crosse which is not on the field of play, then the player must come off the field of play before doing so.

The stick-exchange is thus legal if it is made when the player is in his Bench Area or in the Special Substitution Area.

### **CHANGE 3.9 TOUCHING THE SIDE-LINE WHEN SUBSTITUTING**

Add a new AR 46.5:

A player is coming off the field of play so that he can be substituted.

The heel of his rear foot is touching the side-line. No part of the player is touching the playing field inside the side-line.

His substitute goes on.

RULING: Legal play, as the side-line is not part of the field of play.

Add a new AR 46.6:

A player is about to come off the field of play so that he can be substituted, but he is still on the field of play.

His substitute's front foot touches the side-line. No part of the substitute is touching the playing field inside the side-line.

RULING: Legal play, as the side-line is not part of the field of play.

### **CHANGE 3.10 CHOICE OF BENCH**

Add a new Rule 10.2:

It is the home (first-listed) team's prerogative to choose the bench area which they will occupy during the game.

At a world Championship or similar event, or at any event where the organisers deem it necessary, the home team will be allocated the left-hand bench area when facing the field from the timer's table.

### **CHANGE 3.11      FIRST TEAM OUT OF THE LOCKER ROOMS**

Add a new Rule 84.7:

In the case of a dispute, the visiting team is the first out of the changing rooms.

### **CHANGE 3.12      THE PENALTY FOR A PERSONAL FOUL**

Amend the first sentence of Rule 68.1 to read:

The penalty for a personal foul shall be suspension from the game for a period of 1, 2 or 3 minutes, depending upon the referees' diagnosis of the severity and intention of the foul.

### **CHANGE 3.13      COIN TOSS FOR TIED GAME**

Amend Rule 31.2 i) to read:

The referees shall call together the captains of each team at the centre of the field during a 1-minute intermission. The head referee shall toss a coin to determine choice of goals: the visiting captain shall call the toss.

### **CHANGE 3.14      MISLEADING AN OPPONENT**

Add a new Rule 16.8 to read:

No player shall use a crosse which is constructed or strung or tampered with so as to be designed to confuse an opponent into believing that the ball is in the stick when it is not, or that the ball is not in the stick when it is.

Amend Rule 75.3 to read:

*No player or substitute shall use a crosse with trick construction or stringing which is designed to hold the ball and to retard the normal and free dislodgement of the ball by an opponent. This shall include the dimensions of the crosse, as specified in Rule 15.*

No player shall use a crosse which is constructed or strung or tampered with so as to be designed to confuse an opponent into believing that the ball is in the stick when it is not, or that the ball is not in the stick when it is.

*A player using such a stick shall be given a 3-minute penalty, and the stick shall be placed in the custody of the official scorer for the remainder of the game.*

*If a player whose stick is to be the subject of a legally requested stick-check or a team-mate or any member of his squad, coach or anyone officially connected with the team touches the head or the stringing of the stick or carries out any action which is an attempt to circumvent the stick-check or an attempt to alter the result of the stick-check, prior to the stick check's being carried out, then each of those involved shall be given a 3-minute penalty.*

### **CHANGE 3.15      NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

Amend Rule 19.2 to read:

*If, because of injuries or men out of the game due to fouling out or expulsion fouls or other reasons, a team cannot keep 10 players in the game, then it may continue the game with fewer than 10 players, but no exceptions will be made to the regular rules for this situation.*

**CHANGE 3.16      DIRECTLY OUT-OF-BOUNDS AT A FACE-OFF**

Amend Rule 34.12 to read:

*If the ball goes directly out-of-bounds from a face-off, and the Referees do not know who touched it last, then it shall be re-faced at the same place as the previous face, and subject to the same restrictions as the previous face.*

Amend Rule 40.4 to read:

*If the ball goes directly out-of-bounds from a face-off, and the Referees do not know who touched it last, then it shall be re-faced at the same place as the previous face, and subject to the same restrictions as the previous face.*

**CHANGE 3.17      TEAM TIME-OUT PRIOR TO THE FIRST WHISTLE**

Add a new Rule 44.11:

*A team may call a time-out prior to the start of the game.*

**CHANGE 3.18      AR 81.6**

Add a sentence at the end of AR 81.6:

*The ball is awarded to Blue at the centre.*

**CHANGE 3.19      OFF-SIDE**

Amend Rule 65.4 ii) to read:

*ii) If a player, seeing that he is going to go off-side before he can stop, runs out-of-bounds instead of off-side, then no penalty shall result from the failure of his team to have the required number of players in that half of the field, as long as the player returns immediately to the field.*

**CHANGE 3.20      THE GOALKEEPER**

Amend Rule 48.1 iii) to state:

*iii) An exception to Rule 48.1 ii), above, is that any portion of the crosse of the goalkeeper, when extended outside the cylinder above the goal crease area, except when the ball is in the crosse, is subject to being checked under the same circumstances as the crosse of any other player.*

**CHANGE 3.21      THE HOME TEAM AND THE VISITING TEAM**

Add a new Rule 19.3 which states:

*The home team shall be the first team listed on the published playing schedule.*  
*The visiting team shall be the second team listed on the published playing schedule.*

**CHANGE 4.1 THE TEAM WINNING THE GAME**

Add at the end of Rule 38.1:

The team scoring the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner of the game.

**CHANGE 4.2 THE CBO CHECKS THE NUMBER OF LONG STICKS**

Replace Rule 24.2 ii) with:

ii) check that each team has the correct number of players and no more than four long sticks on the field of play;

**CHANGE 4.3 GOALKEEPER THROWS THE BALL INTO HIS CREASE**

Delete AR 49.10.

Add a new Rule 49.5, to read:

If a goalkeeper, who is outside his crease and who has the ball in his possession, throws or directs the ball into his crease, steps into the crease and picks the ball up, then this shall be a legal play and the count shall begin.

If the goalkeeper, having carried out the procedure outlined above, repeats the procedure before his opponents have had possession of the ball, then a technical foul has been committed by the goalkeeper.

**CHANGE 4.4 STALLING**

Amend AR 62.1 to read:

*Red have been warned to “Get it in”, but they have not yet done so.  
A Red pass is missed, but they recover the ball before Blue gain possession of it.  
RULING: The stalling warning is still in effect.*

Amend AR 62.9 to read:

*Red have possession in the attack goal area, having been warned to “Get it in” or to “Keep it in”.  
The man with the ball is illegally forced out of the attack goal area and into the central zone.  
RULING: A flag is thrown, and the stalling warning is still in effect.*

Amend AR 62.11 to read:

*Red have possession in the attack goal area, having been warned to “Get it in” or to “Keep it in”.  
A pass is deflected by a Blue player, and goes out of the attack goal area into the midfield.  
RULING: Free ball. If Red regains possession of the loose ball, then the warning is still in effect.*

#### **CHANGE 4.5 BALL PERSONS**

Amend Rule 22.3 iv) (re-numbered by Change 4.6, below, as 22.3 iii)) to read:

*iv) that balls and ball persons are provided.*

Amend Rule 30.2 to read:

*All participants, including players, referees, bench officials, ball persons and others, shall be required to go indoors at the earliest opportunity.*

#### **CHANGE 4.6 THE COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Delete 22.3 ii

Re-number 22.3 iii as 22.3 ii

Re-number 22.3 iv as 22.3 iii

Insert, at the end of Rule 22.3:

*In a World Championship or similar event, the organisers of the event will be responsible for the above.*

Insert a new Rule 22.4:

*It shall be the responsibility of each head coach to see that their players and substitutes are properly equipped to play.*

Re-number 22.4 as 22.5

#### **CHANGE 4.7 TIME-OUTS**

Amend Rule 23.3 to read:

*By the sounding of his whistle, any of the referees or the chief bench official may suspend the play of the game for any reason which he deems necessary for the proper enforcement of the rules of the game or the safe conduct of the game.*

Amend Rule 44.2 to read:

*A referee or the chief bench official may call an official time-out for any reason which he deems necessary for the proper enforcement of the rules of the game or the safe conduct of the game.*

#### **CHANGE 4.8 WHERE ARE PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED TO BE**

Add a new rule 61.16:

*Unless he has been given permission to be elsewhere by a referee or the chief bench official, a player, substitute, non-playing member of a squad, coach or anyone officially connected with a competing team shall remain in his team's bench area, except when he is legally on the field of play or legally in the special substitution area or legally in the penalty box.*  
*This rule shall apply at all times, except during the half-time interval.*

Add a new rule 61.17:

*A player may not deliberately enter his opponents' bench area at any time.  
If, in the normal course of play, a player inadvertently enters his opponents' bench area from the field of play, then no offence is committed, provided that the player leaves his opponents' bench area immediately.*

#### **CHANGE 4.9      USE OF THE PLAY-ON RULE**

Amend AR 65.2 to read:

*The ball is loose near the centre line, and a Blue player legally bodychecks a Red player causing him to go off-side.*

*RULING: Unless a Play-on, Rule 83, is invoked, the ball is awarded to Blue.*

Amend AR 65.3 to read:

*The ball is loose near the centre line, and a Blue player illegally pushes a Red player causing him to go off-side.*

*RULING: Unless a Play-on, Rule 83, is invoked, the ball is awarded to Red and no penalty is inflicted on the Blue player.*

*If the pushing is violent or excessive, then a personal foul is imposed.*

#### **CHANGE 4.10      THE PICK**

Replace Rule 74.2 with:

*A deliberate and excessively violent contact made by a defensive player against an offensive player who has legally or illegally established a pick shall be designated unnecessary roughness.*