



2021 Boy's Lacrosse COVID Points of Emphasis

For only the 2021 season, the NFHS and US Lacrosse recommend the following best practices or mechanics. The recommendations below are not rule changes and are not mandatory. These are common-sense considerations for officials, coaches, athletic directors, or tournament operators to utilize social distancing. Please note that the information below is for a standard lacrosse game that does not consider local rule changes or modifications, specifically for the 2021 season.

Follow local and state health department recommendations, and if they include temperature taking temperatures and testing, then protocols should include such measures. Please also take time to review the latest CDC guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Pregame

- Whenever possible, all participants should avoid close and frequent contact.
- Masks are recommended for coaches, officials, and table staff for any pregame or in-game discussions. When masks are not available, all personnel should be mindful of social distancing.
- 2021 Pregame Coaches Certification – "Coach, are all of your players legally equipped by rule, including a legal goalkeeper chest protector as required for the 2021 season."
- No Equipment Inspections Pregame or In-Game – Stick Checks Only
 - o Players identified for a stick check can place their crosse on the ground around or near officials.
- Meeting with Captains: Only one captain for each team is needed, officials should wear a mask, captains should stay apart and should not shake hands, official shows conduct a regular coin flip to choose AP or Choice of goal to defend.
- No pregame meetings with faceoff players.
- There should be no player line ups before starting a game, and players should go directly to their places to start the game.

In-Game

- Faceoffs Procedure – For games that will have faceoffs this season, officials should conduct quick and efficient faceoffs.
 1. Officials should put the ball on the ground and back away.
 2. Instruct the players to go Down for the faceoff.
 3. Give quick instructions to make sure players are correctly aligned.
 4. Once both players are aligned, give the Set command and then blow the whistle to start play.
- Play-On Technique – As a reminder, the play on technique allows the offended team the opportunity to gain possession of the ball. Do not let these situations drag on. If the offended team does not gain possession, blow the whistle and award the ball to the team that was fouled.

Postgame

- Coaches and Players should avoid postgame handshakes and gatherings. After the end of a game, players should go directly to their team bench area and avoid close contact with their opponents and others when possible.
- Officials should leave the playing area immediately and return to their vehicles.