**FCLOA game lessons learned**

Following a goal the coach asks that the goal scorer’s stick be checked. When asked the player pops his strings. The stick check results in confirming it is a legal stick. The correct ruling should be the goal is disallowed, because of the player popping his strings and he receives a one - minute unsportsmanlike non release penalty.

To help ensure a game resumes smoothly after a delayed start the officials other than the one restarting the game should keep their arm up until they have completed their player counts. Once they verify the correct number of players on the field extend your arm downfield to show the restarting official the field is ready. Restarting official should verify this through eye contact before restarting the game.

To All members:  I will try again as I have in the past to send periodic notes regarding issues that need to be addressed.  These issues come from direct observation in my games, from information sent to me from the training committee, the Commissioner, video from coaches, and concerns expressed to me from members.  They’ll involve all aspects of the game, mechanics, and procedures on and off the field.  This is done to improve the quality of our officiating individually and the product we together put on the field.

I’m going to address just face off issues for now.

Match the top of the crosse head with the bottom (throat) of  the opponent’s consistently.  We start off fine but become lax with this.

There are two misconceptions out there about rules that must be rectified.    Rule 4-3d  page 31 states “It is legal to lean over the centerline” on face off.  Also, it is legal for a face off player to “go to the body” of his opponent first with a legal check before playing the ball.  There is no prohibition against this in the high school rule book and since it is not specified illegal it is therefore legal.  There seems to be some confusion with an NCAA rule here.

Mechanics:  Primary official will place his hand on both crosses and say “Set” locking both players into position.  Have your whistle in your mouth prior to backing out, not on your finger. This may run against years of habit but this is the approved mechanic and we must adapt.  Get used to it.  If not in our mouth clenched between our teeth the wings can observe us and possibly beat the whistle thereby gaining an unfair advantage due to our laziness.

If possession is not gained and the ball crosses the restraining line give the wind the clock signal and yell “play”.  Many of us, like me, still yell “release”.  This change was made because some players somewhere actually released from the penalty area.

It is illegal to withhold the ball from play in any manner, i.e. stepping or lying on it, when after controlling the ball not getting it in play immediately.  Rule 4-3j page 32.

"It is illegal to kick, step on, or place any other body part to his crosse or the crosse of his opponent" or "to use his crosse to hold or pin down a player's crosse"  Rule 4-3k page 32.

"It is illegal for a player to use his hand or fingers to play the ball"  This is unsportsmanlike conduct.  Rule 4-3L page 32.

"It is illegal for a player to grab an opponent's crosse with the open hand or fingers".  Rule 4-3m  page 32.

Crosses used to face off must have paint or a single wrap of tape beginning at but not touching the throat of the crosse and extending 6 inches down the shaft.  The paint or tape "must be of a contrasting colour to the head, gloves, and shaft".  Rule 4-3n page 32.  The rule change intended (assumed) that the paint would be applied by manufacturers to new special face off sticks.  It is okay if the players do this themselves as long as it is neat and doesn't touch the head.  The manufacturer's original colour, i.e. gray or silver, even if contrasting, does not satisfy the rule as rule 4-3n states "This material must be of contrasting colour to the head, gloves, and SHAFT".  page 32.

Play - After goal official notices goalie has NO mouthpiece.

Rule 6-5-2x is a change this year and the mouth piece is only a 30 second technical foul.  See delay of game 6-5-2f

allowing 20 seconds to be ready to play.

During a dead ball situation:  You cannot have a dead ball mouthpiece/equipment violation!!!

If the goalie was seen to be without a mouthpiece after the goal was scored, the only option is to have a delay of game while waiting for the goalie to get a mouthpiece, if he cannot re-take the field in the 20 second beeper prior to the next face-off.  This is the same rule for a face off player without a mouth piece (send them out and get a new player for face).

During a live ball situation:  Throw a flag for a 30 second technical or turn the ball over to the opposite team making the player without a mouth piece leave the field.  However, it is not a time serving penalty if we turn over the ball.

The team on offense with possession would have to serve 30 second technical foul.

**Training 2\_26\_17**

Play on and the crease. If the ball is loose a play on. If in the goalies cross a free clear.

No four second count if the goalie does not have possession of the ball. IE he puts the ball on the netting for a D pole to pick up.

Last second shot, the ball must cross the goal line before the horn goes off or no goal.

During a dead ball either coach can call time out.

Reclamps are allowed in high school but the 1 step requirement is still in affect.

Tape on the head is allowed in High School. Not allowed if facing off.

Penalty stacking. IE Four players receive penalty time. Go by the sequence of penalties. If that is not known then go by severity.

If the faceoff player will put a team offside, it is allowable for his hands to cross midfield but NOT his feet.

Restarts use proper mechanics and check your partners before blowing the restart.

Lead needs to move towards the end line when determining possession.

Table should have no more than four personnel. A scorer and spotter from each team. Table also should be using the stadium clock to time penalties. When reporting a penalty be aware of the time the player should be released and remind table personnel to count down loudly the release. 10, 9, 8…………release.

Penalized players need to kneel in front of the table. Not on the edge of the box next to coaches and players. Keep opposing players separate. One on each end of the table.

Be cognizant of impending time out requests. IE long pole in trouble or a clear is failing. Lead and or trail are looking for the coach to call a timeout.

Face-offs with less than 10 seconds in a quarter. The wing officials should go to GLE in anticipation of a last second shot.

A player’s helmet can be over the midfield line on a faceoff.

When going from lead to trail, get to the sideline. Do not run up field in the middle of the field.

On restarts the goalie gets five seconds to return to his cage.

The faceoff official to the left/in the slot should be stationary looking for player movement, not in motion to the sideline or GLE.

R’s must contact the school/coach to verify their game and start time 24-48 hours before the scheduled game.

If a game is suspended, the R must record the time, score, penalties, possession and location of the ball. If two quarters have been completed then it is an official game.

Once possession is obtained after a faceoff ALL officials should call possession and signal with the rotation of the arm.

FCLOA Members:

      Since Jody did such a fine job of reviewing key issues and Ron took and distributed clear/concise minutes I’ll address mostly mechanics in this message.

      As Jody stated Lead needs to move quickly to the endline when there is a challenged ball.  If the players work that hard to get there so do we to make the proper call.

      Consistently signal the ball in the attack box.  This tells Single it’s in and satisfies the clearing count (10 sec.) as well as sets the stage for a possible over-and-back call.  The ball has to be in the attack box before there can be an over-and-back call.

      Make sure the table is positioned approximately 6 yards from the sideline.  It’s not only a rule but a safety issue.  Some of our newer schools don’t understand that yet.

      Remind the players that they are to kneel in front of the table, Rule 7-1c.  Coaches like them to hang out near the pylon/cone to talk to them but this puts them in a position of incurring an interference call with a player leaving the field who has the right-of-way (Rule 4-21-1e) so we are doing them a favor.  Also this allows us to clearly see the player in the box.

      The #2 Official who runs left and assists in the face off needs to remain stationary in order to see if someone jumps early as the #1 Official who actually conducts the face off is moving at the whistle.

      As always count the number of players on the field every trip up and down the field.

      While moving upfield during a clear move up and out toward the sidelines as Trail and Single to cover tight sideline calls.

      In watching video of our games I've noticed we don't always watch the clearing player with the ball closely enough.  Video has shown some of us anticipating where the ball is going to go and not staying with the ball carrier who is our prime responsibility.  Watch the action during the follow through and 1-2 seconds more to prevent cheap shots.

      Start to analyze your game by thinking about what you are looking at.  What are your visual cues on any given play.  With few exceptions (crease violations, diving, illegal picks) most fouls are committed on defense so pay close attention to Team B players.  They usually take you to the foul most quickly.  The ball has yet to commit a foul so don't be staring at it.  Watch the players around it.  When you see a foul about to happen what part of the player's body will it involve?  Focus more closely on that part of the body specifically for accuracy.

      Having done a week of doubleheaders myself remember to pace yourselves and stay hydrated.  You have to have gas in the tank for the 4th quarter of the Varsity game.

NFYLL

It has been brought to my attention that there is not consistency in time keeping and games are running over. This should be no different than a central clock/horn. I have discussed with head ref and here is what we will be doing moving forward.

1 time out per half

12 minute running quarter clock that will stop for 1 minute with a time out.

1-2 and 3-4 Quarter breaks are one minute.

That will add to 59 minutes, so if game is behind schedule maybe shorten half time to 3 minutes?

This will allow the extra minute per half for coaching and realign your team. Games need to start and end prior to top of hour.

Please help by reminding coaches before each game!