

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

# 2017 Boys' Lacrosse Preseason Bulletin

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



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**JANUARY**

*Statewide Rules Interpreter:  
David Seidman*

## **2017 NFHS BOYS' LACROSSE RULE CHANGES**

- 1-3-2a** If a flat-iron goal is used on a grass field, it may be attached to the ground with ground anchors.
- 4-3-1** If a player or team commits a foul before any faceoff, the ball will be awarded to the  
**Exception** offended team in its offensive side of the field at the center.  
**2**
- 4-3-3** Paint, a single wrap of tape, or other material of contrasting color to the head may now be used on the handle of the crosse for any player taking a faceoff.
- 4-18-4** No defensive player, other than a properly equipped goalkeeper, can enter his own crease with the perceived intent on blocking a shot or acting as a goalkeeper. Penalty: Conduct foul on the defensive player. A second violation by the player will be enforced as releasable unsportsmanlike conduct.
- NOTE:** Officials will stop play as soon as they notice the situation. However, if a shot is already in flight when this is noticed, the shot will be allowed to come to its normal conclusion before the whistle blows to stop play.
- 6-5-2** Failure to wear the required mouthpiece (unless it comes out during play) is now a technical foul.
- 6-10-3** During the last two minutes of regulation play, stalling rules are in effect for the team that is ahead by four goals or less. When the score differential is five goals or more, neither team is forced to keep the ball in the goal area unless warned to "keep it in."

**Please view the 2017 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Video here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?XjkzM>**

## **HOW TO SUBMIT A RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL**

Coaches and officials wishing to submit rule change proposals must reach out to their chapter interpreters for guidance on how to enter their proposal via the NFHS online portal. Considerable discussion should occur between the coach or official and the interpreter prior to entry to ensure accuracy of the proposal.

**2017 COMMENTS ON RULES**

<b>1-3-2a</b>	Ground anchors are not typically used on grass fields. This change will allow the rules to be aligned with standard practice. The rule change would allow but not require ground anchors.
<b>4-3-1 Exception 2</b>	Currently there is a distance of 5 yards from all surrounding players and re-start from spot of the foul. This ruling of "a free clear" is no longer correct and should have been deleted in the current rules book in order to be consistent with Rule 4.4.2 SITUATION B, which calls for a re-start from "the spot where the ball was when play was suspended."
<b>4-3-3</b>	New handle materials are already in production and create a more durable solution than tape. The current rule only allows for tape; this rule change would allow for the emerging best practices.
<b>4-18-4</b>	Risk minimization — only the goalkeeper may be located within the crease.
<b>6-5-2</b>	Change brings foul into conformity with current trends in the sport and makes it more likely to be enforced and, therefore, should bring greater compliance for risk minimization.
<b>6-10-3</b>	The current "automatic stall warning" in the last two minutes creates a dangerous situation where a team that is essentially "out of the game" is given more opportunity to "punish" the team that is ahead since that team is forced to "keep it in."

**2017 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

- **Coaches and Team Area** — The only time a coach is allowed to enter the lacrosse field is to attend to an injured player, to warm up a goalkeeper or during halftime. If a coach is on the field of play during a live ball or dead ball for any other instance and the coach does not have permission from an official, it is considered a foul. Officials are encouraged to enforce this rule and keep coaches restricted to the sideline and coaches' area during live play, during time-outs and between quarters.
- **Defenseless Hits** — In the past three years, the concussion rate in boys lacrosse players has been trending down due to the emphasis placed on illegal body checks. An illegal body check includes, but is not limited to: hitting a defenseless player from the "blindside," a body check when the player's head is down, and when there is a check to the player whose head is turned. It is important officials watch for these hits and call them as directed in the section of the rules book. Coaches are also instructed to properly teach their players legal hits to a competitor, including when and where it is legal to hit a competitor. The chair of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), Dr. William M. Heinz, said, "I think the point of emphasis this year for the referees is to pay more attention to calling fouls for blindside hits. This would be one way to reduce the concussion rate."
- **Blindside Hits** — Boys lacrosse is a contact sport with a rich tradition and history. As with any contact sport, continued awareness and emphasis to minimize risk for all participants is important. The penalty for excessive hits to the head and neck is in place as an effort to eliminate this type of contact from the game. A section is in place to address penalties for hits to defenseless players and blindside hits. Coaches should continue to educate their players about how to make a proper body check and the dangers and risks of unnecessary or excessive contact. Officials should strongly enforce penalties for body checks. A body check that targets player in a defenseless position that includes but is not limited to a player who has his head down or head turned away or even if the player turns toward contact immediately before the contact is dangerous and illegal.
- **Mouthpiece Fitting** — It is strongly recommended that mouth guards be properly fitted and not be altered in any manner that decreases effective protection. Mouth guards cannot be clear and must be of any visible color other than white to allow for easier rule enforcement by officials. Coaches should instruct players to have their mouth guards properly in their mouths at all times, i.e., no fish hooking. Officials must enforce this rule.

**2017 POINTS OF EMPHASIS (cont'd)**

- **Reminder of Crosse Change in 2018** — The crosse shall be an overall fixed length of either 40-42 inches (short crosse) or 52-72 inches (long crosse), except for the goalkeeper's crosse, which may be 40-72 inches long. The circumference of the crosse handle shall be no more than 3.5 inches. The head of the crosse at its widest point shall measure between 6.5-10 inches, inside measurement, at the top and the bottom of the wall. There shall be one crosse 10-12 inches, inside measurement at its widest point, at the top and bottom of the wall. This crosse shall be used by the required designated goalkeeper. The walls of any crosse shall not be more than 2 inches high. (**EXCEPTION:** The gut wall).

**2017 RULES BOOK CORRECTIONS**

1-9-1 SITUATION A (Page 18)

## SECTION 9: PLAYER EQUIPMENT

1.9.1 SITUATION A: B1 is not wearing shoulder pads, arm pads, ~~mouthpiece~~ or other mandatory protective equipment. RULING: One-minute nonreleasable personal foul, even if multiple equipment violations are found.

1-9-1 SITUATION B (Page 18)

## SECTION 9: PLAYER EQUIPMENT

A1, while driving to the goal, has no mouthpiece, the mouthpiece is hanging from his face mask or it is in his mouth but not worn properly. RULING: Stop play, ~~one minute non-releasable penalty~~ technical violation, award ball to Team B unless the official knows the mouthpiece came out as a result of play.

3-3 (Page 29)

## SECTION 3: FINAL TWO MINUTES OF REGULATION PLAY

During the final two minutes of regulation play, stalling rules will be in effect. ~~The~~ A team that is ahead by four goals or less will be warned to "keep it in" once the ball has been brought into its respective goal area.

4-7-2 NOTE (Page 38)

## SECTION 7: BALL CAUGHT IN CROSSE OR EQUIPMENT

NOTE: Neither situation applies to a designated goalkeeper if he is within his goal crease area at the time the ball becomes stuck. In this case, a defensive player shall be awarded the ball ~~laterally outside the goal area~~ in the crease.

4-18-2 SITUATION G (Page 46)

## SECTION 18: GOAL CREASE PRIVILEGES

B1 (not the goalkeeper) ~~makes a save~~ picks up a loose ball or catches a pass while in the crease. As he is coming out of the crease, A1 checks B1's crosse, causing the ball to enter goal. RULING: Legal goal. Interference may be called only when the designated goalkeeper is involved.

NEW 4-18-4 SITUATION A: A1 takes a shot while B1 Goalkeeper is away from the crease area. While the shot is in flight, B2 non-goalkeeper-defender steps in the crease to block the shot. RULING: Play-on until the shot comes to its normal conclusion.

If it is B2's first violation of this type, (a) if the ball did not enter the goal, stop play and award ball to Team A. B2 does not serve penalty time. (b) If the ball entered the goal as a result of the shot, B2's violation is wiped out by the goal. In either case, B2 would serve a 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul for each subsequent violation.

If it is B2's second or any subsequent violation of this type, (a) if the ball did not enter the goal, stop play. B2 will serve a 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Award the ball to Team A laterally outside of the Goal Area. (b) If the ball entered the goal as a result of the shot, B2 will serve a 1-minute releasable unsportsmanlike conduct foul. Resume play with a faceoff.

**2017 RULES BOOK CORRECTIONS (cont'd)**

4-31-c (Page 55)

SECTION 31: GET IT ON/KEEP IT IN

C. "Get It In/Keep It In" situations are:

1. Under two minutes remaining in the game when ~~the game is not tied~~ a team is ahead by four goals or less.

6-5-2 SITUATION O (Page 70)

SECTION 5: ILLEGAL PROCEDURE

During the faceoff, but before possession is gained, A1 pushes B1 who is attempting to secure the ground ball, in B's defensive side of the field. Official awards the ball to B at the spot of the infraction. RULING: ~~Ball should have been awarded to Team B in its offensive side of the field at center.~~ Correct. The ball is moved to the offended team's offensive side of the field only on a pre-whistle violation.

6-10-3 (Page 73)

SECTION 3: STALLING

During the last two minutes of regulation play, stalling rules are in effect for the team that is ahead by four goals or less. When **the score is tied, or** the score differential is five goals or more, neither team is forced to keep the ball in the goal area unless warned to "keep it in."

7-3 (Page 78)

SECTION 3: RESUMING PLAY AFTER A PENALTY

When a penalty occurs and the ball is in the offended team's offensive half of the field, the ball shall be put in play the team awarded the ball, at the spot where the ball was when play was suspended. If the ball was in the goal area when play was suspended, it shall be restarted ~~nearest to the spot of the ball at the time of the whistle~~ 20 yards laterally outside the goal area. If the ball has crossed the end line prior to the penalty occurring, the ball shall be restarted at that spot.

7-3 SITUATION D (Page 79)

SECTION 3: RESUMING PLAY AFTER A PENALTY

After a faceoff and before possession has been declared or the ball crosses the defensive-area line, B4, who was behind the defensive-area line at the beginning of the faceoff, comes across the defensive-area line to play the loose ball. RULING: Technical foul against B. Ball awarded to Team B A at the spot where the ball was when play was suspended.

7-11-2 SITUATION A (Page 86)

SECTION 11: ENFORCEMENT OF PLAY-ON TECHNIQUE

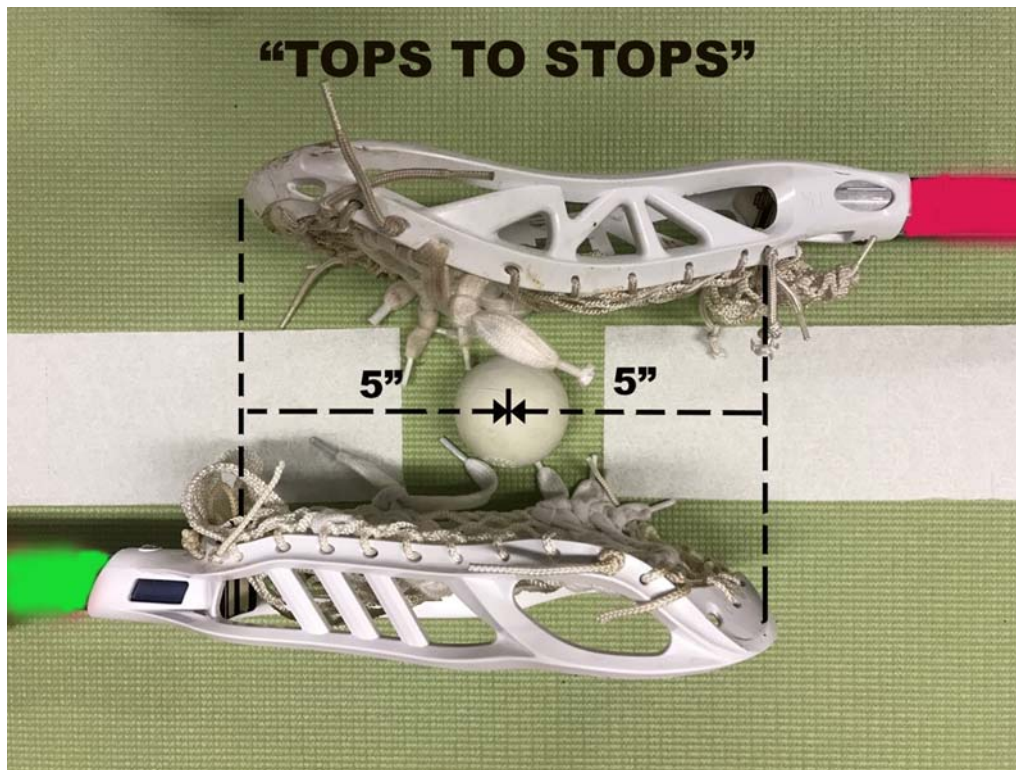
While ball is loose in the crease, A1 interferes with goalkeeper B1. RULING: Play-on situation. If B1 fails to gain possession of the ball, ball is -awarded to Team B, ~~outside the goal area~~ at the spot where the ball was at the time of the violation.

**2017 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS**

- Adopt the 2017 NFHS Boys' Lacrosse Rules Book.
- To clarify Concussion Guidelines that "an appropriate healthcare professional" is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO)
- Modify Rule 4-1-5, a game 1) which is interrupted because of events beyond the control of responsible authorities that occurs prior to the end of the third period shall be picked up at the point of interruption, 2) which is interrupted because of events beyond the control of responsible authorities that occurs after the end of the third period and a winner can be determined shall be considered final, and 3) tied when interrupted because of events beyond the control of responsible authorities shall be continued at the point of interruption.

**NEW STICK-PLACEMENT MECHANIC FOR FACE-OFFS**

When placing sticks for the face-off, officials shall align the top of each player's stick with the stop-area of the throat of his opponent's stick. The ball shall be placed equidistant from the stop-area of each stick. (See photo)

**BACK CONTACT ON FACE-OFFS**

NOTE: Under NFHS rules, there is no requirement to play the ball first on a face-off. However, illegal body checks, including spearing with the head, should be strictly enforced.

**OVER-AND-BACK**

**NEW 4-14-3 SITUATION A:** On a face-off, the ball is propelled over a defensive-area line into Team A's goal area, releasing the players confined behind the lines without either team having gained possession. The ball is now propelled back over the center-line, still without either team having gained possession. Has either team violated the over-and-back rule?

**RULING:** No. There can be no over-and-back violation before the ball has been possessed by either team following a face-off. Only a team that has possessed the ball and successfully advanced the ball into its foal area or gained possession of the ball in its goal area can be called for over-and-back.

**OFFICIAL'S UNIFORM**

1) The PIAA Official's Emblem must be worn on the upper left sleeve of the official's standard shirt when officiating in all PIAA sponsored games.

2) All PIAA-registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest.

3) Required uniform for lacrosse officials:

<b>Cap</b>	Black with white piping.
<b>Shirt</b>	Alternating black and white 1-inch vertically striped, long or short sleeved shirt with a black collar or v-neck collar (any undergarments, if visible, should be black).
<b>Shorts</b>	White or black (minimum 6-inch inseam).
<b>Slacks</b>	Full length solid black nylon wind pants.
<b>Belt</b>	Black (1 1/4—2 inches in width).
<b>Socks</b>	Black stirrup socks with white over-the-calf crew socks on top or knee length one-piece white with 4-inch black top, or short black socks (preferably just above the ankle).
<b>Shoes</b>	Clean and shined solid black with black laces.
<b>Gloves</b>	Solid black (if worn)
<b>Lanyard</b>	Black.
<b>Whistle</b>	Black.
<b>Turtleneck</b>	Black (if needed).
<b>Jacket</b>	May be worn pre-game, halftime, not during the game per PIAA policy. Solid black or black-and-white 1-inch vertically striped jackets are acceptable.
<b>Jewelry</b>	Officials are NOT permitted to wear jewelry, with the exception of your wedding band and a Medical Alert Bracelet or Necklace while umpiring. The restrictions that pertain to a player for a Medical Alert Bracelet or Necklace also pertain to officials.

The wearing of jewelry (except wedding bands and medical-alert bracelets) is prohibited.

Smoking and/or tobacco chewing is prohibited. (Minutes, Board of Control, PIAA Summer Workshop, July 17, 1989, p. 3).

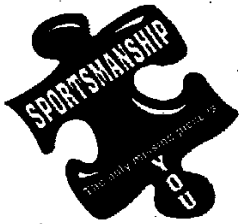
PIAA sports' officials may display an American flag (maximum size 2 by 3 inches) on the right sleeve of the uniform shirt approximately three inches down from the shoulder seam. This will be the same position the PIAA official patch is displayed on the left sleeve.

**NOTE: ALL UNIFORM ITEMS MUST BE IDENTICAL TO PARTNER(S) DRESS ALIKE!!!**

*(This reference is for socks, shorts and sleeves of each official to be the same).*

**PIAA 2017 BOYS' LACROSSE SCHEDULE**

First Practice Date.....	Monday, March 6
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date .....	Saturday, March 11
First Regular Season Play Date .....	Friday, March 24
Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Championship Deadline.....	Saturday, May 27
PIAA Boys' Lacrosse Championships:	
First Round .....	Wednesday, May 31
Quarterfinals .....	Saturday, June 3
Semi-Finals .....	Tuesday, June 6
PIAA Boys' Lacrosse Championship Finals	
TBD .....	Saturday, June 10
AA Championship Game.....	TBD
AAA Championship Game.....	TBD

**PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE**

*“PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the official(s) that your contestants are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions. Good luck in today's contest.”*

**This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.**

For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials' 2016-17 identification cards. Chapter interpreters are requested to remind all officials to read this message at each contest they officiate.

**There have been some concerns addressed by the schools that some of our officials are not reading the PIAA Sportsmanship message prior to the contest. This is an improper procedure and this message MUST be read. Officials are not to paraphrase, modify, or develop their own Sportsmanship Message to the captains and head coaches. The proper procedure is head coaches and captains MUST attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message.**

This message **MUST BE READ VERBATIM** by the contest officials. Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Boys' Lacrosse Rules. The reading of this message will set the tone for the contest to be played in the spirit of good sportsmanship and have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.

**POLICY ON EYE SHADE**

The use of eye shade must be worn as a single, solid stroke under the eye. There shall be no numbers, words, logos, symbols or other detail located in the eye shade. The eye shade shall not extend below the cheek bone and extend no further than the width of the eye socket.

Players having eye shade that does not meet the standard are to remove it or comply with the PIAA interpretation before participation in the game. If the players do not comply, the officials may impose unsportsmanlike conduct type penalties as determined by their respective rules code.

**PIAA BY-LAWS: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8**

Any coach and/or contestant who, while coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating **for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition.** For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating in the first Contest(s) in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, at any PIAA member school or, if the student changes levels of competition, such as from junior varsity to varsity, the first Contest(s) in that sport.

In Boys' Lacrosse, the athletic director and principal must meet with the ejected coach/contestant and detail in a report what corrective action has been taken. This report then must be signed by all parties and sent to the district Boys' Lacrosse chairperson. This form is located on the PIAA website on the Boys' Lacrosse page.

When a coach or contestant is disqualified/ejected from a Regular or Post-Regular Season Contest a report must be filed by the official who disqualified/ejected the coach or contestant. When the report is received in the PIAA Office it is viewed by the concerned school Principal and Athletic Director and mailed to the respective District Chairmen, officials' representatives and sportsmanship chair. A copy is also given to the Assistant Executive Director and placed in the school's file.

The official shall file a report on-line with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

**OFFICIALS ARE TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE PIAA OFFICE ON-LINE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE EJECTION OR THEY MAY BE PLACED ON PROBATION. OFFICIALS SHOULD GO TO THE "FORMS SECTION" UNDER THE OFFICIALS TAB AT [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org).**

**OFFICIALS MANUAL**

All officials could become aware of the contents of the Officials' Manual which can be found under the Officials heading at [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org).

This manual provides valuable information concerning many aspects of officiating as they relate to PIAA policies and procedures.



**EXAMPLES OF DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION  
OF ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8**

The following examples are for players or coaches and are only examples and not a complete list. What this means is a player or coach ejected from a contest at any level must sit out the remainder of the day and the next day of the next contest at that level.

**Example #1:** Player/coach gets ejected from a junior varsity contest before a varsity contest. This player/coach gets disqualified for the **remainder of the day and the next day** of the next junior varsity contest. If this contest is followed by a varsity contest **on the same day**, the player/coach gets disqualified for the varsity contest also (**the whole day**).

**Example #2:** Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity contest on Friday, the team's next varsity contest is Friday. Before the varsity contest is a scheduled junior varsity contest, player/coach cannot participate in any of Friday contests.

**Example #3:** Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity boys' lacrosse game Saturday. The next varsity contest is a game on next Friday but the game gets postponed to Saturday. On Saturday, the junior varsity team is to compete in another boys' lacrosse game, a player and/or coach eligible to participate in the junior varsity game? Since the Friday contest was postponed the **next varsity game** is the same day as the junior varsity game and the player/coach are not eligible to participate the whole day.

**\*\*Note to officials: the enforcement of the rules as written and the use of the mechanics when ejecting personnel from a contest cannot be stressed enough. PIAA cannot defend the lack of enforcement of sportsmanship rules nor the failure to use approved mechanics with regard to these ejections.\*\***

**PIAA BY-LAWS—ARTICLE XV; SECTION 3  
REQUIREMENT OF WRITTEN CONTRACT**

All PIAA member schools shall enter into either paper or electronic contracts on the official contract form entitled "Contract for Officials Under PIAA Rules" with all registered sports officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor. Disputes arising from oral agreements will not be considered by PIAA.

**PIAA WEBSITE OFFICIALS' INFORMATION AREA**

The officials' section of the PIAA website may be accessed by registered PIAA sports' official using their individual officials' code. This code is secured individually by utilizing the first four (4) letters of your last name in (CAPS) and the last four (4) digits of your ID number. Items listed in the secured area include: Officials' directory, on-line disqualification forms and on-line injury forms. Other information in the officials' area on our website include: Applications for Becoming an Official; Sportsmanship Message; Rules Interpretation Meetings; Bulletins (Sports Specific); Athletic Officials' Manual; Various Forms; Evaluation Information; Officials' Merchandise; Officials Recognition and Power Point Presentations; along other important officials' information. Please utilize this area for assistance and information in preparing for your games as well as hosting quality chapter meetings. Officials can also view the expiration dates of their clearances on their profile page at this site, [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)

**CANCELLATION OF AN OFFICIAL'S CONTRACT BY A PIAA MEMBER SCHOOL**

If a PIAA member school violates or cancels a contract with an official, the District Committee or the Board of Directors, in their respective jurisdictions, may require a school so violating or so canceling to pay to the offended official the fee or fees for the Contest or Contests which have been provided in the official contract. Failure of a PIAA member school to live up to the terms of the contract shall be considered a violation of the Constitution and By-Laws of PIAA.

**Comment:** It has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions that officials have lost assignments or games because a school or assignor has "double booked" the contest. Officials are reminded that unless there is a written contract executed between the parties, they have no claim to any type of reimbursement from the offending school(s). Many schools have made a "good faith" effort to the officials to get them an additional assignment in the future or offer a scrimmage to pick up the lost fees. However, officially, without a written, signed, properly executed contract between the official(s) and the school(s), there is no recourse for the officials. In this day of technology it is not very hard for assignors, or schools, to execute these contracts. This is part of an assignor's responsibility. Officials should request contracts from their assignors or schools for both parties protection.

**PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE**

For the 2016-2017 school year, American Specialty Insurance Services will provide the following benefits:

- One Million Dollars of Liability Coverage;
- \$25,000 Excess Accident Medical Coverage (with a \$250 deductible);
- \$5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (including a cardiac benefit).

This program is administered by American Specialty Insurance Services and underwritten by USF&G and Mutual of Omaha. Again this year, all regularly scheduled chapter meetings and the mandatory rules meeting will be covered under PIAA's basic liability coverage. Chapters are requested to please enter their list of regularly scheduled chapter meetings online at [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org) to assist procedurally in the exchange of information to have all local association meetings covered.

**Contact information is as follows:**  
**Drew Smith, Vice-President for Client Services**  
**Sara Douglass, Administrative Assistant**  
**American Specialty Insurances Services, Inc.**  
**142 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 309**  
**Roanoke, Indiana 46783-0309**  
**Phone: 260-672-8800**  
**Fax: 260-673-www.amerspec.com**

**OUTDOOR EVENTS: SPECTATOR DECORUM**

The presence and/or the use of balloons, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are **PRHIBITED!** The Principal and Athletic Director of each school will be requested to confiscate these items from their cheerleaders and/or the spectators from their school and community. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small portable listening devices with earphones is permitted. Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirts and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and Inter-District Championship Contests. Principals and Athletic Directors of competing schools shall announce and publicize these regulations.

The principal, athletic director, coaches, team physician, team trainer, players in uniform, managers, ball holders, and statisticians will be the only persons permitted in the team box.

*As copied from the PIAA Policies and Procedures Manual.*

**23rd ANNUAL OFFICIALS' CONVENTION**  
**AUGUST 4-5, 2017**  
**HILTON HARRISBURG**

**INFECTIOUS SKIN DISEASES**

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND SKIN INFECTION PROCEDURES**

**Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these infectious agents include:**

- Athletes must be told to notify a parent or guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any skin lesion prior to any competition or practice. An appropriate health-care professional should evaluate any skin lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, all team members should be evaluated to help prevent the potential spread of infection.
- Coaches, officials and appropriate health-care professionals must follow NFHS or state/local guidelines on "time until return to competition." Participation with a covered lesion may be considered if in accordance with NFHS, state or local guidelines and the lesion is no longer contagious.

Proper precautions are needed to minimize the potential risk of the spread of communicable disease and skin infections during athletic competition. These conditions include skin infections that occur due to skin contact with competitors and equipment. The transmission of infections such as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Herpes Gladiatorum, blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B, and other infectious diseases such as Influenza can often be greatly reduced through proper hygiene. The NFHS SMAC has outlined and listed below some general guidelines for the prevention of the spread of these diseases.

**BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

**Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these agents include following Universal Precautions such as:**

- An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the activity (game or practice) until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to activity.
- Athletic trainers or other caregivers need to wear gloves and take other precautions to prevent blood or body fluid-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- In the event of a blood or body fluid-splash, immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves when cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.



OFFICIALLY SPORTS is the only licensed supplier for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association



If you are in need of updating your officiating supplies, please be reminded that Officially Sports is the official vendor of PIAA Sport Officials' Uniforms. Please give them your consideration for any purchases regarding officials' supplies. If interested, you may provide them with your email address to send you their catalog, seasonal specials and discounted items that may be of interest and service to your avocation of sports' officiating.

Officially Sports may be contacted via email at [sales@officiallysports.com](mailto:sales@officiallysports.com), by calling 800-934-4555 or at [www.officiallysports.com](http://www.officiallysports.com).

**OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:

- Appropriate vaccination of athletes, coaches and staff as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- During time of outbreaks, follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as State and local Health Departments.

For more detailed information, refer to the Infectious Disease and Blood-borne Pathogens” and “Skin Disorders” sections contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

**UNIVERSAL HYGIENE  
PROTOCOL FOR ALL SPORTS**

- Shower immediately after every competition and practice.
- Wash all workout clothing after each practice.
- Wash personal gear (knee pads and braces) weekly.
- Do not share towels or personal hygiene products (razors) with others.
- Refrain from full body (chest, arms, abdomen) cosmetic shaving.

**SPORTS MEDICINE COMMITTEE  
RECOMENDATIONS**

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that each registered sports official have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. Being physically fit and conveying an appropriate, positive image through proper health and nutrition habits will greatly assist all officials in keeping up with the game. After all, the game, the schools, players, coaches, spectators and fellow officials deserve no less. As importantly, officials owe good health habits to themselves and their families if for nothing more, than the health of it. If officials have any chronic health condition, officials are requested to share this information with on site medical personnel at their contest(s).

**GUIDELINES ON HANDLING  
CONTESTS DURING  
LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES**

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

***Proactive Planning***

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play.
  - A. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for 30 minutes and take shelter immediately.
  - B. 30 minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
  - C. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.
5. Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.

*As copied from the NFHS 2017 Boys' Lacrosse Rules Book.*

Officials should obtain all available information and confer with partners and game administration prior to making any decision whether to continue a contest.

**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**550 GETTYSBURG ROAD, PO BOX 2008**  
**MECHANICSBURG PA 17055-0708**  
**TELEPHONE (717) 697-0374 OR (800)382-1392 FAX (717) 697-7721**

**BOYS' LACROSSE, COACH, OR TEAM PERSONNEL DISQUALIFICATION FORM**

During the boys' lacrosse Regular Season and Postseason, a disqualified boys' lacrosse player, coach, and/or Team personnel shall not be permitted to participate **for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the player, coach, and/or Team personnel was previously disqualified.** For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s), in accordance with ARTICLE XIII, Section 8, of the PIAA By-Laws; and NFHS Boys' Lacrosse Rules 5-1, 5-3, 5-5, 5-6, 5-8, 5-9, 5-10, 5-12, 6-4, 6-5, 6-5-2b, and 7-12. **The umpire must complete this form on-line, as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the completion of the Contest in which the disqualification took place.**

<b>Name of Disqualified Player, Coach and/or Team Personnel</b>		<b>School</b>	
<b>Date of Game</b>	<b>Location of Game/Tournament</b>		<b>Time of Game</b>
<b>Visiting Team</b>		<b>PIAA District</b>	<b>Visiting Team's Final Score</b>
<b>Home Team</b>		<b>PIAA District</b>	<b>Home Team's Final Score</b>
<b>Name of Referee Who Issued Disqualification</b>			<b>Level of Competition</b>

**REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

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**DATE OF REPORT**                      **OFFICIALS'S NAME** (person issuing DQ)                      **PIAA DISTRICT**

NOTES

