



Tidbits for April 23, 2019

- 1. HE LOST HIS WHAT??** – We’ve talked about people losing their cool during games, but member Chris C. posed a question about players losing equipment on the field. Not sticks, but **mandatory equipment**. We’ll cover broken/lost sticks next week. The rules references at the end of this newsletter use the term “scrimmage area” repeatedly, but never really define it, so assume that scrimmage area means where players are converging and contact by opposing teams can take place. Most of the rules discuss the loss of equipment **while in** the scrimmage area. But rule 4.24.6 states that play can continue until that player **enters** the scrimmage area. That means a player who loses equipment can still shoot and score as long as he is not actively defended. There is also an important distinction drawn between losing equipment while on the field and entering the field without it (see the highlighted rule below). **Bottom line:** When equipment is lost legally, stop the play if/when the player is in the scrimmage area, regardless of where he lost it or whether he is on offense or defense. No penalty, just an official’s timeout. Fix and restart, possession goes to whoever had it, to the defense if the ball was loose in the crease, or by AP if the ball was loose outside the crease.
- 2. RULE BOOK ERRORS:** The Rules Committee would like to send kudos to the members who have pointed out errors in the NFHS rule book (which means they are actually reading and learning the rules! Yay!) This usually happens every year, and NFHS puts out correction statements as the mistakes are discovered and reported. We have a link on our website’s reference and training page to the NFHS bulletin describing the errors, and include it here for your convenience:
<https://www.uslacrosse.org/sites/default/files/public/documents/officials/Rule%20Corrections%201-19.pdf>
- 3. EMPTY HANDED ON A SHOT:** Last week we had a goalie lose his cross in the crease and continue to chase a shot out of bounds. He was nearer than an attackman. Does he get the ball? Answer and more details next week.
- 4. ILOA HANDBOOK:** We mentioned a while back that we were putting together an officials handbook, and invite everyone to offer suggestions on things to include. Is there anything you’re not sure about when it comes to policies, procedures, Arbiter, etc? Let us know!

Stay Tuned for more Zebra News throughout the season, and send your questions and contributions to our Rules Committee at: ZebraNews@INLaxRef.org

Thanks,

Paul Deinlein, John McGrath, Jim Quirke & Jon Swain

*****B*O*N*U*S**S*E*C*T*I*O*N*****

RULES PERTAINING TO LOSS OF MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

Rule 1 (Mandatory Equipment) = Helmet, Mouth guard, Gloves, Shoulder Pads, Arm Pads, Shoes, Jersey, Shorts, and for Goalies, Throat Protector and Chest Protector.

Rule 1, Section 9, Article 3 (Player Equipment)

Play shall be suspended immediately if a player loses any of the mandatory equipment in a scrimmage area. Otherwise, the official shall delay the whistle but not drop a flag, in the same manner as set forth in Rule 7-8.

Rule 4 Section 24 Article 6 (Official's Time Outs)

Play shall be suspended immediately if any player, in a legal way, loses any mandatory equipment in the scrimmage area. If there is possession of the ball, the team in possession will maintain possession on the restart. If the ball is loose outside the crease, the ball will be awarded using the alternate-possession rule. If the ball is loose inside the crease, award the ball to the defensive team. If A1 loses mandatory equipment in a legal way and no other players are in the immediate vicinity, then the play may continue until A1 enters the scrimmage area or until the play is completed. **A loss of equipment during the play of the game triggers an official's time-out and should not be confused with a player entering the game without some item(s) of mandatory equipment which is a personal foul.**

Rule 5, Section 6 (Use of Illegal Equipment):

...Use of illegal equipment or failure to properly wear mandatory equipment will be penalized as a non-releasable foul. **Exception:** Mouthpiece violation. (6-5-2x)

Rule 7, Section 8, Article 2, Line f (Slow Whistle Technique):

The official shall withhold the whistle until...[a] player loses any of the required equipment in a scrimmage area... and the official is required under the rules to blow the whistle.

(This is part of the "I" (injuries) in the G.O.O.D.I.E.S. acronym. –ed.)