

NFHS vs. NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rule Differences for 2016

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Note: Some sections revised since last year appear on a gray background.

All Documented NFHS vs. NCAA Rule Differences for 2016

	Procedures	NFHS	NCAA
1	Failure to give 24 hr notice of event that could delay start of game or 2nd half	No mention	Illegal procedure
2	Forfeits (other than failure to supply a legally-equipped GK)	Procedures determined by state or local associations for pre-game issues; otherwise, see Rule 3-6	NCAA authority; score is 1-0. If team does not show up, a "no contest" is recorded
3	Accommodations for disabled or special needs	State associations may authorize (Rule 2-11 Art. 2)	No mention
4	Hearing instruments	State associations may authorize if medically prescribed and not dangerous	No mention
5	Meeting with officials during halftime	No mention	Permitted; each team must be allowed to have a representative present
6	Chief bench official	May be used; detailed description of duties	No mention
7	Sportsmanship	Officials address coaches/players before game	No mention in rules, but 2013 point of emphasis
8	Player with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion	Officials notify coaching staff, and team medical staff evaluates player. Coach must not allow player to return without clearance from an appropriate health-care professional but it is not the officials' duty to enforce (Situation 4.28.7)	Needs clearance from an appropriate health-care professional to return; seems to imply this is managed by team personnel and is not the officials' responsibility
9	Cannons/explosive devices	No mention except that artificial noisemakers can't be used on opponent's half of the field	Prohibited within hearing distance of field
10	Procedure for harsh weather conditions	Additional officials' timeouts to allow players to cool off and get extra water	No mention
11	Warm-up when replacing goalkeeper	Penalized or injured goalie: substitute is permitted 1:00 warm-up; otherwise must call TO	Timeout required to warm up; be "reasonably lenient" for time to switch gear to backup if needed
12	Expelled player	Adults leave premises. Minors leave premises with school official; otherwise confined to bench	Must leave premises
13	Physician or trainer expelled	No mention	Rule 5, A.R. 7.
14	Suspension of expelled player for subsequent game(s)	Per league policy; official must notify assigner or notify player's school or league about expulsion	Mandatory
15	Number of officials	Three (or four) are recommended; could play with fewer if necessary	Three officials must be used
16	Ball retrievers	Specific rules govern ball retrievers (must wear helmets; can't wear a team color; can't be directly behind goal; home team must train them)	Mentioned in 2-5 and 6-6-f-6, but no specific guidance is given
17	Captains	Each team either has a captain or has co-captains (with one designated as "speaking captain" in common terms). Officials can designate a captain on the field if the speaking captain is not on the field	Rule 2-3 now refers to a single captain (however, 4-1 still refers to "captains" at the coin toss)
18	Number of players	Must have 10 to start game; game cannot continue if team has fewer than 7 on-field (players serving penalties do not count as on-field players per 3-9-15 NFHS Memo)	Must have 10 to start game; no mention of minimum number to continue
19	Jurisdiction ends	When officials leave the facility, but officials maintain administrative jurisdiction until all reports are completed (Rule 2-6 Art. 1 Note)	When the referee approves the score or leaves the field of play after the end of the game; officials have jurisdiction on unsportsmanlike conduct until leaving the facility

	The Field	NFHS	NCAA
20	Field width	Field may be 53 1/3 to 60 yds wide (attack area must be 35 yds by 40 yds)	Variations in alterable dimensions must be agreed to in writing prior to game day
21	Line-marking material	Must be non-toxic and non-caustic	No mention
22	No spectator lines	No penalty	3:00 NR penalty plus possession

23	Illegal field or goals	No penalty for field; 3:00 NR plus possession for illegal goals; illegal procedure if center line doesn't extend all the way across the field/through logos	3:00 NR penalty plus possession
24	Center of field	Center X or contrasting-color 4-inch square	Contrasting-color 4-inch square
25	Cones and pylons (red or orange)	Must be soft and flexible; only cones by sub area	Must be soft and flexible; pylons or cones by sub area
26	Measuring distances	No mention	Out of bounds lines shall be measured from the inside edge of the line; field lines (e.g., midfield line, etc.) shall be measured from the center of the line.
27	Coaches area/bench area	15 yards wide	20 yards wide

	The Ball	NFHS	NCAA
28	Legal balls	Must bear NFHS authenticating mark and NOCSAE seal; game cannot be played without NOCSAE balls	Must bear NOCSAE seal; game cannot be played without NOCSAE balls
29	Slightly textured ball	Permitted if they bear NFHS authenticating mark and NOCSAE seal	Permitted if coaches agree
30	Goal scored with unauthorized ball color	No mention	No goal; officials should stop play and correct the problem if a wrong-color ball is in play. Ball awarded to team in possession, if any, and presumably by AP if ball is loose or is in the goal when discovered.
31	Ball supply	At least 4 on each end line and sideline (at table on bench side) to start each period and to be replenished by home team/game management staff; repeated violations could be delay of game against home team	At least 6 on each end line and sideline, to be replenished by home team and game management staff; repeated violations could be delay of game against home team

	Uniform Regulations	NFHS	NCAA
32	Jersey color/numbers	Must be solid color (plus very limited trim) with numbers at least 8" high on front and 12" on back	Numbers at least 10"/12" (front/back); need not be solid color but must contrast color of uniform
33	Legal numbers	Whole numbers from 0–99; starting in 2018, numbers 00–09 will be illegal (0–9 remain legal)	No mention
34	Jersey trademark	Limited to 2.25-inch square; can also have US flag and commemorative patch	No mention in rule book; teams must comply with NCAA regulations (but officials do not enforce)
35	Jersey colors conflict	Visiting team responsible, but officials may require that home team change	Home team must change colors
36	Visible compression shorts	Everyone on team must wear same solid color	Everyone must wear same solid color (white, gray, or team color)
37	Sweat pants	Everyone on team must wear same solid color	Everyone on team must wear same solid color (white, gray, or team color)
38	Eye shade	Eye shade (grease/non-glare strips/stickers) that is not a solid stroke or includes words, numbers, logos or other symbols within the eye shade is prohibited	No mention
39	Uniform violations	One technical foul is assessed prior to the start of the game to cover all violations	Each time a player enters game with one or more uniform violations it constitutes one technical foul

	The Crosse	NFHS	NCAA
40	Minimum head width	6.5" at the widest point, inside measurement	6.0" at the widest point, inside measurement
41	Throat width	No mention, except must pass rollout tests; will match NCAA rule starting in 2018	Card/template must fit in throat of stick
42	Tape on head	Illegal for a player taking a face-off (could potentially correct if within the normal 20 seconds; if discovered after "down," immediate delay of game, but player can stay on the field because there is no longer a face-off)	No tape is allowed on the plastic portion of the head except on a goalkeeper's crosse; 3:00 NR penalty and stick is removed from the game per 2-24-13 NCAA bulletin

43	Sawing or cutting head of crosse so player can get hand closer to head, or shaving the sidewalls	No mention, but likely treated as an altered crosse and a 3:00 NR penalty with stick confiscated	3:00 NR penalty with stick confiscated
44	Hole cut in mesh designed to snare ball during face-off	3:00 NR penalty	No mention; could be covered by NCAA Rule 1-18 Note 1
45	Multi-colored mesh	No mention	Illegal; 3:00 USC penalty for trying to mislead opponent with ball painted in mesh
46	Tape rings or donuts	Tape rings on shaft > 3.5" circumference and more than 3 inches from the butt end must be removed per NFHS 1.6.1 Situation; by analogy with 1.8 Situation, USC if brought back into game uncorrected	Tape rings are allowed per NCAA 1-19, but tape rings or donuts are not allowed near the head of the crosse for face-off players

	Personal Equipment	NFHS	NCAA
47	Mouth guard	Must cover all upper or all lower teeth	Must cover all upper teeth
48	Mouth guard colors	May not be completely white or completely clear	Must be a highly visible color; clear mouth guards are allowed only if the head coach certifies that it must be clear for a medical reason
49	Hard substances (e.g., casts)	Must be covered with one-half-inch of high-density foam; knee and ankle braces need not be covered if unmodified. Note from doctor no longer required.	Officials' discretion
50	Helmets	Must be same color or colors; all decals issued by school	Everyone must wear helmets that are same dominant team color
51	Goalie throat protector	Must be manufactured for lacrosse	No mention
52	Eye shield	Must be clear by rule; cannot be tinted even with medical approval. Must be molded and non-rigid. Penalty for violation: 1:00 NR per 1.9.2 Situation C	Must be clear (or tinted with medical approval)
53	Sunglasses	May be worn unless an eye shield is also worn	No mention, but likely enforced similarly
54	Glove color	No mention	Non-GK players must wear same team color
55	Shoulder pads	Not defined, but generally taken to mean a professionally-manufactured pad somewhere on the shoulder (and marketed as a lacrosse shoulder pad). Velcro portions are considered optional; pads may not be cut or otherwise altered.	Not defined, but generally taken to mean a professionally-manufactured pad somewhere on the shoulder (and marketed as a lacrosse shoulder pad). Pads may not be cut or altered. No mention of Velcro portions.
56	Football helmets and shoulder pads	Expressly prohibited by rule (1:00 NR penalty)	No mention, but football helmets are not NOCSAE-certified for lacrosse and football shoulder pads are not intended for lacrosse
57	Cleats	Extensive list of technical specifications	Cleats no longer than 0.5 inches
58	Protective cup	Recommended for all players	No mention

	Timing and Scoring	NFHS	NCAA
59	Timer/scorer at game site	No mention	Twenty minutes before the game
60	Team roster in score book	Must be complete/correct before game starts; team is assessed one technical foul if players added later	No mention about when roster must be complete
61	Quarters	12 minutes stop time	15 minutes stop time
62	Variations in playing time	Not permitted (unless game is interrupted)	Shorter periods permitted if both teams agree
63	Mercy rule	Running time in 2nd half if lead is 12 or more	None
64	Interruption of game because of events beyond the control of game authorities	By agreement of head coaches and referee, game may be terminated or shortened (unless league rules apply)	Game will be continued unless the teams agree otherwise (or unless other league rules apply)

	Face-offs	NFHS	NCAA
65	Hearing-impaired player	Officials will make adjustments per Rule 4-3-5	No mention

66	Violation during face-off, after whistle but before possession	Possible play-on	Immediate whistle and charged face-off violation if it occurs as part of the face-off while players are still engaged; possible play-on otherwise; if ball is awarded, it starts at the spot where the ball was or outside box
67	Wing-line violations on a face-off	Play-on (but ignore if there was a pre-whistle violation by one of the face-off men)	Immediate whistle (ignore if there was a pre-whistle violation by a f/o man); violator charged with a face-off violation to count toward the limit of 2
68	Pre-whistle face-off violation	Offended team awarded possession just past mid-field (must move ball into offensive end so there is a 10-count on the restart)	Play begins immediately with offended team in possession for first two violations in a half (or first two violations in any number of OT periods) by the opponent; after that, a 30-second time-serving penalty is assessed against the in-home for each violation
69	Post-whistle pre-possession face-off technical foul	Offended team awarded possession at the spot where the ball was	If it is related to the face-off players while they are still engaged (e.g., withholding; kicking, holding or pinning the crosse; grabbing ball or opponent's crosse with the hand), it counts toward the violation limit. Restart is at the spot where the ball was
70	Play-on	Can be used for post-whistle violation, including wing-line violation	Avoid using for post-whistle violation if it counts toward the limit of 2
71	Using fingers or hands off the crosse to play the ball, or pinching the ball between hands on the crosse	USC	USC plus charged face-off violation
72	On the face-off whistle, B1 plays A1's body instead of the ball	Could be spearing or an illegal body check depending on the level and location of contact; no mention of requirement for B1 to play the ball	Per NILOA memo, the B1 must play the ball and not the opponent; could be a technical (and charged face-off violation) or personal foul depending on the contact.
73	Face-off when Team A is down 3 players	A1 may come up from defensive area to take the face-off and will not be called for offside while in face-off position	A1 may come up from defensive area to take the face-off; no exception for offside
74	A1 loses equipment on face-off in a scrimmage area	Stop play and re-face.	If A1 doesn't immediately take himself out of the play, award possession to Team B.
75	Period ends with shot by A1 in flight and uneven penalty situation	Face-off to start next period	If ball is caught by goalie B1 after the horn, Team B starts next period with possession

	General Game Play	NFHS	NCAA
76	Section describing when a player is in or out of a specific area	None; some situations explained in various parts of the rule book	Covered in Rule 4-6-c
77	Restarts	Some guidance on where ball restarts (Rule 4-22)	Rule 4-8 covers all restarts explicitly
78	Goalie out of crease when play stops	Goalie is given up to 5 seconds to return to the crease before the restart	Immediate restart if other requirements are met
79	Goalie intentionally drops ball or flips it to himself in the crease to get an additional 4-count	Count continues per 4.19.3 Situation B	Turnover per Rule 4,A.R. 90 (doesn't specifically cover an intentional drop, but reasoning by analogy gives the same ruling)
80	Multiple defenders in crease	It is a conduct foul to have 2 or more defenders in the crease (not counting the goalie) for the purpose of blocking shots	No mention
81	Picking up ball in in back of crosse not on a face-off	Legal if ball is not stuck	Illegal
82	Team A commits a technical foul resulting in a turnover	During the dead ball, either team may call timeout	During the dead ball, only Team B may call timeout

83	Defender is within 5 yards of player awarded possession prior to restart	Officials tell the player to move back and give him up to 5 seconds to do so; delay of game penalty assessed if he does not get 5 yards back. Immediate delay of game if player runs in from outside 5 yards to delay the restart.	Play restarts immediately. The defender must gain a distance of 5 yards at some point prior to engaging the offensive player or a technical foul will result
84	Play stops with ball inside the attack area	Restart must be outside of the attack area except for an end line out of bounds (shot, pass, stepped out, kicked out, etc.) or if there is a turnover due to a technical foul by the offensive team	For an end line out of bounds, the restart is just inside the end line. Otherwise, the restart is outside the attack area if offensive team is awarded possession; one pass is permitted to move the ball out (two passes would result in the loss of the fast restart). If awarded to the defensive team, the play restarts inside the attack area
85	Goal cage moves during play	No mention	Allow an imminent scoring opportunity to continue and allow the goal if ball completely passes through the plane formed by the rear edges of the pipes
86	Out of bounds player establishing himself back in	No mention	When he no longer touches out of bounds and touches in bounds with some body part
87	Player partly in bounds and partly out touching ball	If touched passively, no mention; if touched intentionally, illegal procedure	Ball is out off of that player regardless of whether it touches part of him or his crosse in bounds or out of bounds; illegal procedure if touched intentionally
88	Goal with time winding down	Ball must enter goal before the clock hits zero to be counted	Ball must leave offensive player's crosse before clock hits zero; officials must withhold whistle to see if goal is legally scored (differences between ball hitting offensive and defensive player after the clock hits 0)
89	Goal scored by AI at end of regulation and horn sounds	If goal is scored before horn, put small amount of time on clock and face-off; Coach B can call for equipment check up until play starts	If goal is scored before horn, put small amount of time on clock and face-off; Coach B can call for equipment check up until play starts; if shot is before horn but goal is after horn at the end of fourth quarter, no check allowed unless score is tied
90	Play stopped for injured player	Player must leave game until the next dead ball after the ensuing restart; team may not call TO to keep player in the game	Not explicitly mentioned; common interpretation is that the team may call a timeout to keep the player in the game
91	Player bleeding or with blood on uniform	Play stopped at earliest opportunity that does not interfere with an imminent scoring opportunity; player must be removed from game and is treated as an injured player (cannot return until after the next dead ball after the ensuing restart and until situation is corrected; team cannot call timeout to keep player in the game)	Play stopped at earliest opportunity that does not interfere with an imminent scoring opportunity; player must be removed from game (cannot return until situation is corrected; team can call timeout to keep player in the game as long as situation is corrected)
92	Officials counting players	Must ensure 10 total players on field and serving penalties prior to the start of the game	Must ensure 10 total players on field and serving penalties prior to the start of each period and after every goal.
93	Attacking player touches goal or net with crosse (not as part of a shot) while playing loose ball	No mention	Explicitly legal
94	GK intentionally loses or breaks equipment to try to stop play	No mention, but likely enforced as USC	Two-minute non-releasable USC penalty
95	Goalie in crease contacts attackman on follow-through after a clearing pass	No mention, but normally called goalie interference	Goalie interference against the attackman if follow-through is legitimate (Rule 6, A.R. 9)
96	GK pulls goal over head to prevent goal	Recommended 3:00 NR penalty (4.20.3 Situation C)	No mention; could result in USC penalty or expulsion for flagrant misconduct
97	Head coach/field player from team in poss. calls live ball TO	Permitted no matter where the ball is on the field	Permitted with player in possession in contact with ground past offensive restraining line

98	Team A awarded possession after shot behind B's goal, Team A calls timeout, Team B commits dead-ball foul	Restart is where the ball went out of bounds per 7.3 Situation C	Restart moved to the alley per NCAA Rule 4-8-4
99	Player not in possession jumps or dives, gains possession, shoots, ball enters in goal, then player lands in crease	No goal per February 2014 NFHS Bulletin	Goal is allowed since player was not in possession when he jumped or dove.

	Equipment Inspections and Violations	NFHS	NCAA
100	Coach-requested equipment inspection	Head coach may request inspection of any player's crosse and equipment during any dead ball	Head coach may request inspection of any player's crosse and equipment during any dead ball except after a change-of-possession technical foul (per NILOA 2016 PowerPoint Slide #36)
101	Mouthpiece violation	1-minute NR personal foul	Technical foul (loss of possession or 30-second penalty)
102	Routine equipment checks	2012 point of emphasis: four checks per team per game (with <i>at least</i> one check per team per half) conducted in dead-ball situations (e.g., after goals, before face-offs, during time-outs, between periods); all equipment inspected	Only stick inspected. By rule, at least one check per team per half must be conducted in dead-ball situations. NILOA mechanic is to perform at least 6 checks per game.
103	A1 pulls strings after goal and <i>before</i> official requests it or pulls strings or adjusts crosse <i>after</i> official requests it	No goal if player just scored; 1:00 NR USC penalty. Continue with equipment check if planned.	No goal if player just scored; 1:00 NR USC penalty. Official has discretion over whether to continue check per NILOA mechanics.
104	Jewelry	Prohibited (exception: religious/medical, which must be taped to body); 1:00 NR	Permitted unless deemed dangerous by officials
105	Multiple crosse and equipment violations	Penalize only the most serious violation	Penalize most serious crosse violation and most serious equipment violation (4:00 NR maximum)
106	Player without required equipment other than crosse	Stop play if player is in or enters scrimmage area. Ball awarded to team in possession or by AP (or to defense in alley for loose ball in crease)	Stop play if player is in or enters scrimmage area. Technical foul to participate if ball is loose or player is from team not in possession. For player from team in possession, no foul and team retains possession.
106	Player loses required equipment, shoots and scores	If player is unguarded, play continues and goal counts; if player is guarded, stop play	No goal, but offense is awarded possession

	Counting and Stalling	NFHS	NCAA
108	Stalling	"Get it in" and "Keep it in"	Thirty-second "shot clock" procedure
109	Stalling during penalty situations	Stall warnings may be issued if team in possession is man up or man down	The shot clock procedure is not used if there is an uneven penalty situation; if there is a shot clock situation and the penalty situation becomes uneven, either due to a new penalty or due to a penalty releasing, the shot clock situation is canceled.
110	Last 2:00 of 4th quarter	Automatic stall warning for team in lead	No <i>automatic</i> warning; shot clock may be started
111	Stalling when defense not playing the ball	If Team A has possession in the attack area and Team B is not playing the ball, no stall warning can be issued	If Team A has possession in the attack area between the goal line extended and the restraining line and Team B is not playing the ball, no shot clock can be started
112	Defensive clearing counts and offensive counts	Twenty seconds after possession is gained or play starts to move the ball into the offensive end; once in the offensive end with possession, ball must enter the attack area within 10 seconds, then no counts unless there is a "get-it-in"/"keep-it-in" warning	Thirty seconds after possession is gained to move the ball into the attack area, after which there are no counts unless there is a stall warning

	Substitution	NFHS	NCAA
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113	Substitute deliberately violates rules for entering field	Releasable 1:00 USC foul (illegal procedure if not deliberate and an advantage is gained)	Illegal procedure
114	Delayed box substitution (A1 leaves and is not immediately replaced by A2)	Silent play-on per 4-21 Situation; official determines if Team A gains an advantage from the delayed sub (regardless of whether the advantage is directly by A2). Releasable 1:00 USC foul if deliberate; illegal procedure otherwise;	Silent play-on, with technical foul called if A2 participates in play
115	During timer subs, 20-sec. timer sounds; Team A has too many or too few players	Illegal procedure technical foul on Team A	Illegal procedure for too many men; no mention of too few men

	Personal and Technical Fouls	NFHS	NCAA
116	Tripping when player “stumbles”	No mention	Tripping may be called even if player doesn't fall
117	Body checking a player in a defenseless position	Personal foul: 2:00 or 3:00 NR penalty (possible ejection)	No mention, but could be construed as unnecessary roughness (1:00, 2:00, or 3:00 releasable)
118	Body check during “buddy pass”	Specifically addressed as “defenseless player”	Not specifically mentioned, but could be construed as unnecessary roughness
119	A1, in possession, runs over stationary defender B1	Specifically addressed as unnecessary roughness	No mention, but could be unnecessary roughness
120	Check delivered with gloved hands and thrusting motion	“Punching blow” is unnecessary roughness, but no mention of “thrusting motion”	“Punching blow” and “thrusting motion” are both unnecessary roughness
121	Illegal body check of a player on the ground	Illegal to <i>body check</i> a player with any body part other than the feet on the ground	Illegal to <i>initiate contact</i> with a player who has any body part other than the feet on the ground
122	Second NR USC foul against same player or coach	Expulsion and 3:00 NR penalty	Usual penalty is assessed
123	Deliberate violent foul late in game or after the final horn	No mention, but could be ruled as an ejection for flagrant misconduct	Expulsion per Rule 5 A.R. 34
124	Conduct foul	May be issued for a player committing “any act considered misconduct by an official” or trying to “interrupt or confuse” opponent’s play by “unnecessary yelling or gestures”	These clauses are not present
125	Checks to the head and neck	Personal foul: 2:00 or 3:00 NR penalty (possible ejection)	Personal foul: 1:00, 2:00, or 3:00 NR penalty (possible ejection)
126	Pushing if player turns, causing what would have been a legal push to become illegal	No mention (but typically not called as a foul)	No foul if a player about to be pushed legally turns his back and because of that is pushed from behind

	Penalty Enforcement	NFHS	NCAA
127	Section explaining when to stop play or delay whistle	None	Rule 7-1-b
128	Flag down	Whistle blows when ball or player in possession leaves the attack area, ball touches ground (not on a shot), defense gains possession, or a shot is completed	Play continues until any of the usual conditions for stopping play occurs or the defense gains possession; ball can come out of attack area and touch ground
129	Flag down in last 2 minutes	If there is a second flag-down with the team in the lead in the attack area, play stops unless a scoring play is imminent	No mention
130	Loose-ball foul with flag down	Not possible, since whistle blows when ball touches ground	Loose-ball technical and personal fouls by the defense result in additional flags; play continues
131	Loose-ball personal foul	Immediate whistle and flag in all situations	Immediate whistle/flag if no flag already down; flag down/slow whistle if there is already a flag down (both fouls on defense)

132	Pass by B2 to GK B1 enters goal on flag down	No goal; Team B awarded possession and a free clear	Goal for Team A; face-off.
133	Shot during flag down hits GK or goal, rebounds, hits something other than GK, then goes in goal	No goal if rebound hits official or any player other than GK	Goal (whistle does not blow under NCAA procedure when ball becomes loose)
134	Multiple bench penalties	First served by in-home, second served by attack player closest to in-home in scorebook	First served by in-home, second served by "an additional attack player"
135	Stacking enforcement	For a stacking situation with 4 or more penalties being reported at the same time, enforce in order fouls were committed or, if not known, then enforce most serious fouls first (with NR and longer fouls being considered more serious)	No mention
136	Penalty on B1 is released or waved off by a goal, then a goal by A1 is disallowed because A1's crosse is illegal	B1 must serve remainder of penalty	No mention (but presumably B1 must serve remainder of penalty)

	Errors	NFHS	NCAA
137	Inadvertent flags/horns	Ball awarded to team in possession when flag is thrown; if loose, AP (no mention of inad. horn or what happens when a goal is scored)	Award possession or face off depending on the result of the play (see Rule 7-13)
138	B1 released early from penalty, play stops and restarts, then B2 scores goal	The head coach must bring the issue to the officials' attention prior to the next live ball; since there was a stop and restart, the goal cannot be erased	The goal can be erased as long as the issue is brought to the officials' attention prior to the second live ball per Rule 7 A.R. 67
139	Challenging the application of a rule by head coach	Permitted; if appeal denied, coach is charged TO (or technical) and may use remainder of TO	No mention; can speak with officials only during halftime

	Signals	NFHS	NCAA
140	Signal #18	Inadvertent flag	Disregard flag (inadvertent flag or technical foul wiped out by goal)
141	Signal #3	No goal or technical foul wiped out by goal	No goal
142	Signal #9	Failure to advance (4-, 20-, or 10-second violation)	Failure to advance (4- or 30-second) or shot clock violation
143	Counts	From hand at navel to 45° from vertical outside body	From hand at chest to hand outside body, with arm moving parallel to ground
144	Illegal offensive screen	Slicing at vertical arm	Punching at vertical arm
145	Face-off	Fingertips together, then out	Hands start out and then bring fingertips together
146	Alternate possession	Face-off signal, then point in direction of play	Start with fingertips together, then point in direction of play
147	Inadvertent whistle	Straight arm with fist directed at press box	Simulate removing whistle from mouth
148	NCAA #15	Not applicable	Football "fair catch" signal for canceling "shot clock" situation
149	Signal #14	Get it in or keep it in	Shot clock on

NCAA vs. NFHS Rules Differences Eliminated in Recent Years

The following is a list of rule differences between NCAA and NFHS that were eliminated in the past few years. In other words, these are cases where the rules *used to be* different but are now the same. Review this list to ensure that you still aren't calling things differently when those differences no longer exist.

Topic	Specific Change for 2016
Shooting string	Shooting strings within 4" of scoop, measured in an arc.
Sidewall strings	Only 1 sidewall string allowed.
Face-off procedure	"Down," officials places ball between heads, "set" with hand on ball or sticks, officials backs out and blows whistle while moving
Ball in back of head on face-off	Ball cannot remain in the back of the head for more than 1 step or a turnover results
Tape on face-off player's crosse	Must have a single wrap of tape contrasting gloves, head, and shaft for 6" down from head
Ball crosses midfield after gaining the attack area	Over-and-back rule
Restart location for post-whistle face-off violation	Play restarts where the ball was when the officials stopped play
Number contrast on jerseys	Uniform numbers must clearly contrast color of the rest of the jersey (light numbers on dark jerseys and vice versa)
Face-off player uses body part against own crosse or opponent's crosse	Illegal, even if the body part is not on top of the crosse
Shooting strings rule apply to goalkeeper	This is not explicitly stated in either rule book, but the shooting strings rule will not apply to goalkeepers for NCAA or NFHS per bulletins from each organization
Player in possession deliberately leaves feet by jumping or diving before, during, or after shooting	If the player lands in the crease, and the ball enters the goal, no goal no matter how the player got there (even if he is pushed or checked legally or illegally into the crease while airborne). However, see difference #99.
Mistakes by officials	NCAA 7-12 and NFHS 7-13-2 are now identical

Topic	Specific Change for 2015
Lightning policies	Clear field for audible thunder or visible bolts of lightning; do not allow play to resume until 30 minutes with no audible thunder or visible bolts of lightning
Rollout tests	Throat, scoop, and side rollout tests now done for both NCAA and NFHS.
Foot position on offensive screen	Player must be stationary and motionless, with feet no wider than shoulder width apart
Player takes a dive or feigns receiving a foul	Illegal procedure in both NCAA and NFHS
Player deliberately leaves penalty area early; goal is scored by opponent	Unexpired time wiped out for releasable penalty and new foul cancelled by goal

Topic	Specific Change for 2014
Electronic equipment used for coaching during game	Now explicitly allowed under NFHS rules as long as it is not used to communicate with players on the field; NCAA rules have no mention of this, so the NFHS change eliminates the difference.
Substitution area	Now 20 yards wide (10 yards on either side of midfield) under both NCAA and NFHS Rules.
Offside enforcement	Restarts where the ball was when play was suspended or outside the attack area (there is no longer a free clear for Team B if Team A is offside with possession under NFHS rules).
Offside definition	Offside is now defined as having more than 7 players total in defensive end plus the penalty area or more than 6 players total in the offensive end plus the penalty area; a silent play-on is used if a team has too few players in either end (a foul may be called if the delayed sub gains an advantage).
Twenty-second timer (substitution)	Allowed when teams are called back from a timeout or to start a period, after a goal, and after a time-serving penalty is reported. No sideline horns.
Box sub procedures	There is now no limit on the number of players who can sub through the sub area simultaneously
Multiple penalties	Penalties “stack”; a team is never down more than 3 men at once. The fourth player penalized waits outside the penalty area by the timer/scorer and takes the place of the first player released; the released player exits to the bench and not onto the field.

Topic	Specific Change for 2013
Coach in table area	During live or dead ball to exchange a crosse with a player or a dead ball to talk with timer or scorer
Lime green balls	Permitted if they bear required markings
Ball color if coaches disagree	White
Ball stop	Not required but one may be used if no larger than 2” x 1.5” x 0.25”
Length of hanging strings	Limited to 2”
Required equipment for timer/scorer	Working horn, table, score book, and working clock; illegal procedure if not provided
A1 intentionally uses hand/fingers to grasp/ direct ball or uses open hand or fingers on opponent’s crosse on face-off	One-minute NR USC penalty
Airborne player	Player is where he left from in all situations, including ending a count; situations summarized in Rule NCAA 4-6-d
Team A is awarded possession and no Team A player picks up ball within 5 seconds (not in a 20-second-timer situation)	Illegal procedure
Home team does not provide horn, timing device, score book, or table	Illegal procedure
Restart for simul. fouls with both teams serving time	Restart is at the spot where the ball was (or moved to the alley if in the attack area) for live- or dead-ball fouls (no free clear)
Inadvertent whistles	Ball awarded to team in possession or entitled to possession; otherwise, alternate possession (unless in crease; then ball goes to defense)

Topic	Specific Change for 2012
End caps for hollow handles	Metal caps explicitly prohibited even if taped. All hollow-crosses must have rubber or plastic end cap (tape alone is insufficient). Non-compliant sticks must be removed from the game and not brought back without being fixed.
Face-off position	Sticks and gloves outside 4-inch-wide center
BI holds or pins AI's crosse to ground using his crosse or any body part on face-off	Illegal per Rule 4-3 regardless of whether the ball is under AI's stick.
Penalty expires before possession during face-off	Player must wait for possession to be called or the face-off to otherwise end before re-entering the field
Officials checking the score	Must verify the score with the scorer at the end of each period
Dropped crosse with ball in it	If ball stays in or under crosse when dropped, withholding regardless of whether the ball is "stuck"
Fouling out	Player is disqualified for accruing 5 minutes of personal fouls

Topic	Specific Change for 2011
AI ducks before body check	No foul if what would have been a legal check becomes illegal because the player ducked (see new NFHS Rule 5-3-6)
Player kicks dropped crosse, w/o ball in it	No foul if accidental; USC if done intentionally to keep player from recovering
Coaches' Certification	Brief version permitted
Illegal offensive screen	Contact must occur for there to be a foul even if the screening position is illegal or the screener is moving (NCAA Rule 6-5, NFHS 6.4 Situation A Note)

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Most Important NFHS vs. NCAA Rule Differences 2016

Procedures	NFHS	NCAA
Stick requirements	Refer to full list of rule differences	Refer to full list of rule differences
Mouth guard	Cover all upper or lower teeth; are 1:00 NR fouls	Cover all upper teeth; all violations are tech. fouls
Glove color	No mention	Non-GK players must wear same team color
Mercy rule	Running time in 2nd half if lead is 12 or more	None
Violation during face-off, after whistle but before possession	Possible play-on;	Avoid play-on
Face-off violation by Team B	No limit; could be releasable USC per NFHS 5-10-e	Limit of 2 per team per half
Goalie out of crease on stoppage	Goalie gets up to 5 seconds to return to crease	Immediate restart if other conditions are met
Defender is w/in 5 yards on restart	Player gets 5-count to move back or gets technical	Play restarts immediately. Defender must gain 5 yds.
Stoppage with ball in attack area	Restart outside attack area except for end line OOB or offensive technical	Quick restart for defense, moves out of box for offense or if there is a flag
Jewelry	Prohibited; 1:00 NR	Permitted unless deemed dangerous by officials
Player w/o required equip. other than crosse in scrimmage area	Stop play if player is in or enters scrimmage area. Ball awarded to team in possession or by AP (or to defense in alley for loose ball in crease)	Stop play. Technical foul to participate if ball is loose or player is from defense. For player from team in possession, no foul and team retains possession.
Stalling	"Get it in" and "Keep it in"	Thirty-second shot clock procedure
Stalling during penalty situations	Stall warnings may be issued if team in possession is man up or man down	The shot clock procedure is not used when there is an uneven penalty situation
Last 2:00 of 4th quarter	Automatic stall warning for team in lead; immediate whistle for second flag in some circumstances	No automatic warning; shot clock may be issued
Defensive clearing counts and offensive counts	Twenty seconds to cross midfield, then ball must enter the attack area within 10 seconds,	Thirty seconds after possession is gained to move the ball into the attack area
During timer subs, 20-sec. timer sounds; Team A has too many or too few players	Illegal procedure technical foul on Team A for too many or too few men on field	Illegal procedure for too many men; no mention of too few men
Second NR USC foul (same person)	Expulsion and 3:00 NR penalty	Usual penalty is assessed
Checks to the head and neck	Minimum 2:00 NR penalty	Minimum 1:00 NR penalty
Checking a defenseless player	Minimum 2:00 NR penalty	Could be 1:00-3:00 unnecessary roughness
Tape on head	Not allowed for anyone taking a face-off	Not allowed for anyone but the goalie
Loose-ball personal foul	Immediate whistle and flag in all situations	Immediate whistle/flag if no flag already down; FDSW if already a flag down (both fouls on defense)
Conduct foul	Includes "any act considered misconduct" or trying to "interrupt or confuse" opponent's play	These clauses are not present
End of flag down	Ball leaves attack area; ball touches ground (not on a shot); shot is completed; defense gains possession	Play continues until any of the usual conditions for stopping play occurs or the defense gains possession;
Flag down; loose-ball foul by defense	Impossible; whistle blows when ball touches ground	Additional flags; play continues
Flag down; pass enters own goal	No goal.	Goal and face-off
Challenging the application of a rule by head coach	Permitted; if appeal denied, coach is charged TO (or technical) and may use remainder of TO	No mention; can speak with officials only during halftime
Shot in flight when horn sounds	Goal cannot score	Goal can be scored in some circumstances
Timeouts	Live ball: can be called by offense anywhere on the field. Dead ball: either team can call.	Live ball: offense can call past restraining line. Dead ball: either team can call except on change of possession foul (then only offense).
Ball in back of head not on face-off	Illegal if stuck	Illegal in all circumstances