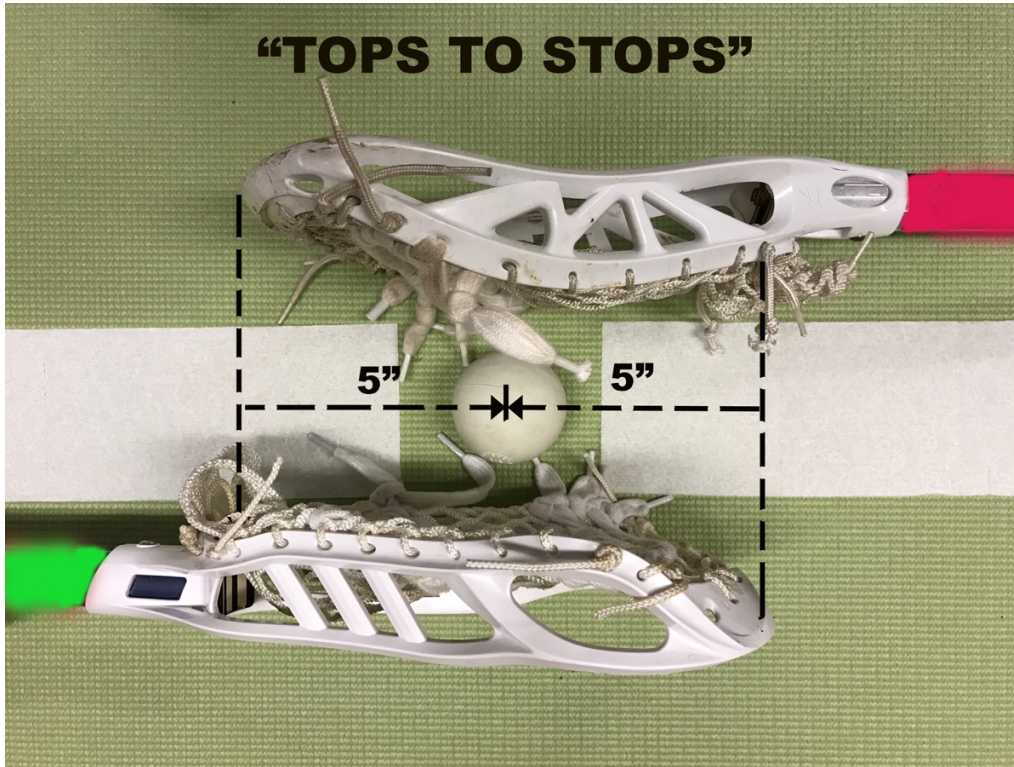


### New Stick-Placement Mechanic for Face-Offs

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)



### Body 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.

### NEW 4-14-3 SITUATION A: OVER-AND-BACK

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 goal area or gained possession of the ball in its goal area can be called for over-and-back.