



2024 Men's Field Lacrosse Rules Assembly

Meeting Date: 4/5th May 2024

Meeting Time: 3pm MST/4pm CET/5pm EST/10pm GMT/11 pm CET/7am JST/11am NZDT

Meeting Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82194024622>

Agenda:

1. (15 minutes) Introductions, Procedures, Roll Call
2. (45 minutes) Review of Proposed Changes
 - 2.1 Proposed Changes – Require a Vote (Appendix A)
 - 2.2 Editorial Changes – Information Only (Appendix A)
 - 2.3 New Proposals
 - 2.3.1 Shot Clock Proposal and Rationale (Appendix B)
 - 2.4 Discussion/Clarifications
3. (15 minutes) Revised Timelines (Appendix C)
 - 3.1 Applicable for this rule set
 - 3.2 Revised timings of rules changes
4. (5 minutes) Review of Voting Procedure(s)
 - 4.1 Ballot(s) to come to registered NGB representatives.
 - 4.2 Respond to ballot(s) by **25 May, 2024**
5. (5 minutes) Closing Remarks

Appendix A

2.1 Proposed Changes – Require a Vote

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| Rule 1.1 – Field Dimensions | The playing area will be marked with a solid lined rectangular boundary, 91.4m to 100m long between end-lines, and 50m to 60m wide between side-lines. |
| Rationale | Flexibility in field dimensions to adapt to the most commonly used types of multi-sport fields. Harmonization in a unified field for men's and women's field lacrosse. |
| Rule 5.1 – Goal Area Lines | In each half of the field a line shall be marked from side-line to side-line, between the goal line and the centerline, 22 meters (24.06 yards) from the goal line. These lines shall be designate the goal area lines. |
| Rationale | Less markings on a unified field. Harmonization was agreed upon in 2019 when women's rules voted to change from 25m to 22m. |
| Rule 6.1 – Wing Lines | Lines parallel to the side-lines shall be marked on each side of the field, 18 meters (19.69 yards) from the center of the field and extend 10 meters on each side of the centerline. These lines shall be designated the wing lines. |
| Rationale | Fixed length instead of varying independent of field length. |
| Rule 29.2 Increase Playing Time | <p>i.[...]</p> <p>ii. The game clock and, if applicable, the penalty clock(s) shall stop after the officials have blown their whistle for the scoring of a goal, or for the awarding and relaying of time-serving penalties to the Scorers, and they shall restart whenever play is restarted.</p> <p>iii. Such stoppages of play shall not be considered an official's time-out.</p> |
| Rationale | <p>Increase the amount of actual playing time by stopping all clocks on the mainly administrative tasks of relaying penalties and procedures after scoring of a goal.</p> <p>Reference: 2023 Men's World Championship – 1691 goals scored, average of 16 goals/game, maximum of 8 minutes taken to administer faceoffs.</p> |
| Rule 34.11 – Foul during a center face-off | During or after a center face-off, but before "Possession" or "Free ball" have been called, if the official stops play for a foul that is committed, then the appropriate penalty will be applied and all confined Players will be released from the Goal Areas. Where the foul occurs in the offended team's Defensive half of the field the Free Play will be awarded at the Centerline. Where the foul occurs in the offended team's Offensive half of the field the Free Play will |

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| | be awarded where the ball was when the whistle was blown to stop play. |
| Rationale | Simplify the rule by applying the general rule and omitting the special rule that applied only during face-offs before possession and that was regularly misinterpreted. |
| Rule 37.2 – Distance from Goal on restarts | A free play, other than an out of bounds on the endline, shall not take place closer to the opposing goal than 18 meters (20 yards) in any direction except when on the endline, and the ball shall be moved laterally to a point 18 meters (20 yards) from the goal , if required. |
| Rationale | Allow the team in possession in their defensive end a faster restart by not moving the ball away from the goal. |
| Rule 49.3 – Goal Crease | <p>When inside the goal crease, the goalkeeper, or the defender must move the ball out of the goal crease within 5 seconds of gaining Possession of the ball in the goal crease.</p> <p>This shall be audibly and visually counted by the nearest Official as “1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005”.</p> <p>Once initiated the count will continue even if the ball becomes loose inside the goal crease.</p> |
| Rationale | Allowing the team in possession more time to find option to pass or run the ball. Harmonization with other disciplines. |
| Rule 49.5 – Goal Crease | Once a team gains possession of the ball in the goal crease area and the ball subsequently leaves the goal crease area, the team must not intentionally return the ball to its goal crease area until the ball has been possessed by an opposing Player. |
| Rationale | Increase the pace of play. Harmonization with other disciplines. |
| Rule 67 – Conduct Foul | <p>A Conduct foul is where a player or coach behaves in such a manner as to be approaching the threshold of incurring an Unsportsmanlike Conduct personal foul.</p> <p>The Official may choose to apply the Conduct technical foul or the Unsportsmanlike Conduct personal foul, whichever they deem is appropriate to the situation.</p> |
| Rationale | Introduce a new foul to allow for a broader selection of penalties and a better pathway for escalation. |

2.2 Editorial Changes - Information Only

- Change rule 24.1 to include a whistle in the BM's personal equipment, also to cover scenarios in which a BM is not present or occupied to signal the end of a period.
- Change rule 32 to have the final score for a defaulted game be addressed in the by-laws of the event.
- Rule 10.1: The bench areas are located off the playing field and **next to the special substitution area and with a length of 14 meters**. [...]
 - Rationale: fixed length instead of varying independent of field length
- Rule 11.1: The area bounded by the sideline, a line parallel to and 4 meters (4.37 yards) from the sideline, the special substitution area line, and **a line marking a length of 14 meters** shall be designated the Coaches' area.
 - Rationale: fixed length instead of varying independent of field length
- Change all dimensions to read metric first, imperial second.
- Rename technical / personal fouls to minor / major fouls.
- Removal of redundant (34.2 and AR 55.3) or deprecated (Rule 61.7) parts.
- Provide a heading for rule 83.1 "Play-on."
- Rule 56 "Kicking an Opponent's stick" to be integrated in Illegal Procedure.
- New Rule 56 "Warding Off."
- Rule 65 "Offside" corrected in regard to Live Ball.
- Rule 67 "Lateness" to be integrated in Illegal Procedure.
- Further guidance on over & back, especially on restarts.
- Further guidance on definition of shot.
- Further guidance on penalty release during a face-off.
- Further guidance on definition of Free Play.
- Further Guidance on the Nature of Minor (Technical) Fouls.

2.3 New Proposals

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|----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Section 6 – The Play of the Game | Addition of an 80 second Shot Clock to Men's Field Lacrosse (Appendix B) | Vote Required: |
| Section 4 – Control of the Game | Instructions and Procedures for Shot Clock Operators (Appendix B) | Vote Required: |

This form is to be used by National Governing Bodies and World Lacrosse Committees to propose any potential new rule, change to an existing rule, or provide guidance to any rule across the approved playing disciplines of World Lacrosse. The proposal will need to be completed in full, have the necessary endorsements and shall be submitted in line with the [published deadlines](#) in order that it may be considered by the relevant rules committee.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Name | | Date | |
| Email Address | | | |
| Member NGB Name or Committee Name | WL Board of Directors | Proposal Type | Add New Rule |
| Discipline | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Men <input type="checkbox"/> Women (Select all that Apply) | Discipline(s) Proposal Applies to | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field <input type="checkbox"/> Box <input type="checkbox"/> Sixes (Select all that Apply) |
| Proposal Applies to the following Areas (Select All that Apply) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing Field Equipment & Uniforms <input type="checkbox"/> Team Personnel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Game Officials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Play of the Game | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Goal Circle or Crease & Goalkeeper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fouls & Penalties <input type="checkbox"/> Foul & Penalty Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| Confirm which groups have been consulted as the Rule Proposal was developed (Select All that Apply) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Playing Community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coaching Community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officiating Community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Lacrosse Sports Governing Bodies | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Lacrosse Sports Governing Bodies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Lacrosse Leagues <input type="checkbox"/> Other Sports - Specify: | |
| Rationale for Change | | | |
| Please identify how the proposal will benefit the game(s). Please consider and outline the practical implications to the play of the game, and to the application / administration of the rule by the officials. | | | |
| <p>Below are a number of points that support the addition of a shot clock to the Field discipline, as collected from stakeholders:</p> <p>Improves pace of play, creating a more stimulating competition for athletes, coaches, and spectators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An improved pace of play is enjoyable for all stakeholders. In general, athletes like to have an engaging environment (as opposed to possessions lasting several minutes), coaches prefer having opportunity for guaranteed possessions, spectators prefer the excitement of watching teams showcase their skill on offense and defense. <p>Most modern team sports globally, have some type of play timing to promote pace of play.</p> <p>Increases opportunity for both teams to possess the ball and enables teams to “comeback” in games where a dominant draw/faceoff athlete, coupled with long possessions prohibits the “down” team from playing offense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the time allowance of the shot clock, teams would be entitled to +/-50% of the possessions in a game, whereas a team with a dominant draw/faceoff athlete could win the possession and see their team hold the ball for as long as they like. It can be viewed as unfair that a single athlete could have such a disproportionate impact on a team sport. | | | |

- More comebacks and more possessions increase variability in results, which helps increase the number of competitive games at our championships. This helps to grow the game, allowing more teams to be competitive.

Enhances growth of the sport

- Lacrosse has been touted for a number of years as “the fastest sport on two feet.” In recent years, as players become more skilled or specialized in their positions, the game has slowed down. This slow-down, can be viewed as a detriment to the growth, as a slow style of competition is not as exciting to the casual observer, nor what the modern sports fan expects from lacrosse.

Removes responsibility from the officials in having to determine if a team is “stalling” on their offensive possessions.

- At current, teams will frequently gain a lead and “hold the ball” late in a game. Officials are empowered to use a stall warning, if they deem the offense to be deliberately not attacking the goal. This subjectivity can be a point of contention for athletes and coaches and requires officials to have a better than working knowledge of strategy and tactics in determining the difference(s) between good defense, patient offense, and stalling.

Eliminates any future needs for “clearing counts” to be administered by on-field officials

- There have been discussions around having officials keeping “counts” for time to clear the ball over the halfway line, get it into the attack area, etc... these counts add additional responsibility to the officiating crew. Additional responsibility increases the margin for error(s), can make officiating less attractive to new/prospective officials, requires additional equipment (belt timer), and creates unnecessary opportunity for play to be stopped for technical rule violations.

Could reduce number of fouls and dangerous situations caused by defenders trying to regain possession from a stalling team.

- When an offense begins to stall, the defense is left with two options; sit back and let time expire or become increasingly aggressive in trying to generate a turnover. Increased aggressiveness leads to fouls, which are typically personal in nature and can put athletes at risk of injury. During a World Championship, with teams playing multiple games in a condensed time-frame, injury can have a significant impact on a teams ability to compete.

A shot clock bolsters creativity and ingenuity on offense when teams are forced to create an offensive sequence every time. The knock-on effects of forcing teams to play lacrosse goes to the core of growing the game and encouraging more skill development.

Harmonizes Field Lacrosse with Box Lacrosse and Sixes

- Currently all other WL disciplines and sectors incorporate a shot clock.

Harmonizes International Field Lacrosse play with Professional and University Lacrosse play.

- The style of lacrosse most viewed by the public already has shot clocks. Adding one to the international field game, will create consistency for the global viewership.

This proposal would be implemented within Men's Field on Jan 1, 2026. Delayed implementation is to provide adequate timing for sourcing and acquiring suitable equipment, as well as to not disrupt the current timing of rules with qualifiers and World Championships.

Proposed Rule Change/Addition Description

Please include the rule number and page number of the rule to be changed or guidance to be provided. Provide suggested rule or guidance wording. The World Lacrosse Rules Committee will determine the final wording

| Rule Number(s) | Page # | Description |
|--|--------|--|
| <p>NEW RULE: Added to SECTION 6 – THE PLAY OF THE GAME</p> | | <p>Shot Clock Two visible shot clocks with the ability to be set and reset to 80 seconds are required for use in all games. Both shot clocks must count down from 80 to 0. This count down functionality allows an easier determination of how much time is remaining.</p> <p>The shot clock shall be located at each end of the field, and be visible to players, coaches, and the game officials.</p> <p><i>Exception:</i> If only one shot clock is available, it shall be located at midfield. However, if not possible to relocate the operable shot clock to midfield, and both coaches agree to continue with only one shot clock at either end of the field, the game may continue with only the one shot clock with assistance from the shot clock operator verbally communicating the time remaining in 10-second intervals to game officials. Otherwise, the remaining functioning shot clock shall be turned off and the shot clock operator shall verbally communicate the time.</p> <p>The time on the game clock cannot be used as a method of timing the shot clock.</p> <p>A shot that is taken above the goal line extended (GLE); that makes contact with the goalkeeper or goalkeepers equipment while in their crease, hits the goal pipe, or scores a goal will reset the shot clock.</p> <p>A shot that hits any defensive team player other than the goalkeeper while in their crease, does not satisfy the criteria (noted above) for resetting the shot clock unless it results in a goal. A ball thrown from behind the goal line extended is classified as a pass and does not reset the shot clock, unless that pass results in a goal.</p> <p>If the shot clock expires without a shot on goal meeting the prior noted reset criteria, the ball is awarded to the defensive team.</p> <p>Reset Procedures. During the shot clock, the shot clock shall start and stop with the official's whistle and be reset on the official's signal. The following conditions will start or reset the shot clock to 80 seconds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Possession gained or awarded after a faceoff (80 seconds). Change of possession (80 seconds). A valid shot retained in the offensive half of the field by the offense (80 |

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| Please include the rule number and page number of the rule to be changed or guidance to be provided. Provide suggested rule or guidance wording. The World Lacrosse Rules Committee will determine the final wording | | |
| Rule Number(s) | Page # | Description |
| | | <p>defensive half of the field to the offensive half of the field that passes through the plane of the midline as the shot clock strikes 60 seconds satisfies the rule. The officials will enforce this rule by using the visible shot clock.</p> <p>Over and Back Description. Once the ball has been advanced (cleared) over the midfield line and the shot clock is at or under 60 seconds, the ball shall not return to the defensive half of the field through actions of the offensive team except on a valid offensive shot. If this occurs, it is an over-and-back violation. The result is an immediate turnover and a quick restart for the offended team. If the ball does not touch or go over the midline, no infraction has occurred. Defensive players may legally bat the ball to keep it in the offensive half of the field, but if it is possessed and their feet are in the defensive half, it shall be a turnover.</p> <p>Exceptions. An over-and-back violation does not occur in the following situations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A valid shot that leaves the offensive half of the field. 2. A loose ball that leaves the offensive half of the field caused by the defense. <p><i>Note: In 2 above, the offensive team does not have any obligation to re-clear the ball within 20 seconds and may use the entire field of play for the remaining time on the shot clock. Should the offensive team re-enter the offensive half of the field in the time remaining, the over and back rules apply until the end of the current shot clock.</i></p> |
| Shot Clock Guidance | | <p>With possession of the ball in the offensive half of the field, A1 attempts a pass to A2 that is not caught, and the ball rolls toward the midline. A3, who is standing on the defensive half, bats the ball preventing it from crossing the midline without gaining possession. A2 picks up the ball, which never touches or crosses the midfield line. RULING: Play continues.</p> <p>A1 has possession of the ball in the offensive half of the field, and the shot clock is under 60 seconds. B1 deflects a pass by A1, and the ball touches or crosses the midfield line. A2 picks up the ball. RULING: The shot clock is not reset and shall continue. Since Team A has already advanced the ball, Team A is under no obligation to clear the ball in 20 seconds and may use all of the remaining time on its original shot clock to return the ball to the offensive half, but once the ball returns to the offensive half, then over and back is in force with no reset of the shot clock.</p> <p>Team A has possession of the ball in its offensive half of the field with time remaining on the shot clock. The ball goes out of bounds and timeout is called by either team or an official. RULING: The shot clock does not reset.</p> |
| NEW RULE: Added to SECTION 4 – CONTROL OF THE GAME | | <p>Shot Clock Operator</p> <p>A shot clock operator shall be used in all games. It is recommended that the shot clock operator have this duty as the main function in the game. However, it is permissible for the shot clock operator to have other duties (e.g., timekeeper).</p> <p>If the shot clock malfunctions, the shot clock operator shall use a timing</p> |

Proposed Rule Change/Addition Description

Please include the rule number and page number of the rule to be changed or guidance to be provided. Provide suggested rule or guidance wording. The World Lacrosse Rules Committee will determine the final wording

| Rule Number(s) | Page # | Description |
|----------------|--------|--|
| | | <p>device and communicate to the game officials the time at 10-second intervals.</p> <p>The shot clock operator's duties will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Start and stop the shot clock on the officials' whistle and reset the shot clock on the officials' signal. b. If the shot clock expires without the team in possession satisfying the requirements of a shot, the shot clock operator shall sound a horn alerting the game officials. c. In cases when the shot clock does not start within five (5) seconds of the officials signaling the start of play, game officials are instructed to stop play and reset the shot clock. <i>Note: In the event of an imminent scoring opportunity, officials shall allow the scoring opportunity to continue and stop play to reset the shot clock when complete.</i> d. The shot clock shall remain in effect regardless of the time on the game clock. |
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| Other Rules Which May Be Impacted By The Proposed Change | | |
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| Identify any rules that may be impacted by the proposed addition or change | | |
| Rule Number(s) | Page # | Description |
| 62.2, et.al.. | | All references/rules related to stalling would need to be removed from the rules, as the shot clock removes the ability for a team in possession of the ball to stall. |
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| Any Other Considerations | | |
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|---|--|-------------|--|
| Proposing Country/Committee | | Date | |
| NGB Officer / Committee Chair Name | | | |
| Signature | | | |

| Proposal Endorsement | | | |
|--|--|-------------|--|
| For a proposal submitted by a National Governing Body, World Lacrosse requires endorsements from two additional full member National Governing Bodies. | | | |
| Endorsing Country #1 | | Date | |
| NGB Officer Name | | | |
| Signature | | | |
| Endorsing Country #2 | | Date | |
| NGB Officer Name | | | |
| Signature | | | |

(Note: Electronic Signatures are allowed in each instance)

Please forward completed Rule Change Proposals to:

Christian Geschke

cgeschke@worldlacrosse.sport



2024 Men's Field Lacrosse Rules Assembly

Appendix C

3.2 Revised Rules Change Timelines

| Men's Field Process | 2024 | | | | 2025 | | | | 2026 | | | | 2027 | | | | 2028 | | | | 2029 | | | | 2030 | | | | 2031 | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|-------|----|--------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------|----|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|----|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | | | |
| 25-27 Change Proposals Due | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-27 Proposal Webinar Due | 22-Jan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-27 Feedback Webinar Due | | 4-May | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-27 Rules Assembly Due | | | 1-Jul | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-27 Rules in Effect | | | | | 1-Jan | | | | 25-27 Rules in Effect | | | | 31-Dec | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28-31 Change Proposals Due | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1-Feb | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28-31 Proposal Webinar Due | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1-May | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28-31 Feedback Webinar Due | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28-31 Rules Assembly Due | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1-Nov | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28-31 Rules in Effect | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1-Jan | | | | 28-31 Rules in Effect | | | | | | | | | | | | 31-Dec | | | | |
| Men's Field Events | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 u20 Men's Qualifier? | | None being held | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 u20 Men's Championship (Korea) | | | | | Played by 25-27 WL Men's Rules | | | | Played by 25-27 WL Men's Rules | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 Men's Qualifier | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 Men's Championship (JPN) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Played by 25-27 WL Men's Rules | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 u20 Men's Qualifier? | | | | | | | | | | | | | Played by 25-27 WL Men's Rules | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 u20 Men's Championship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Played by 28-31 Rules | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 Men's Qualifier | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Played by 28-31 Rules | | | | | | | | |
| 31 Men's Championship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Played by 28-31 Rules | | | | |

Rationale:

Adjusting the rules change cycle timings will allow the Men's Field Rules to enter into a cycle that promotes the following:

1. Continental Qualifiers and Senior World Championships played under the same set of rules for the 2027 and beyond Senior Men's World Championship.
2. Post 2027 – u20 Men's World Championship, Continental Qualifier, and Senior Men's World Championship will all be played under the same rule set. This promotes consistency for athletes participating in both u20 and Senior level events.
3. Allows for multiple years of play under a rule set, promoting adaptation for athletes, coaches, and officials leading into a Senior World Championship.
4. Consistent process and timings across each Rules Change cycle.