

Lacrosse Canada Women's Field Lacrosse Rules Summary 2025-2026

Refer to the World Lacrosse Rules Book and Officiating Manual for complete and up-to-date rules information

Last Updated: March 13, 2025 World Lacrosse 2025-2026 WOMEN'S FIELD LACROSSE PLAYING RULES UPDATED: Version 1.1 // January 1, 2025 | NEW/updates in Green

Minor Fouls – Generally, non-dangerous fouls. FP: Offending player 4m to the side of the player awarded the ball				
Empty A player must not check an opponent's empty Crosse while the opponent is trying to g Possession of the ball in the air. This rule only applies when an opponent is attempting receive a pass. Incidental contact between Crosses while playing a ball in the air is NO foul.				
Withholding the Ball	(Was Covering); If an opponent can make a legal play on the ball, a player must not trap a loose ball on the ground with their Crosse longer than is necessary to control the ball and pick it up in one continuous motion. Raking the ball is permitted.			
Held	A player must not hold the Crosse of an opponent for a short time during a check.			
Other Minor Fouls – Illegal Draw, Early Entry, Illegal Procedure (i.e. Illegal Equipment, Illegal Crosse Request, Illegal Substitution, Thrown Stick), Hand Ball, Offside, Delay of Game. See Rule Book for details.				

Major Fouls – Potentially dangerous; yellow = mandatory cards. FP: Offending player 4m behind the player awarded the ball, unless there is a card. Check to the Head Contact by a Crosse to an opponent's head or neck on a check. Dangerous Follow A player must not follow through with their Crosse in a dangerous or uncontrolled manner. Through Dangerous Propel A player must not propel the ball with their Crosse in a dangerous or uncontrolled manner. A player must not make a long sweeping motion with an extended arm from high to low across <mark>Swipe</mark> the body, at their opponent with their Crosse, regardless of whether or not contact is made with an opponent's Crosse or body. A player must not reach around or across their opponent's body to check the opponent's Across the Body Crosse when their feet are behind or level with the opponent, with or without contact. A player moves into the path of an opponent without giving the opponent space & time to stop Block and/or change direction and contact occurs, creating an Illegal Pick. A when a player uses their body or Crosse to interfere with and make body contact with a Charge defender who is in a Legal Defensive Position. The attack player needs to move around, not through, a defender who is holding their ground/maintaining their Legal Defensive Position. A player must not roughly or recklessly check an opponent's Crosse. 20.A.5.a Players must not Dangerous Check check an opponent's Crosse within a field Crosse width of a player's head (approximately 18cm or the width of a player's shoulders). A player must not use their Crosse and/or body in a forceful, dangerous or intimidating manner Dangerous Play and/or show disregard for their own or an opponent's safety. This applies to all players regardless of whether or not they have Possession of the ball An opponent must not hold the player's Crosse or body, which impedes the player's movement Detain or balance. A player must not displace another player. They must not detain, hold, or push against an Illegal Contact opponent's body, clothing, or Crosse with their arm, leg or body. A player must not use any part of their Crosse to hit or push an opponent on or off-ball. A player in Possession of the ball must not protect their Crosse by holding their Crosse near Illegal Cradle their own or a teammate's face or body, with or without cradling, making a legal check impossible. A player or any team/bench staff must not act in an unsporting manner or display any other Misconduct inappropriate behavior. A defender must not block or guard the goal, with any part of their body for the purpose of Shooting Space obstructing the shooting lane. This denies the attacking team the opportunity to shoot safely. A defender must not remain in the 11m Fan for more than three seconds unless they are Three Seconds marking an opponent Within a Crosse Length, approximately 1.5m. Trip A player must not trip an opponent. A player must not guard their Crosse with their arm. If one hand is removed from the shaft of Ward the Crosse, an elbow or arm must not be used to ward off an opponent, deliberately or otherwise, with or without contact.

Self-Start

Players that are awarded possession of a ball outside of the AFA may choose to start without waiting for the FP to be setup by the official. Self-start is not permitted when:

1. The game clock is stopped for any kind of time-out, 2. Offside, 3. Illegal Draw 4. All fouls occurring in the AFA. A player <u>may</u> self-start under 30 sec of Q1, Q2, Q3 and 2 min of Q4 when self-start is otherwise permitted.

Boundary Ball / Out of Bounds

When a player in possession of the ball carries, propels or is the last to touch the ball before it goes OOB, the nearest opponent will be awarded the ball 2m from the boundary. Self-start on all boundary balls. If GK is in the GC and is the closest, restart in GC. Players may not take an active part in the game when OOB. OOB is a change of possession, not a foul. | On a **"SHOT!"** = the player closest to the ball when it goes OOB will be awarded possession.

Advantage

A foul is observed by the official but play continues to give an advantage to team that was fouled. "FLAG!" - foul within AFA on a Scoring Play. Official raises yellow flag and says "FLAG!" Play continues until the scoring play is over when: 1. Shot is taken; 2. Attack team fails to continue continuous effort towards goal; 3. Defense commits a foul that requires play to be stopped; 4. Attack team fouls; 5. Attack teams loses possession. "ADVANTAGE!" - foul in midfield. Official holds their arm straight out in direction of the attacking goal and says "Advantage!"

	I = Check to the Head, Dangerous Follow Throu duct, Repeated Major Foul, any Major Foul may		
Yellow Card	Automatic Cards, Dangerous Play,	No substitution allowed; serve a full 2 min.	
2 min suspension	Misconduct, Repeated Major Foul	The suspended player may return after card.	
Yellow / Red Card	2 nd Automatic Card, Dangerous Play, or	No substitution allowed; serve a full 5 min.	
5 min suspension	Misconduct foul by same player	The suspended player may not return.	
Red Card	Flagrant Foul	No substitution allowed; serve a full 10 min.	
10 min suspension	Gross Misconduct	The suspended player may not return.	

Goal-Circle Fouls

FP: Defense fouls = ball goes to where 15m MA line & GLE meet.
FP: Attack fouls = ball goes to goalkeeper and person who fouled 1m to the side on GLE. Whistle starts. Defense may move through GC at any time. They may not remain in the GC.
Loose balls may be played by attackers unless the GK or D have "possession."
5 seconds to clear the ball from GC.
GK one foot in, 1 foot out = IN the GC.

Draw Violation	ns – Max 3 people from each team between RL on the Draw, including Draw-takers. Draw-takers Crosses are horizontal, parallel to ground, above hip, no movement after " READY! " The ball must go above both heads. Players must go up and away with their Crosses at the whistle. If there is a violation, FP set-up = ball at center, offender 4m to the side. Whistle start.				
Early Entry	Around the center circle or behind the RL, players must wait for "POSSESSION!" or "FREE BALL!".				
Other Major Fouls: Dangerous Shot, Hooking, Illegal Defending. See Rule Book for details.					

LEGEND - see page 2.



Lacrosse Canada Women's Field Lacrosse Penalty Administration Summary 2025-2026

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FOUL OCCURS:	MINOR FOUL	MAJOR FOUL (NO FLAG); IMMEDIATE WHISTLE	MAJOR FOUL (<mark>FLAG</mark>) SCORING PLAY ENDS <u>WITHOUT</u> FURTHER FOUL(S)	MAJOR FOUL (<mark>FLAG</mark>) SCORING PLAY ENDS <u>WITH</u> FURTHER FOUL(S)
	BALL: Free Position set on the <u>nearest dot</u> (<mark>Whistle</mark> Start).	BALL: Free Position set on the <u>nearest dot</u> (Whistle Start).		
BELOW GLE IN THE AFA	OFFENDER : 4m to the side of the ball carrier.	OFFENDER: 4m directly behind ball carrier.		
	OTHERS: Players at least 4m away from Free Position (Crosses and bodies).	OTHERS: Players at least 4m away from Free Position (Crosses	BALL: Free Position set on the <u>hash mark</u> nearest the most recent foul (<mark>Whistle Start</mark>).	
		BALL: Free Position set at the spot of the foul (Whistle Start).		OFFENDER: 4m directly behind ball carrier.
BETWEEN 15M MA & 11M LINE	BALL: Free Position set at closest spot on the <mark>15m</mark> line in line with foul (<mark>Whistle Start</mark>).	OFFENDER: 4m directly behind ball carrier.	OTHERS : Clear 11m MA of Crosses and bodies. Defenders are entitled to adjacent hashmarks. 11m MA must be cleared.	
	OFFENDER : 4m to the side of the ball carrier.	OTHERS: Players at least 4m away from Free Position (Crosses and bodies). BALL: Free Position set on the nearest hash mark to where foul occurred (Whistle Start).		
INSIDE THE <mark>11M</mark> MA	OTHERS: Players at least 4m away from Free Position (Crosses and bodies). 15m MA does not have to be	OFFENDER: 4m directly behind ball carrier.		
	cleared.	OTHERS: Clear 11m MA of Crosses and bodies. Defenders are entitled to adjacent hash marks. 11m MA must be cleared.		
OUTSIDE AFA	BALL: Free Position set at spot of foul (Self-Start).	BALL: Free Position set at the spot of the foul (Self-Start).		
	OFFENDER: 4m to the side of the ball carrier.	OFFENDER: 4m directly behind ball carrier.	NA – flag only within the AFA	
	OTHERS: Players at least 4m away from Free Position (Crosses and bodies).	OTHERS: Players at least 4m away from Free Position (Crosses and bodies).		

OTHER FOUL SET-UPS:

Three Seconds (Major Foul) - When the ball is:

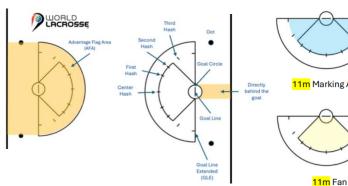
- Outside the AFA, (Ball) set up is at the spot of the ball, (Offender) the nearest defender to the ball moves 4m behind to serve the foul, (Other) players at least 4m away from the FP (Whistle Start). ٠
- ٠ Inside the AFA, (Ball) set up is at the nearest hash to the spot of the ball, (Offender) the defender who fouled moves 4m behind, (Other) clear the 11m MA (Whistle Start).

Restraining-Line Violations (see previous page) (Whistle Start).

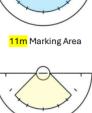
Goal-Circle Violations (see previous page) (Whistle Start)

LEGEND:

- MA A Marking Area - The 15m MA is a Semi-circle lined area. The 11m MA includes the "pie shaped area" and the 11m Fan. The entire 11m MA area is cleared on all Major Foul Free Positions at the first, second or center hash marks. Third hash used for defensive placement only.
- AFA Advantage Flag Area – Rule 21: Includes the 15m MA and the space below the MA that runs 12m deep to the end line of the field, between the dots.
- GLE Goal Line Extended
- GC Goal-Circle
- RL Restraining-Line
- FP Free Position - Commonly used to refer to foul set-ups on hashmarks along the 11m MA line but technically refers to all foul setups/penalty administrations.
- OOB Out of Bounds
- BOO Ball, Offender, Others, when referring to penalty administration above.







15m Marking Area