



MEMORANDUM

January 25, 2023

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II, and III Men's Lacrosse Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches and Officials.

FROM: Tom Abbott, National Coordinator of Officials,
Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee

Willie Scroggs, Secretary-Rules Editor,
Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee

John Tillman, Chair,
Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Men's Lacrosse Playing Rules Update.

This communication is being shared to provide some preseason rules guidance for the 2023 season.

Major rules changes: As you may know, the men's lacrosse rules committee approved a number of rules changes during their annual meeting in June 2022. The complete list of the new rules changes is located [here](#). Among the changes approved by the rules committee, there shall be no protrusions or sharp edges on the side wall of the crosse. The crosse shall not be able to hook on any part of the player's body, equipment or helmet. The crosse shall not penetrate the lacrosse helmet face protector that has been certified to meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

A copy of the 2023 and 2024 rules book has been mailed to each head coach and conference commissioner. A free digital version of the rules book is posted at www.ncaapublications.com and will be updated throughout the season as necessary.

Lastly, the 2023 Table Crew Reference Sheet can be found [here](#).

2023 Faceoff Procedure: The faceoff procedure for the 2023 season has two items worth noting that are different from the 2021 and 2022 seasons where COVID-19 mechanics were used.

- 1) The faceoff begins at the command of "down" by the single side faceoff official.
- 2) Officials (single and helper) shall be stationary from the command of down, through the command of "set" and the sounding of the whistle to begin play.

Reminders for officials, players and coaches are as follows:

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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The NCAA is an equal opportunity employer that values inclusive excellence in the workplace.

Player's responsibilities:

- Getting into position as quickly as possible after the official conducting the faceoff say "down".
- There is zero tolerance for players not positioned properly to begin the faceoff.
- Should a player(s) not be in a proper position, violations shall be called by officials.
- Players are reminded to play the ball.

The single side officials' responsibilities:

- When conducting the faceoff, begin in a position roughly 2-3 yards away from the ball when the command of "down" is given. Remain stationary through the entire process.
- Verbal communication to players for "down", "set" commands, and the sounding of the whistle.
- Ensure the players' positions are good after the "down" command.
- Vary the cadence as per Rule 4-3.7.
- The entire process should not take long.

Lead left official's (also known as the helper) responsibilities are unchanged and are as follows:

- Clock accuracy prior to the faceoff.
- Assist the single for violations and positioning of players.
- Attempt to set up 3-5 yards from the players and with a different viewing angle.
- Goal responsibility to the left end of the field.
- NOTE: Be aware of wing players' locations to avoid contact.

Lead right official responsibilities are also unchanged for the 2023 season and are as follows:

- Clearing the bench areas prior to the faceoff.
- Assist with clock accuracy prior to and during the faceoff.
- Get the overall big picture of the field.
- Wing area play coverage.
- Goal coverage to the right end of the field.

For the complete faceoff procedure, see Rule 4-3 in the 2023 and 2024 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Book.

NCAA Faceoff Central Hub Registration: The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee will continue to utilize the Faceoff central hub to distribute rules clarifications, announcements and interpretations. Officiating updates and clarifications are also posted to Faceoff central hub throughout the season.

The Faceoff central hub is now available at www.refquest.com. As a head coach, you should have received an email from RQ+ inviting you to join the Faceoff central hub and create a password. If you did not receive this email or have additional coaches who would like access, please click the link above and register as a coach at no cost.

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Once registered, please make sure to return to this site throughout the year to review any new rules interpretations by viewing the NCAA Rules Book, which can be found under the Rules Book section. After you register, you will receive an email notification anytime a new rules interpretation or rules education article that are posted.

Thank you for your attention to this memorandum. If you have any questions, please contact the men's lacrosse secretary-rules editor, Willie Scroggs (williescroggs@unc.edu) or the men's lacrosse national coordinator of officials, Tom Abbott (laxstripes@hotmail.com).

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cc: Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff