
WL Rule Changes for 2021

WL has approved the following changes to the men's and women's rules. These changes will be included in future editions of the relevant rule books to which the relevant WL Rules Subcommittees are currently working on. National Governing Body Members will be advised when these rule books will be published in due course.

Noting that these rules do not have a large impact on the way the game is played and helps clear up and clarify certain elements of the rules, the ALA has endorsed and will use these rules at ALA National events in 2021.

World Lacrosse Approved Rule Changes - Men's Field Lacrosse

Rule 24 The Chief Bench Official and The Bench Manager

The Bench Manager shall take the game clock from the Timekeeper and shall stand at the gate for the last 30 seconds of play in each period to count down the remaining time to the closest on-field Official as per Rule 25.2.

Rule 25 The Timekeeper

25.2 The Timekeeper shall keep an accurate record of the time played in each period. With 30 seconds remaining in each period they shall hand the clock to the Bench Manager who shall stand within the Gate and to count down the remaining time to the closest on-field Official as follows; "30 seconds, 25 seconds, 20 seconds, 15 seconds, 14, 13...3, 2, 1, Time".

Rule 37 Free Play

37.1 Once the Official has signaled that the ball is ready for play, the restart shall occur in the same relative position where **the** ball was when play was stopped. The Official shall resume play as quickly as possible. If an opposing Player is within five yards of the Player that has been awarded the ball, and the Official blows the whistle to restart play, the opposing Player is not allowed to defend the ball until they reach a distance of five yards from that opponent. A violation will be a flag down (slow whistle) for **Illegal procedure. (was "Delay of Game")** On any restart, no offensive Player may be within 5 yards of the Player with the ball. The Official shall clearly indicate the Player who is going to re-start to the opposing goalkeeper on a dead ball (non-quick restart situations) restart that is below the restraining lines in the awarded Team's offensive end.

Rule 65 Offside

When 4 or more Players from one Team are in the penalty box at the same time, then that Team is required to have 3 Players in its attack half of the field and the remainder of its Players in its defensive half of the field at all times.

Rule 79 Player Committing Foul

79.1 Deleted World Lacrosse Postal Vote - January 2021

(79.1 A player who has been sent out of the game by a referee shall raise his stick at full arm's length above his head from the time he is sent off until the time he reaches the penalty box, and he shall report immediately to the timer's table. He must remain in the penalty box, subject to the rules below, until released by the penalty timekeeper.)

79.3 If a penalized Player is going to re-enter the game themselves when their penalty time has expired, then they should spend the whole of the penalty time on the seat. A Player who is about to enter the field must give way in the special substitution area to a Player who is leaving the field.

79.4 If a substitute is to replace the penalized Player when the penalty time has expired, then the penalized Player should spend the whole of the penalty time on the seat. The substitute for the penalized Player may not enter the special substitution area until the whole of the penalized Player's penalty time is served. The penalized Player should then return to their Players' bench.

AR79.4 A substitute moves into the Special Substitution Area to replace an on-field player. Prior to the on-field player leaving the field of play through the Special Substitution Area, the substitute runs on when the Penalized Players penalty time is released.

RULING: Illegal Procedure, technical penalty, for entering the Special Substitution Area before the penalty had been released.

Rule 82 The Slow Whistle Technique

82.6 At the time of an inadvertent whistle, play must be stopped immediately. In the case of an inadvertent flag, officials will stop play at the earliest opportunity that does not interfere with an imminent scoring opportunity. Possession shall be awarded as follows:

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i. For an inadvertent whistle, a team with, or entitled to, possession at the time of the whistle shall restart play with possession. If neither team has or is entitled to possession at the time of the whistle, the ball shall be faced.

ii. If Play continues after an inadvertent flag or horn and:

a. A goal is scored, play will be restarted with a center faceoff; or

b. The ball shall be awarded to the Team that had possession when the inadvertent flag was thrown.
