



**2020 Men's Lacrosse
Rule Change Summary
Reviewed By The
Men's Rules Subcommittee**

November 23, 2020

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Introduction

This document contains the Men's Lacrosse rule change proposals that were reviewed and considered by the Men's Rules Committee in 2020.

Men's Rules Subcommittee Composition		
Ian Ashworth	World Lacrosse Subcommittee Chair- Men's Rules	England
Mark Polden	World Lacrosse Subcommittee Chair- Men's Officiating	Australia
Leigh Augustine	Sub Committee Member	USA
Christian Geschke	Sub Committee Member	Germany
Keith Nyberg	World Lacrosse Athletes Commission	Australia
Alex Russell	Sub Committee Member	England

In total, nine rule changes were considered. Of these, **six** proposals have been brought forward for member's consideration. **Three** proposals have not been brought forward and have been sent back to Committee for further review or have been abandoned. The three proposals not put forward have been included in the Appendix of this document for completeness.

The six proposals recommended by the Men's Rules Subcommittee will be considered by the members in an electronic postal vote in December 2020, where a two-thirds majority of members voting in favor of each proposal is required to pass. If approved, the rule changes will take effect from March 1, 2021, however they will not be used in World/Regional Federation Championship play until March 2022. Member nations are free to implement rules that best suit their domestic competitions; however, it is advised that members shall consider the integrity of the game and the safety of players and officials when making any changes to the approved World Lacrosse Rules.

Each rule change (proposed or not) shows the current rule wording and the proposed changes to the wording of the new/revised rules. Each proposed change is highlighted and contains a rationale for the change. Moreover, the Rules Committee, who has analyzed and discussed these rules, provides their comments and their recommendations are highlighted.

Additionally, the Rules Committee will continue to improve the content and layout of the rule book. The following areas will be addressed in the next release:

- Changing any FIL reference to World Lacrosse
- Edit the gender specific references -“he/his” to “they” for all non-playing personnel including officials
- Updated index
- Updated drawings of the Goals/Cage
- Changing the nomenclature of “crosse” to “stick”
- Glossary of lacrosse terms

The Rules Committee, consisting of the Rules Chairs of each the three Rules Subcommittees, will continue to review areas of the games that is felt would be right to harmonize and will continue to bring further proposals for member consideration.

It is also the view of the Rules Committee and the Technical Director that a larger study reviewing the design of the current Harmonized Field is undertaken, to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the game as it grows and evolves internationally.

I would like to thank the members of the Rules Subcommittee for their time and dedication to collating, preparing and debating the rule changes contained here.

We thank you the members in advance for your interest and involvement in helping to shape rules to grow and develop lacrosse now, and into the future. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, in the first instance please contact Brent Nowicki – World Lacrosse Rules Chair bnowicki@worldlacrosse.sport.



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Executive Summary

Rule Change Proposal	Rule Change	Men's Rule Subcommittee Recommendation
1	Timekeeper Entering the Field of Play	<p>The Subcommittee considers it necessary to ensure proper time management during the final seconds of each period. The addition of a Bench Manager will support this consideration and this proposal allows the on-field Referees to focus on the field of play when the Bench Manager focuses on the game clock. By standing at the gate, the Bench Manager remains out of the direct field of player to support player safety.</p> <p>The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.</p>
2	Free Play Quick Restart	<p>The Subcommittee considers that this proposal merely changes the description of the foul to a more appropriate one.</p> <p>The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.</p>
3	Player Committing Foul	<p>The Subcommittee recognizes that players changing during substitutions are colliding with the release of penalized players. The Subcommittee considers that kneeling puts players in a high-risk situation for head injury and confusion over who has right away during periods of player change is apparent. By not entering the special substitution area until the whole of the penalized player's penalty time is served, player safety is protected and player confusion is minimized.</p> <p>The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.</p>
4	Slow Whistle Technique	<p>The Subcommittee considers these changes as a minor re-wording that prevents a team from being disadvantaged by a mistake by an official.</p> <p>The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.</p>
5	Offside	<p>The Subcommittee concurs that language clarification was needed for better comprehension of this rule. The addition provides for a better situational understanding.</p> <p>The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.</p>
6	Player Committing Foul	<p>The Subcommittee concurs that this rule is obsolete and not necessary. There is no need to publicly identify the penalized player beyond the actions of the officials.</p> <p>The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.</p>
Rule Change Proposals Not Put Forward For Vote(Information Only)		
7	The Wing Areas	<p>The Subcommittee supports the harmonization impact of this proposal, and would like to see a more unified set of markings for both Men's and Women's fields in the future. That said, the Subcommittee views this proposal as a significant change in the Men's game that arguably eliminates fast break opportunities off the draw and changes the dynamic of the game. The Subcommittee understands that the draw procedure/wing play will undergo a significant change in the Sixes format and is committed to observe this change to better consider whether this proposal is an appropriate permanent change in the Men's Ten's game.</p>

Rule Change Proposal	Rule Change	Men's Rule Subcommittee Recommendation
		The Subcommittee, therefore, does not recommend this proposal.
8	Restarting Play After a Penalty	The Subcommittee does not consider a need for this proposal and its implementation would ultimately slow the pace of play. There is no need to distinguish between time and non-time served penalties for purposes of awarding a free ball. The Subcommittee, therefore, does not recommend this proposal.
9	Facing at Center	The Subcommittee considers that this proposal serves no actual need for change to the current rule. Moreover, the Subcommittee considers that this change could slow the pace of the game. The Subcommittee, therefore, does not recommend this proposal.

Rule Changes to be Considered by Members in a Future Electronic Postal Vote

Men's Rule Change Proposal #1	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	24.1 25.2	The Chief Bench Official & The Bench Manager The Timekeeper	Addresses the concern of where a timekeeper will stand to count down the final seconds in the period. Proposed by Australia
Present Rule			
Rule 25.2 “The timekeeper shall keep an accurate record of the time played in each period, and hand the clock to the Bench Manager, who shall go out onto the field of play for the last 30 seconds of play in each period to count down the remaining time to the closest referee.			
<p>Rule 24 The Chief Bench Official And The Bench Manager</p> <p>24.1 A chief bench official (CBO) shall be appointed and he shall be equipped with a signal flag and a whistle. He shall supervise over and hold complete jurisdiction over the bench manager, timekeeper, penalty timekeepers, scorers, coaches, substitutes and any other officials within the bench areas, the special substitution area and the penalty box.</p> <p>He shall wear the same uniform as the referees, except that he shall also wear a suitably inscribed armband.</p> <p>A bench manager, who shall act as the reserve referee, shall assist the CBO.</p> <p>The bench manager shall have no jurisdictional power.</p> <p>He does not carry a whistle and he does not carry a flag.</p> <p>The bench manager shall wear the same uniform as the referees except that he wears a black shirt or jacket.</p> <p>If an on-field referee is unable to continue, then the bench manager shall replace him on the field of play.</p> <p>If the referee who is unable to continue is the head referee, then the referee named second on the official assignment shall become the head referee.</p>			
Proposed Change			
<p>Rule 25.2 The timekeeper shall keep an accurate record of the time played in each period, and hand the clock to the Bench Manager, who shall stand at the gate for the last 30 seconds of each period to count down the remaining time to the closest referee.</p> <p>Rule 24 The Chief Bench Official and The Bench Manager</p> <p>24.1 A chief bench official (CBO) shall be appointed and he shall be equipped with a signal flag and a whistle. He shall supervise over and hold complete jurisdiction over the bench manager, timekeeper, penalty timekeepers, scorers, coaches, substitutes and any other officials within the bench areas, the special substitution area and the penalty box.</p> <p>He shall wear the same uniform as the referees, except that he shall also wear a suitably inscribed armband.</p> <p>A Bench Manager, who shall act as the reserve referee, shall assist the CBO.</p> <p>The Bench Manager shall have no jurisdictional power.</p> <p>The Bench Manager shall wear the same uniform as the referees except that they wear a black shirt or jacket.</p> <p>The Bench Manager shall take the game clock from the Timekeeper and shall stand at the gate for the last 30 seconds of play in each period to count down the remaining time to the closest referee as follows; “30 seconds, 25 seconds, 20 seconds, 15 seconds, 14, 13...3, 2, 1”, followed by the sounding of a whistle or horn to signal the end of the period.</p> <p>If an on-field referee is unable to continue, then the bench manager shall replace them on the field of play.</p>			

If the referee who is unable to continue is the head referee, then the referee named second on the official assignment shall become the head referee.
Justification
The current rules require the designated Timekeeper to enter the field of play for the last 30 seconds of each quarter and to count down the remaining time to the closest referee. 1. Games are reliant upon volunteers to fill the roles of Bench Officials. 2. There is no established fitness requirement for Bench Officials (in particular the Timekeeper). 3. Over recent years the field has increased in size and the speed of the game has also increased. 4. With innovations to game clock design it is now possible for the clock to produce a horn blast as the time expires. 5. In view of the points above concern has been expressed regarding the safety of the Timekeeper entering the field of play.
Subcommittee Recommendation
The Subcommittee considers it necessary to ensure proper time management during the final seconds of each period. The addition of a Bench Manager will support this consideration and this proposal allows the on-field Referees to focus on the field of play when the Bench Manager focuses on the game clock. By standing at the gate, the Bench Manager remains out of the direct field of play to support player safety.

The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.

Men's Rule Change Proposal #2	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	37.1	Free Play-Quick Restart	Change of classification of the penalty type
Present Rule			
37.1 Once the referee has signalled that the ball is ready for play, the restart shall occur in the same relative position where the ball was when play was stopped. The official shall resume play as quickly as possible. If an opposing player is within five yards of the player that has been awarded the ball, and the official blows the whistle to restart play, the opposing player is not allowed to defend the ball until he reaches a distance of five yards from that opponent. A violation will be a flag down (slow whistle) for delay of game. On any restart, no offensive player may be within 5 yards of the player with the ball. The Referee shall clearly indicate the player who is going to re-start to the opposing goalkeeper on a dead ball (non-quick restart situations) restart that is below the restraining lines in the awarded team's offensive end.			
Proposed Change			
37.1 Once the referee has signalled that the ball is ready for play, the restart shall occur in the same relative position where the ball was when play was stopped. The official shall resume play as quickly as possible. If an opposing player is within five yards of the player that has been awarded the ball, and the official blows the whistle to restart play, the opposing player is not allowed to defend the ball until he reaches a distance of five yards from that opponent. A violation will be a flag down (slow whistle) for Illegal Procedure . On any restart, no offensive player may be within 5 yards of the player with the ball. The Referee shall clearly indicate the player who is going to re-start to the opposing goalkeeper on a dead ball (non-quick restart situations) restart that is below the restraining lines in the awarded team's offensive end.			
Justification			
Logic and consistency: if we have blown a whistle to create a quick restart, then by definition the defender cannot have delayed the game. Potential problems caused by change: None foreseen. Discussion and implications: No impact to how the rule is enforced other than the name of the foul.			
Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Subcommittee considers that this proposal merely changes the description of the foul to a more appropriate one.			
The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.			

Men's Rule Change Proposal #3	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	79.3/4	Player Committing Foul	In the interest of player safety , this change removes the ability for a player to kneel in in the substitution area when releasing from penalty Proposed by Australia
Present Rule			
79.3 If a penalized player is going to re-enter the game himself when his penalty time has expired, then he may spend the last 5 seconds of his penalty time on one knee beside the gate on his own team's side of the centerline. He must then re-enter the game through the gate. A player who is about to enter the field must give way in the special substitution area to a player who is leaving the field.			
79.4 If a substitute is to replace the penalized player when the penalty time has expired, then the penalized player should spend the whole of the penalty time on the seat. A player who is about to enter the field must give way in the special substitution area to a player who is leaving the field. The substitute may then spend the last 5 seconds of the penalty time on one knee beside the gate, on his team's side of the centerline, prior to entering the field through the gate. The penalized player should then return to the players' bench			
Proposed Change			
79.3 If a penalized player is going to re-enter the game himself when his penalty time has expired, then he should spend the whole of the penalty time on the seat. A player who is about to enter the field must give way in the special substitution area to a player who is leaving the field.			
79.4 If a substitute is to replace the penalized player when the penalty time has expired, then the penalized player should spend the whole of the penalty time on the seat. The substitute for the penalized player may not enter the special substitution area until the whole of the penalized player's penalty time is served. The penalized player should then return to the players' bench. A player who is about to enter the field must give way in the special substitution area to a player who is leaving the field.			
Add			
AR 79.4 A substitute moves into the Special Substitution Area to replace an on-field player. Prior to the on-field player leaving the field of play through the Special Substitution Area, the substitute runs on when the Penalized Players penalty time is released.			
RULING: Illegal Procedure, technical penalty, for entering the Special Substitution Area before the penalty had been released.			
Justification			
It is not uncommon for penalized players, or their substitutes, to be placed in the path of fast moving players seeking to leave the field of play through the Special Substitution Area. The dual requirements to "spend the last 5 seconds of his penalty time on one knee beside the gate on his own team's side of the centreline" and "must give way in the special substitution area to a player who is leaving the field" have led to dangerous collisions between players. The opposition player attempting to substitute, knowing he has right of way in exiting the field, may have little concern for the safety of the player "waiting on one knee beside the gate, on his team's side of the centreline." The player on 'one knee' has reduced ability to get out of the way of an opposition player, (desperate to substitute to get a teammate onto the field), while he is waiting on the last five seconds of the penalty to expire before he is released. The purpose of a player 'taking a knee' on his own team's side of the centreline is to identify him as the player or substitute being released onto the field when the penalty time is completed. This assists with differentiating him from his other teammates who may be substituting at the same time, thereby, facilitating accurate control of the penalty time taken.			

If it was allowed for the player to ‘stand’ on his own team’s side of the centreline in the last 5 seconds of the penalty, the player may be able to get out of the way and avoid serious injury should there be a collision with a player exiting the field to substitute. However, should he also have other teammates there waiting to substitute at the same time, the control of the penalty release could be compromised and lead to unnecessary technical penalties.

Player collisions while Substitutions are occurring concurrently with the Release of Penalties have occurred in the past, and it is foreseeable that they could occur in the future. Therefore, the Risk Likelihood of collisions occurring in the Special Substitutions Area due to the dual requirements to “spend the last 5 seconds of his penalty time on one knee beside the gate on his own team’s side of the centreline” and “must give way in the special substitution area to a player who is leaving the field” is “Possible”.

The Risk Consequence is “High” because a serious head injury could occur to the player on one knee beside the gate. The proximity of the stationary kneeling players head, to the centre of mass of the relatively fast-moving substituting player, could result in a concussion injury.

Primarily because of the possible hospitalisation and numerous days lost, that this type of injury will result in, the Risk Rating for this situation is “High”.

Men’s Rules Subcommittee Recommendation

The Subcommittee recognizes that players changing during substitutions are colliding with the release of penalized players. The Subcommittee considers that kneeling puts players in a high-risk situation for head injury and confusion over who has right away during periods of player change is apparent. By not entering the special substitution area until the whole of the penalized player’s penalty time is served, player safety is protected and player confusion is minimized.

The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.

Men's Rule Change Proposal #4	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	82.6	The Slow Whistle Technique	The rule is meant to prevent a team being disadvantaged by a mistake by an official
Present Rule			
82.6 Where a flag is thrown mistakenly then, when the whistle subsequently blows to stop the play, the ball shall be awarded to the team that has possession. When an official inadvertently blows the whistle the ball shall be awarded to the team that has possession. If neither team has possession, then the ball shall be faced			
Proposed Change			
82.6 At the time of an inadvertent whistle, play must be stopped immediately. In the case of an inadvertent flag or horn, officials will stop play at the earliest opportunity that does not interfere with an imminent scoring opportunity. Possession shall be awarded as follows: a. For an inadvertent whistle, a team with, or entitled to, possession at the time of the whistle shall restart play with possession. If neither team has or is entitled to possession at the time of the whistle, the ball shall be faced b. If play continues after an inadvertent flag or horn and: 1. A goal is scored, play will be restarted with a center faceoff; or 2. the ball shall be awarded to the team that had possession when the inadvertent flag was thrown.			
Justification			
The rule is meant to prevent a team being disadvantaged by a mistake by an official. With the current wording situations have arisen whereby following an inadvertent flag being thrown a team in possession has taken a shot believing that they would be awarded the ball. If the shot misses and the ball crosses the boundary line it is then awarded to the nearest inbound player of either team in accordance with Rule 40.3 ii) as that player's team 'has' possession. This results in the team who had the ball at the time of the official's mistake losing possession and being directly disadvantaged by the mistake. The intention of the rule is clear in that the team with the ball at the time of the mistake should retain possession but the current wording does not follow the spirit intended			
Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Subcommittee considers these changes as a minor re-wording that prevents a team from being disadvantaged by a mistake by an official.			
The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.			

Men's Rule Change Proposal #5	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	65	Offside	This proposal clears up the offside rule Proposed by the officiating committee
Present Rule			
65.1 A team is offside when it has no more than 10 players on the field, including players in the penalty box, and: i) It has more than six (6) men, including players in the penalty box, in their attack half of the field (between the centerline and the end line); or ii) It has more than seven (7) men, including players in the penalty box in their defensive half of the field (between the centerline and the end line).			
Proposed Change			
65.1 A team is offside when it has no more than 10 players on the field, including players in the penalty box, and: i) It has more than six (6) men, including players in the penalty box, in their attack half of the field (between the centerline and the end line); or ii) It has more than seven (7) men, including players in the penalty box in their defensive half of the field (between the centerline and the end line).			
When 4 or more men from one team are in the penalty box at the same time, then that team is required to have 3 men in its attack half of the field and the remainder of its players in its defensive half of the field at all times.			
Justification			
The current rules needed clarification in language for better comprehension and application.			
Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Subcommittee concurs that language clarification was needed for better comprehension of this rule. The addition provides for a better situational understanding.			
The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.			

Men's Rule Change Proposal #6	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	79.1	Player Committing Foul	This proposal removes the requirement for a player who is leaving the field to serve a penalty to raise their stick above their head Proposed by the officiating committee
Present Rule			
A player who has been sent out of the game by a referee shall raise his stick at full arm's length above his head from the time he is sent off until the time he reaches the penalty box, and he shall report immediately to the timer's table.			
He must remain in the penalty box, subject to the rules below, until released by the penalty timekeeper.			
Proposed Change			
A player who has been sent out of the game by a referee shall raise his stick at full arm's length above his head from the time he is sent off until the time he reaches the penalty box, and he shall report immediately to the timer's table.			
He must remain in the penalty box, subject to the rules below, until released by the penalty timekeeper.			
Justification			
This rule has become obsolete and rarely enforced by officials. It is an unnecessary requirement and its deletion cleans up the Rule Book. Once a penalty is called and booked, there is no need to publicly identify the penalized player.			
Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Subcommittee concurs that this rule is obsolete and not necessary. There is no need to publicly identify the penalized player beyond the actions of the officials.			
The Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this proposal.			

Appendix

Rules Changes Discussed but Not put forward for Vote (Information only)

Men's Rule Change Proposal #7	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	Rule 6 & 34	The Wing Areas	Change in face off where players line up Proposed by Scotland
Present Rule			
Rule 6 The Wing Areas			
<p>6.1 Lines parallel to the sidelines shall be marked on each side of the field, 18 meters (19.69 yards) from the center of the field and extend 12.5 meters (13.67 yards) on each side of the centerline. These lines shall be designated the wing lines.</p> <p>6.2 The areas between the wing area lines and the sidelines, and confined within the extremities of the wing area lines, but excluding those lines, shall be designated the wing areas.</p> <p>34.7 At the time of a center face-off, a team, which has 10 players on the field of play (excluding the penalty box), shall confine the goalkeeper and 3 other players in its defense goal area, 3 players in its attack goal area, and 1 player in each of its wing areas. When the whistle sounds to start play, the players in the wing areas shall be released.</p> <p>All other players are confined to the specified goal areas until any player gains possession of the ball, the ball touches or crosses a goal area line, or the ball goes out-of-bounds. For the purpose of player release at a center face-off, either from the goal areas or the wing areas, the gloved hand is not considered part of the crosse, whether or not it is holding the crosse.</p> <p>AR 34.19 A team, which has no players in the penalty box, has only nine players on the field at the time of a center face-off.</p> <p>RULING: Legal play. The team shall be exempt from confining its players to the goal and wing areas to the extent of the number of players, which it is playing short. The team shall have the right to choose the confining area(s) in which it shall exercise its exemption, but it must obey the offside rule.</p>			
Proposed Change			
Replace 6.1 and 6.2 with:			
Rule 6 The Center Circle			
<p>6.1 In the center of the field, a center circle will be marked and have a radius of 9 meters when measured from the center of the circle to its outside edge.</p> <p>6.2 is deleted</p> <p>Change 34.7 to:</p> <p>34.7 At the time of a center face-off, a team, which has 10 players on the field of play (excluding the penalty box), shall confine the goalkeeper and 3 other players in its defense goal area, 3 players in its attack goal area, and 2 players outside the center circle but between the restraining lines. When the whistle sounds to start play, the players outside the center circle shall be released.</p> <p>All other players are confined to the specified goal areas until any player gains possession of the ball, the ball touches or crosses a goal area line, or the ball goes out-of-bounds. For the purpose</p>			

of player release at a center face-off, either from the goal areas or outside the center circle, the gloved hand is not considered part of the crosse, whether or not it is holding the crosse.

Change AR 34.19 to:

AR 34.19 A team, which has no players in the penalty box, has only nine players on the field at the time of a center face-off.

RULING: Legal play. The team shall be exempt from confining its players to the defense goal area and outside the center circle to the extent of the number of players, which it is playing short. The team shall have the right to choose the confining area(s) in which it shall exercise its exemption, but it must obey the offside rule.

Justification

Potential benefit of change:

Brings men's and women's field markings closer together.

Increased options for choice of position and tactics during face-off.

Potential problems caused by change:

Additional marking for existing men's only fields.

Comment –

The changes proposed result in a more unified set of markings for both Men's and Women's Fields potentially facilitating the development of the game in the future.

Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation

The Subcommittee supports the harmonization impact of this proposal, and would like to see a more unified set of markings for both Men's and Women's fields in the future. This said, the Subcommittee views this proposal as a significant change in the Men's game that arguably eliminates fast break opportunities off the draw and changes the dynamic of the game. The Subcommittee understands that the draw procedure/wing play will undergo a significant change in the Sixes format and is committed to observe this change to better consider whether this proposal is an appropriate permanent change in the Ten's game.

The Subcommittee, therefore, **does not recommend this proposal.**

Men's Rule Change Proposal #8	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	80	Restarting Play After A Penalty	This change serves to give a free clear for all non-time served penalties in their defensive half
Present Rule			
When a penalty occurs in the offended team's defensive half of the field and penalty time is to be served , the ball shall be awarded to any player of the offended team on the offensive side of the centerline. Must be at least 5 yards (4.57 meters) from the gate (see Rule 40.5).			
Proposed Change			
Rule 80.1 When a penalty occurs in the offended team's defensive half of the field the ball shall be awarded to any player of the offended team on the offensive side of the centerline. Must be at least 5 yards (4.57 meters) from the gate (see Rule 40.5).			
Justification			
Give a team who have been fouled against the opportunity of a play on goal. Prevent a team committing a loose ball foul in their attacking end from being able to prevent a clear.			
Comment – The proposal removes the distinction between time served and non-time served penalties for the purposes of awarding a free ball. The proposed change could potentially result in a delay in the playing of the game as it would result in the ball having to be advanced to above the centre line in all defensive half loose ball technical penalties.			
Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Subcommittee does not consider a need for this proposal and its implementation would ultimately slow the pace of play. There is no need to distinguish between time and non-time served penalties for purposes of awarding a free ball.			
The Subcommittee, therefore, does not recommend this proposal.			

Men's Rule Change Proposal #9	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	34.11	Facing at the Center	On a center face off there is differing rules applied for similar situation. This change serves to clear this up
Present Rule			
34.11 If a foul is committed during or after a center face-off before "Possession" or "Free ball" have been called, then confined players will not be released from the goal areas until the whistle blows to resume play.			
Proposed Change			
Amend 34.11 to: If a foul is committed during or after a center face-off before "Possession" or "Free ball" have been called, then the ball shall be awarded to any player of the offended team on the offensive side of the centreline (must be at least 5 yards (4.57 meters) from the gate) and confined players are immediately released from the goal areas.			
Justification			
<p>Potential benefit of change:</p> <p>The restriction on the number of players involved in the face-off is to minimize risk to players competing for the ball. After we have awarded possession, they do not need to be restrained in the goal areas. Moving the ball to the centreline, if it is not already there, gives the offended team the opportunity of the play on goal which they were denied by the loose ball foul. It also prevents the offending team from committing a technical offence then using released players to prevent a clear.</p> <p>Discussion and implications:</p> <p>Move towards a consistent rule of: if possession has been awarded, then players are no longer restricted to the goal areas.</p> <p>Comment – The release, or otherwise, of players following an offence during the face-off has been a confusing area for players and officials for some time with differing rules applying to what appear to be similar situations. The proposed change should provide a simpler interpretation and process with greater consistency for players and officials</p>			
Men's Rules Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Subcommittee considers that this proposal serves no actual need for change to the current rule. Moreover, the Subcommittee considers that this change could slow the pace of the game.			
The Subcommittee, therefore, does not recommend this proposal.			