



**FIL RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS
MEN'S FIELD LACROSSE
2010**

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PROPOSAL 1.1 FLAGRANT MISCONDUCT SEEN BY THE CBO

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

It is sometimes the case that, when the play is settled around a goal, the CBO sees a player commit a personal foul in another part of the field, perhaps by a player who is attempting to further an earlier conflict.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

The Rules do not allow a CBO to call such an on-field foul, however serious its nature.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add, at the end of Rule 24.3:

Exceptionally, where the CBO becomes aware of a player committing an act of flagrant misconduct, then, if the act is away from the current area of play and is unlikely to have been seen by the on-field referees, the CBO shall either throw a signal flag or blow his whistle, as appropriate, and, when a whistle has stopped the play, the CBO shall inform the head referee of what has happened and the CBO shall make the appropriate call.

PROPOSAL 1.2 THE NOMINATED DEFENDER

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

The FIL Rules assume that each team has two goalkeepers.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

This is not always the case, especially amongst the newer nations or in club games played to the FIL Rules.

In the interest of safety, it is important that an unprotected deputy goalkeeper is NOT allowed to take over from the one regular goalkeeper, if the latter has to serve a penalty.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Insert a new Rule 47.4:

47.4 The organisers of a tournament or a competition may, if they feel it appropriate for some or all of the games in that tournament or competition play the Nominated Defender Rule:

i) Before the commencement of the game, the Head Coach shall nominate a starting longstick of his squad to be the Nominated Defender.

ii) Where a goalkeeper commits a time-serving penalty, the suspension shall be served by the Nominated Defender. The penalty shall be charged against the goalkeeper's name

iii) Rule 47.4 ii) shall not apply if the goalkeeper has committed an expulsion foul or if the penalty causes the goalkeeper to "foul out."

iv) If the Nominated Defender is not on the field of play to serve the suspension, the suspension shall be inflicted upon another longstick defender, who was on the field of play when the goalkeeper committed his foul(s).

v) If both teams have two goalkeepers dressed, the Nominated Defender rule will not be used. If one team has two goalkeepers and the other has not, both teams shall have the option of using the Nominated Defender rule.



PROPOSAL 1.3 JEWELLERY

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

The Rules do not mention jewellery.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

Jewellery can be dangerous.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new Rule 18.7:

A player or substitute must not wear jewellery or ornamentation: this prohibition shall include body-piercings.

Exceptions to this shall be a Medical Alert item and/or a religious item.

If worn, such an item must be securely taped to the relevant part of the body, to prevent its becoming entangled with the crosse or equipment of the wearer or another player.



PROPOSAL 1.4 THE NATURE OF AN EXPULSION FOUL

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 78 states:

RULE 78 THE NATURE OF AN EXPULSION FOUL

- 78.1** The act of deliberately striking or attempting to strike an opponent, a non-playing member of the opponents' squad, a coach or anyone controlling the play of the game with the hand, crosse, ball or otherwise by a player, a substitute, a non-playing member of a squad, a coach or anyone officially connected with a team may be an expulsion foul.
- 78.2** Where a fight occurs on the field of play, and the officials have "frozen" the benches, by indicating to the team personnel who are on the benches that they should remain there, then any team personnel pushing past an official in order to join in a fight may be expelled from the game.
- 78.3** Where two players from competing teams are fighting and a third participant enters the altercation, then the third man into the altercation may be expelled from the game.
- 78.4** Refusal to accept the authority of the officials, or the use of foul or abusive language may be an expulsion foul.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

It is felt that the above is not all-embracing.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 78 to read:

RULE 78 THE NATURE OF AN EXPULSION FOUL

- 78.1** The act of deliberately striking or attempting to strike an opponent, a non-playing member of the opponents' squad, a coach, *a spectator*, or anyone controlling the play of the game with the hand, crosse, ball or otherwise by a player, a substitute, a non-playing member of a squad, a coach or anyone officially connected with a team may be an expulsion foul.
- 78.2** *Where the officials have "frozen" the benches, because a fight has occurred on the field of play, or for any other reason*, by indicating to the team personnel who are on the benches that they should remain there, then any team personnel pushing past an official in order to join in a fight, *or leaving their designated bench area*, **MUST** be expelled from the game. An exception to this shall be a member of a team's medical staff who leaves his team's designated bench area to attend to an injured member of his squad.
- 78.3** Where two players from competing teams are fighting and a third participant enters the altercation, then the third man into the altercation may be expelled from the game.



78.4 Refusal to accept the authority of the officials, or the use of *threatening*, foul or abusive language *or gestures, or flagrant misconduct* may be an expulsion foul.

PROPOSAL 1.5 TEAM TIME-OUT

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 60.1 states, inter alia:

60.1 A coach, trainer or other person officially connected with a team shall not:

- i) Enter the field of play without the permission of an official, except during a team time-out or between periods;
 - Thus, team times-out are typically held on the field.
 - This means that 50 or so team personnel are on the field close to each other, with the possibility of taunting taking place.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

This may lead to subsequent problems in the game.

It would be safer if team times-out were held in the respective bench areas.

This would also clarify the position for coaches – they are only allowed on the field of play between periods.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend the above to read:

60.1 A coach, trainer or other person officially connected with a team shall not:

- i) Enter the field of play without the permission of an official, except between periods;

Add a new Rule 44.11:

During a time-out of any kind, each team's coaches, trainers and other persons officially connected with the team must remain in their own designated bench area, unless they have the permission of an official to leave their bench area.



PROPOSAL 1.6 THE FACE-OFF - SET

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 34.3 states:

Once the players facing have assumed their positions, the referee shall say “Set”.

Once this signal is given, the hands and gloves of both players must remain motionless until the whistle sounds to start play.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

It is felt that faces-off take too much time, often with the penalty clock running, to complete.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Replace Rule 34.3 with:

Once the players facing have assumed their positions, the hands and gloves of both players must remain motionless until the whistle sounds to start play.



PROPOSAL 1.7 MINIMUM STICK WIDTH

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 15.2 states:

The head of the crosse shall measure between 4 inches (10.16 centimetres) and 10 inches (25.4 centimetres) inside measurement at its widest point.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

The minimum width is too narrow for field lacrosse.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 15.2 to read:

The head of the crosse shall measure between 6 inches (15.24 centimetres) and 10 inches (25.4 centimetres) inside measurement at its widest point.



PROPOSAL 2.1 HANGING STRINGS

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 16.5 states:

16.5 Any strings which are not part of the stick as manufactured shall be limited to a hanging length of 2 inches (5.08 centimetres).

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

This Rule implies that a Referee knows the specification of every stick as manufactured and it is thus, clearly, impossible to police.

Hanging strings are dangerous and can damage eyes, whether they are as manufactured or added.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 16.5 to read:

16.5 *Any strings shall be limited to a hanging length of 2 inches (5.08 centimetres).*



PROPOSAL 2.2 EXPULSION FOUL PROCEDURE

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 77 presently implies that an expelled player shall serve his own 3 minutes.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

When feelings are high, this does not seem wise – especially where players from opposing teams have been expelled for fighting and would be sitting only a few feet away from each other.

The in-home should serve all outstanding penalties for an expelled player, including his 3 minutes.

This should also apply to a coach, non-playing member of a squad, or someone officially connected with a team who is expelled.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 77.2 to read:

77.2 In the case of an expulsion foul against a player or a substitute, the In-home of the offending team shall be suspended from the game for 3 minutes plus any other penalty time which the expelled player has incurred, and the In-home must remain in the penalty box for the entire 3 minutes plus any other penalty time which the expelled player has incurred.

A substitution may be made after a lapse of 3 minutes plus any other penalty time which the expelled player has incurred

It is highly recommended that the expelled player remain in his team's bench area. But, whether he does so or not, he will still be considered to be under the supervision of his team's coaches until the end of the game.

Amend Rule 77.3 to read:

In the case of an expulsion foul against a coach, non-playing member of a squad, or someone officially connected with a team, the In-home of the offending team shall be suspended from the game for 3 minutes plus any other penalty time which the expelled coach, non-playing member of a squad, or someone officially connected with a team has incurred, and the In-home must remain in the penalty box for the entire 3 minutes plus any other penalty time which the expelled coach, non-playing member of a squad, or someone officially connected with a team has incurred.

A substitution may be made after a lapse of 3 minutes plus any other penalty time which the expelled coach, non-playing member of a squad, or someone officially connected with a team has incurred

It is highly recommended that the expelled squad-member remain in his team's bench area. But, whether he does so or not, he will still be considered to be under the supervision of his team's coaches until the end of the game.

PROPOSAL 2.3 THE SCORERS

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 27.1 states:

Each team shall provide a scorer and, unless otherwise designated by the head referee, the visiting scorer shall be the official scorer.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

In practice, the organisers of a tournament may wish to appoint scorers.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 27.1 to read:

Each team shall provide a scorer and, unless otherwise designated by the head referee, the visiting scorer shall be the official scorer.

Where it deems it appropriate, the organising committee for a tournament shall appoint the scorers and nominate the official scorer.

PROPOSAL 2.4 IN-HOME – STARTING ATTACK PLAYER

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 84.1 states:

Where an official is called upon to inflict a penalty against a team where no definite player is involved, or where the penalty is against someone other than a player in the game, a player in the penalty box or a player in the bench area, then he shall inflict the suspension upon the In-home. If multiple fouls of this type occur, then the penalties shall be inflicted against additional attack players.

Rule 22.1 states, inter alia:

Before the commencement of the game, the head coach shall nominate his captain(s), and an In-home to the officials.

The In-home may be any member of the squad.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

It is felt that the In-home should be a starting attack player.

The phrase “additional attack players” does not make sense given that the In-home may be any member of the squad.

It is felt that the sentence regarding multiple fouls does not clarify every situation.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Change the above sentence in Rule 22.1 to read:

The In-home *must be a starting attack player.*

Add AR 84.1 and AR 84.2 at the end of Rule 84:

AR 84.1

A one-minute penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct has been inflicted on the Blue coach.

The Blue In-home is in the penalty box and the whistle has blown to re-start play.

A further one-minute penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct is then inflicted on the Blue coach.

RULING:

The second penalty is inflicted against an additional attack player.



AR 84.2

A one-minute penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct has been inflicted on the Blue coach.

The Blue In-home is either moving into the penalty box or he has already reached the penalty box, but the whistle has not yet blown to re-start play.

A further one-minute penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct is then inflicted on the Blue coach.

RULING:

The second penalty is inflicted against the original In-home, so that he serves two penalties for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.



PROPOSAL 2.5 FACE-OFF NOT AT THE CENTRE

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

In certain circumstances, we are required to have a face-off which is not at the centre.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

This takes time to set up and consistency is required regarding the clock.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a paragraph to the end of Rule 35.1:

viii) The game clock and any penalty clock(s) shall be stopped immediately.

PROPOSAL 3.1 THE WARM-UP

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Conflicts have arisen prior to the start of games, when a team which is warming up has not confined its warm-up to “its own” half of the playing field.

This action and the resulting recriminations can create bad feeling between the teams before a game has started: a recipe for disaster.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

The Rules do not mention where a warm-up should take place, although the “own half” convention is usually adhered to.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new Rule 33.3:

33.3 When a team is “warming-up” on the field of play, it shall do so in the half of the playing field which is nearer to its own bench area.

PROPOSAL 3.2 THE FACE-OFF

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 34.2 states, inter alia:

The left foot and the handle of the crosse may not cross the centre line.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

Queries have been received concerning the meaning of “cross the centre line”.

Does “cross” imply the ground beyond the line cannot be touched?

What if only the line is touched by the foot or the handle?

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend the above sentence in 34.2 to read:

The feet must not touch the centre line or the opponents' defensive half of the field.

Both feet must be grounded up to the sounding of the referee's whistle to start play.

The handle of the crosse must not touch the opponents' defensive half of the field.



PROPOSAL 3.3 TECHNICAL FOUL CANCELLED

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 79.6 and Rule 80.3 state:

79.6 Penalty time will end when the timing of the penalty has expired, except that the scoring of a goal against a team having one or more players serving penalty time for technical fouls shall release the player or players of the team scored against from serving the balance of their penalty time.

This shall not apply in the case of personal fouls, where the designated penalty time shall be served regardless of whether or not a goal is scored.

80.3 If a goal is scored during a slow whistle play for a technical foul, then no penalty is given.

If a goal is not scored during a slow whistle play, then a time penalty is given, and the ball is awarded to the attacking team at the place where it was when play was suspended, subject to **Rule 80.2 i)** being followed.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

It is clearly the intention of the Rules that a goal against a team cancels any time-served penalty for a technical foul which is being served or any time-served penalty for a technical foul which is about to be served, providing the technical foul was committed before the scoring of the goal.

But the Rules do not explicitly state that, where a technical foul committed prior to the scoring of a goal is reported to the Referees after the scoring of the goal, then there shall be no penalty.

For example:

Blue scores.

After the goal, the CBO informs the Referees that, prior to the goal being scored Red had committed a technical foul, for example off-side or illegal procedure.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new AR 79.3 which reads:

A Red player is serving a 30-second penalty for a technical foul.

Blue score.

After the goal, it becomes apparent that, prior to the scoring of the goal, the Red player had re-entered the game 5 seconds before the expiration of his penalty and that it was the Red player's fault.

RULING: *The remainder of the original technical penalty is wiped out by the goal and the Red player does not serve a penalty for his premature re-entry, as this technical foul was prior to the scoring of a goal by his opponents.*

PROPOSAL 3.4 THE END OF THE STALLING WARNING

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

AR 62.3 states:

AR 62.3 Red have been warned to “Get it in”, but they have not yet done so.
Red immediately lose possession to Blue, but then regain the ball.

RULING: The stalling warning is no longer in effect, as a new clearing situation has been created.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

AR 62.3 means that a stalling warning dies when the opposition gain possession of the ball.

But this is not stated in the Rules themselves.

In addition, the Rules do not say that the scoring of a goal or a face-off at the start of a new period ends a stalling warning.

But this is what we play.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new Rule 62.7 which reads:

A stalling warning ends when:

- i) the defensive team gains possession of the ball;*
- ii) or a goal is scored;*
- iii) or a period ends resulting in a face-off.*

PROPOSAL 3.5 SIMULTANEOUS FOULS BEFORE “POSSESSION”

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 34 does not state what happens if, prior to “Possession” or “Free Ball” at a centre face-off, simultaneous fouls occur and a re-face is required.

Rule 81, Simultaneous Fouls, does not clarify.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

This has been queried.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new Rule 34.13:

At a centre face-off, before “Possession” or “Free ball” has been called, if simultaneous fouls occur and a re-face is needed, per Rule 81.2, then the ball shall be re-faced at the centre of the field with the same restrictions as the original face-off.

Change 81.2, as follows:

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 *or, if it was during a centre face-off, prior to “Possession” or “Free ball”, re-faced at the centre of the field with the same restrictions as the original face-off,*
- 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 *or, if it was during a centre face-off, prior to “Possession” or “Free ball”, re-faced at the centre of the field with the same restrictions as the original face-off*

PROPOSAL 3.6 SECOND FOUL DURING PLAY-ON

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 83 does not state what happens if a team commits a second technical foul after its opponents have been told to play-on for a first technical foul.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

This has been queried.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new Rule 83.2, to read:

If the offending team commits a second foul during a play-on, then the following rules shall apply:

- i) If the second foul is a technical foul, then a further play-on is called.*

If the offended team gains possession of the ball, then the play-on situation has lapsed, and the official will cease to signal.

If the offending team gains possession of the ball, then the whistle sounds, and the offended team is awarded the ball.

No send-off.

- ii) If the second foul is a personal foul, then the referee stops the play immediately. Penalty time is served only for the personal foul.*

PROPOSAL 3.7 CLARIFICATION OF “TIME-OFF ...SHALL BE ADDED...”

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 29.1 states:

29.1 The match shall be divided into 4 periods of 20 minutes’ duration each. “Time off” incurred in each quarter shall be added to the playing time of that quarter.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

Queries have been raised concerning the sentence:

“Time off” incurred in each quarter shall be added to the playing time of that quarter.

The sentence is THOUGHT to mean that, if 20 minutes have elapsed from the start of the quarter but, during that time, the game clock has been stopped for 3 minutes, then there are still 3 minutes to play in the quarter: the time-off is added back.

But it is felt that the wording is not clear.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 29.1 to read:

29.1 The match shall be divided into 4 periods of 20 minutes’ duration each.

Any of the referees or the chief bench official may suspend the play of the game and stop the game clock and any penalty clock(s) for any reason which he deems necessary for the proper enforcement of the rules of the game or the safe conduct of the game.

PROPOSAL 3.8 GROUND PIPES AS PART OF THE GOAL

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 2.4 states:

The goal posts shall be:

- either sunk into the ground so that no ground pipes are used;
- or supported by flat ground pipes.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

Queries have been raised concerning “flat ground pipes”.

In effect, the queries are asking what the phrase means.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 2.4 to read:

The goal posts shall be:

- either sunk into the ground so that no ground pipes are used;
- or supported by *flat metal bars, no more than 0.5 inches (1.27 centimetres) thick.*

Goals should be constructed in a manner such that when a ball enters the goal mouth and it is a goal, the ball shall not re-enter the field of play.



PROPOSAL 4.1 THE SPECIAL SUBSTITUTION AREA

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

The Special Substitution Area is there for the specific purpose of facilitating substitutions on the fly.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

The Rules do not state that the Special Substitution Area can only be entered during a substitution.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Add a new sentence at the start of Rule 46.2:

A substitute may only enter the Special Substitution Area when he is about to substitute for a team-mate and the substitution is imminent.



PROPOSAL 4.2 ILLEGAL STICK AFTER KICKED GOAL

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 45.5 states:

45.5 If a goal has been scored with a stick and, before the next live ball, that stick is declared illegal for any reason, then the goal will not count.

If a goal has been scored with a stick and a stick-check has been legally called on that stick then, if the player 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 carrying out of the stick-check, then the goal will not count.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

The phrase “scored with a stick” has been queried.

What if the player holding the illegal stick volleys the ball into the top corner of the net using his right foot?

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 45.5 to read:

If a goal has been scored by an attacking player, and before the next live ball that player’s crosse is declared illegal for any reason, then the goal will not count.

Thus, if an attacking player kicks the ball into the goal, and his crosse is declared illegal for any reason before the next live ball, the goal will not count.

Similarly, if the ball deflects off an attacker’s body into the goal, and his crosse is declared illegal for any reason before the next live ball, the goal will not count.

If a goal has been scored by an attacking player and a stick-check has been legally called on that player’s stick then, if the player 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 carrying out of the stick-check, then the goal will not count.

PROPOSAL 4.3 ILLEGAL STICK CANCELS A GOAL

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 38.2 states:

When the ball passes through the plane of the goal in the following circumstances, however, a goal does not count:

- iii) after a referee's whistle has sounded to indicate the end of a period;
- iv) after the period has ended, regardless of whether or not a referee's whistle has sounded;
- v) after a referee's whistle has sounded for any reason, even though the sounding of the whistle was inadvertent;
- vi) when any part of the body of an attacking player is touching the goal crease area;
- vii) when the attacking team has more than 10 men on the field of play (including the penalty box) at the time;
- viii) when the attacking team has more men than it should have on the actual field of play (excluding the penalty box) at the time;
- ix) when the attacking team or both teams are off-side at the time.
- x) when the head of the shooter's crosse comes off during the shot or the follow-through.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

There is some redundancy in the present wording.

Though mentioned in **Rule 45.5**, an illegal stick needs to be mentioned here for completeness.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Amend Rule 38.2 to read:

When the ball passes through the plane of the goal in the following circumstances, however, a goal does not count:

- i) after the period has ended, regardless of whether or not a referee's whistle has sounded;
- ii) after a referee's whistle has sounded for any reason, even though the sounding of the whistle was inadvertent;
- iii) when any part of the body of an attacking player is touching the goal crease area;
- iv) when the attacking team has more men than it should have on the actual field of play (excluding the penalty box) at the time;



- v) when the attacking team or both teams are off-side at the time.
- vi) when the head of the shooter's crosse comes off during the shot or the follow-through.
- vii) *If a goal has been scored by an attacking player and, before the next live ball, that player's stick is declared illegal for any reason.*
- viii) *Refer also to Rule 45.5 regarding an illegal crosse.*



PROPOSAL 4.4 THE BUTT-END OF THE CROSSE'S HANDLE

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 15.4 says:

15.4 The head of the crosse shall be made of wood, laminated wood, plastic, or any other material approved by the FIL, and the shaft shall be made of wood, aluminium or any other material approved by the FIL.

Where a handle is made of metal, it must have a plastic or wood plug on the end, or it must be adequately taped to prevent injury.

The head of the crosse shall be approximately perpendicular to the handle.

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

In a recent game, a Referee asked a player to tape his handle, as it was metal.

The player said that “titanium is a compound, not a metal, and so it does not need to be taped”.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Whilst we do not want to take a knee-jerk reaction to every point made by a pedantic player, we could clarify matters by **amending Rule 15.4 to read:**

15.4 The head of the crosse shall be made of wood, laminated wood, plastic, or any other material approved by the FIL, and the shaft shall be made of wood, aluminium or any other material approved by the FIL.

- *The butt-end of the crosse's handle must*
- *either be solid with no sharp edges*
- *or, if hollow, it must have its open end adequately covered with plastic, rubber or tape to prevent injury.*
- *The use of metal caps is prohibited.*
- The head of the crosse shall be approximately perpendicular to the handle.

PROPOSAL 4.5 MISTAKES

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Rule 28.1 states:

28.1 Where a chief bench official, time-keeper, penalty time-keeper, or scorer becomes aware that a mistake is being made which would result in a player or a team being penalised, then he shall promptly correct the mistake. If a goal is scored during the mistake and it is brought to the attention of the referees before the next live ball, after the player in question has participated in the game, then the referees shall allow or disallow the goal depending on the circumstances.

The rule's heading is:

RULE 28 MISTAKES BY THE BENCH OFFICIALS

2 THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PRESENT POSITION

The rule deals with mistakes by the CBO and others in the bench area, rather than the referees.

But the referees can also become aware of a mistake.

The rule needs to be broadened to include the referees.

There is also confusion concerning the phrases “a mistake is being made” and “during the mistake”.

We need to clarify that a mistake is still being made when a player who should not be in the penalty box is still in the penalty box and a mistake is still being made when a player who should be in the penalty box is not in the penalty box.

It is felt that additional ARs can do this.

3 THE PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS

Change Rule 28.1 to read:

28.1 Where a *referee*, chief bench official, time-keeper, penalty time-keeper, or scorer becomes aware that a mistake is being made which would result in a player or a team being penalised, then he shall promptly correct the mistake. If a goal is scored during the mistake and it is brought to the attention of the referees before the next live ball, after the player in question has participated in the game or has been prevented from participating in the game, then the referees shall allow or disallow the goal depending on the circumstances.

Change the rule's heading to:

RULE 28 MISTAKES BY THE OFFICIALS

Add ARs 28.3, 28.4, 28.5, 28.6, 28.7 and 28.8:



AR 28.3

A Blue player has been sent to the penalty box.

After the whistle has blown to re-start play, whilst the Blue player is still in the penalty box, the Head Referee realises that the Blue player should not have been sent off.

RULING:

As he has now become aware that a mistake is being made which penalises the Blue team, the Head Referee should stop the play at the appropriate time, and correct the mistake.

AR 28.4

A Blue player has been sent to the penalty box.

Red score whilst the Blue player is in the penalty box.

After the goal, and before the play has re-started, the Head Referee realises that the Blue player should not have been sent off.

RULING:

As he has now become aware before the next live ball, that a goal has been scored during the mistake, the Head Referee disallows the goal.

AR 28.5

A Blue player has been sent to the penalty box.

Red score whilst the Blue player is in the penalty box.

The Blue player's penalty expires.

The play re-starts.

After the re-start, the Head Referee realises that the Blue player should not have been sent off.

RULING:

As the play has re-started, it is now too late to correct the earlier mistake.

AR 28.6

A number of simultaneous fouls lead to several time-served penalties.

As part of the same incident, the referees decide not to inflict a penalty on Blue #7.

After the whistle has blown to re-start play, the Head Referee realises that Blue #7 should have been sent off.



RULING:

As he has now become aware that a mistake is being made which penalises the Red team, the Head Referee should stop the play at the appropriate time, and correct the mistake.

AR 28.7

A number of simultaneous fouls lead to several time-served penalties.

As part of the same incident, the referees decide not to inflict a penalty on Blue #7.

Blue score whilst at least one Red player is still in the penalty box.

After the goal, and before the play has re-started, the Head Referee realises that Blue #7 should have been sent off.

RULING:

As he has now become aware before the next live ball, that a goal has been scored during the mistake, the Head Referee disallows the goal.

AR 28.8

A number of simultaneous fouls lead to several time-served penalties.

As part of the same incident, the referees decide not to inflict a penalty on Blue #7.

Blue score whilst at least one Red player is still in the penalty box.

The last of the simultaneous penalties expires.

The play re-starts.

After the re-start, the Head Referee realises that Blue #7 should have been sent off.

RULING:

As the play has re-started, it is now too late to correct the earlier mistake.