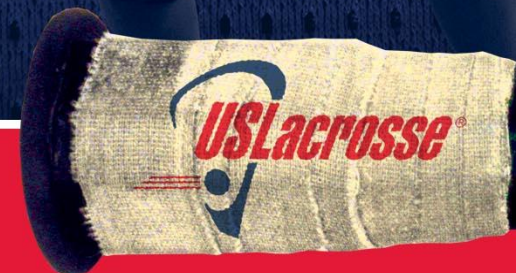
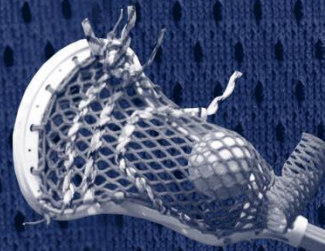


RAISE YOUR GAME



Conducting a Proper Pre-game

Pre-game Keys

24 hours prior to game time

- ☑ Confirm game time and location with the home team's head coach. (Referee)
- ☑ Umpire should check-in with Referee. Do not assume that everyone emails or texts, etc. When in doubt, call.
- ☑ Confirm time, location, level of game.
- ☑ Arrange meeting location for pre-game. Ideally, officials will meet for a pre-game 30 minutes before game time.

RAISE YOUR GAME



Morning of game

- ☑ If there is any weather issues (snow, rain, etc.) Referee should call home team's Head Coach/ Athletic Director/ Team Liaison to confirm game is still being played, time and location.

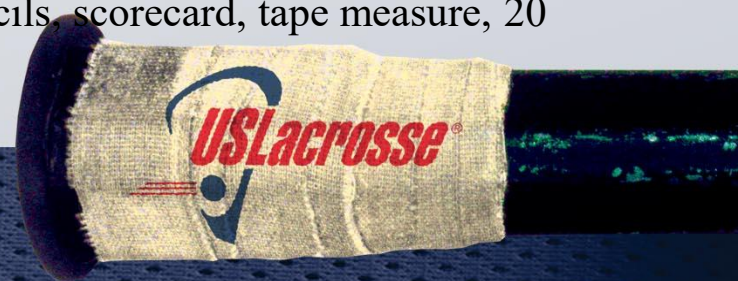
RAISE YOUR GAME



30 minutes to game time

- ☑ Meet partner(s)
- ☑ Agree on uniform (Short sleeves or long sleeves, jackets or pants, etc.)
Officials must be dressed alike.
- ☑ Review rules for level of competition. Is this a high school varsity game or a U-11 contest?
- ☑ Review Points of Emphasis (POE) and any new rules or memos from the league or assigning authority.
- ☑ Discuss coverage areas and who is responsible for stick checks, player counts on restarts, penalty relays and the alike.
- ☑ If any situations have arisen during the season and where unsure how to handle that situation, talk about it.
- ☑ This should be an interactive pre-game with all officials providing information, asking questions and listening.
- ☑ Make sure you have all your equipment, which would include the following: 2 whistles, penalty flag (second penalty flag is a good idea but mandatory), 2 pencils, scorecard, tape measure, 20 second timing device
(if level of play requires it), flipping coin (if referee)

RAISE YOUR GAME



20 minutes to game time

- ☑ Should be at the field. Inspect the field.
- ☑ Look for hazardous or dangerous issues on or near the field. This would include exposed sprinkler heads, football goal posts, other piece of athletic equipment (soccer goals, football blocking sleds, etc.), fences, spectators too near the side lines, people (**KIDS!**) playing behind the goals.
- ☑ Look for areas of mud, where the surface changes from grass to dirt, etc.
- ☑ Check nets for holes etc.
- ☑ Meet the home coach first. At this point only the Referee should be speaking. This includes answering any questions from the coach.

RAISE YOUR GAME



20 minutes to game time

(part 2)

- ☑ Introduce yourselves. Get the numbers of captains and in-home.
Perform coach's certification. Ask if there are any pre-game or halftime activities or festivity. Confirm the face-off time.
- ☑ If there are any issues with the field, point them out to the Head Coach for him to address.
- ☑ Meet the visiting coach. Get his numbers and administer the Coaches Certification. Inform him of any pre-game or half time activates.
- ☑ *You must spend the same amount of time with each coach.*
Perception is reality in officiating. If you spend more time talking and catching up with one coach because he is a friend, etc. you have already started the perception that the game will not be officiated fairly.
- ☑ Depending on the level of competition, you may or may not have table personal (time and scorekeeper). If you do have table personal the Referee should instruct them on what is required of them.

RAISE YOUR GAME



20 minutes to game time

(part 3)

- ☑ Timer: length of periods, penalties, etc.
- ☑ Scorer: Player fouling out.
- ☑ While the Referee is talking with table personal, the Umpire should be available for equipment checks. He should do this on the far side of the field, at the intersection of the midfield line and the wing line.
- ☑ Referee will join the Umpire when he is done with table personnel instructions.
- ☑ If there are still pre-game items that need to be discussed the officials can use this time to finish those discussions.

RAISE YOUR GAME



5 minutes to game time

- ☑ Call for captains for coin toss. Do not use your whistle to achieve this.
- ☑ Officials introduce themselves to the captains and the captains to each other.
- ☑ Referee explains any special rules
- ☑ Referee conducts the coin toss; visiting team calls it.
- ☑ *Remember: This is not a time for a rules lecture or seminar. Keep it brief!*

RAISE YOUR GAME



Finally.....

Game time!

Have fun, have a great game!

RAISE YOUR GAME

