

# *“Mythical” Rules of Lacrosse*

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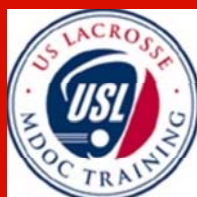
**Some lacrosse rule  
misinterpretations and  
misconceptions manage to persist  
through the ages and seem to  
take on a life of their own.**

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***WHY???***

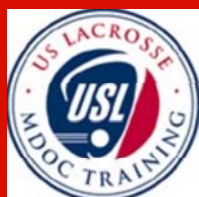
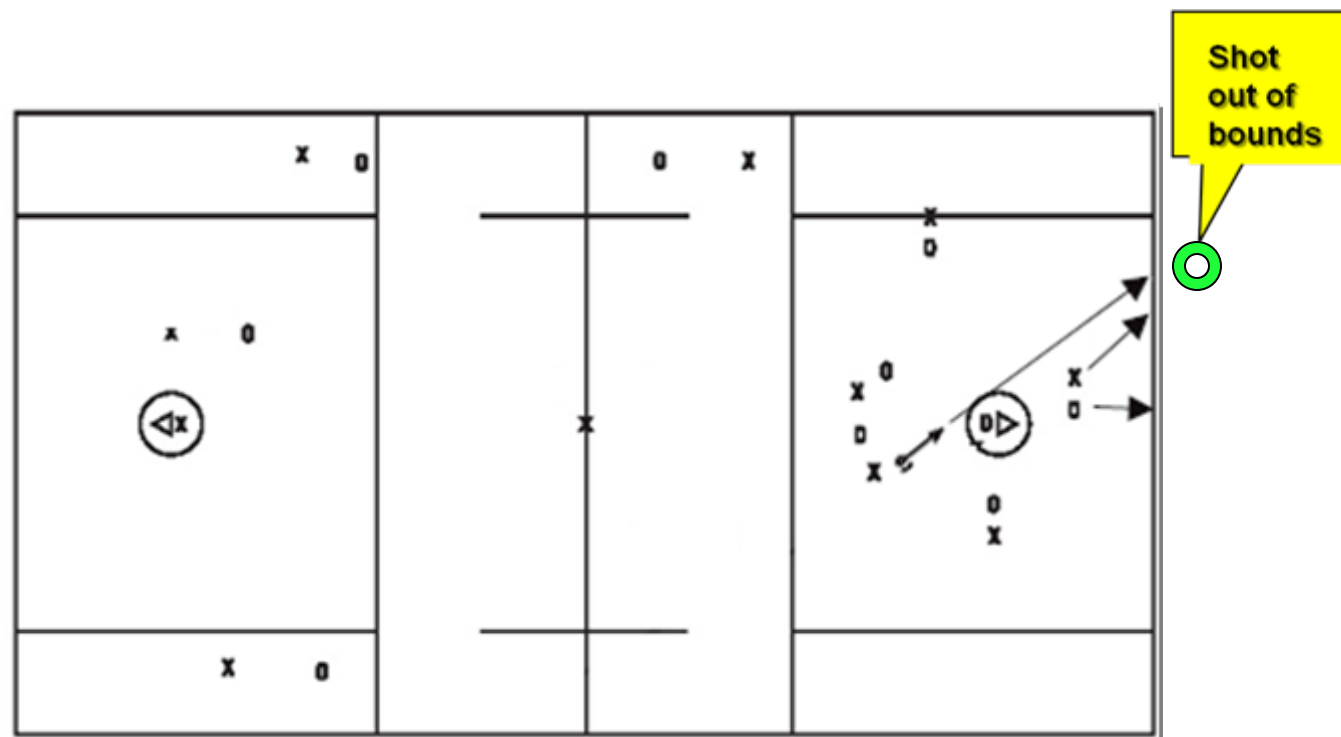


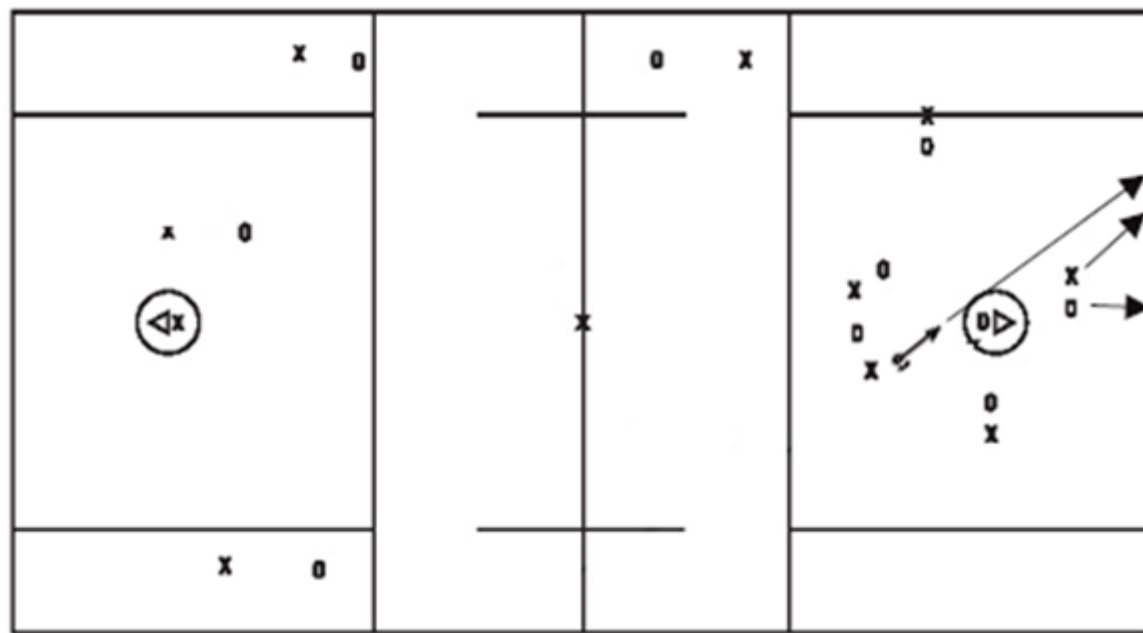
# 1. Closest to the end line when the ball goes out of bounds after a shot gets possession.

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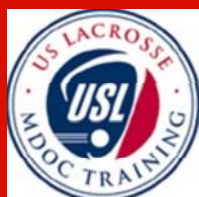
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### Rule 4-6, Art. 3(b):

When a loose ball goes out of bounds as a result of a shot or deflected shot at the goal, it shall be awarded to the team that had an *inbounds* player nearest to the ball when it became an out-of-bounds ball, *at the point* where it was declared out of bounds.



## 2. The 18-inch slash rule.

One for all.

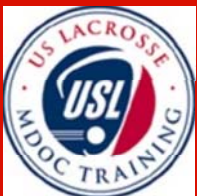
**Slashing** - Rule 5, SECTION 6. Slashing includes the following actions:

- Art. 1... Swinging a crosse at an opponent's crosse or body with deliberate viciousness or reckless abandon, regardless of whether the opponent's crosse or body is struck.
- Art. 2... Striking an opponent in an attempt to dislodge the ball from his crosse, unless the player in possession, in an attempt to protect his crosse, uses some part of his body other than his head or neck to ward off the thrust of the defensive player's crosse and, as a result, the defensive player's crosse strikes some part of the attacking player's body other than his head or neck.
- Art. 3... Striking an opponent in any part of the face, on the neck, in the chest, on the back, on the shoulders, in the groin or on the head with the crosse (including its butt end), except when done by a player in the act of passing, shooting or attempting to scoop the ball.

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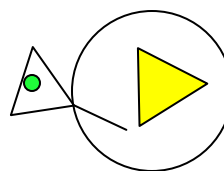
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**NO mention of 18 inches.**

### 3. When the goalie clamps down on the ball outside the crease, that's possession and his stick can't be checked.



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**Rule 4-19 Art. 2...** No opposing player may make contact with the goalkeeper or his crosse while the goalkeeper is within the goal-crease area, regardless of whether the goalkeeper has the ball in his possession. An attacking player may reach within the crease area to play a loose ball as long as he does not make contact with the goalkeeper or the goalkeeper's crosse.

**Art. 3...** Any portion of the crosse of the goalkeeper extended outside the cylinder of the crease area, but not the goalkeeper's body, is subject to being checked under the same circumstances as the crosse of any other player, except when the ball is in the crosse.



## 4. If the ball strikes two or three goal pipes it is a goal.

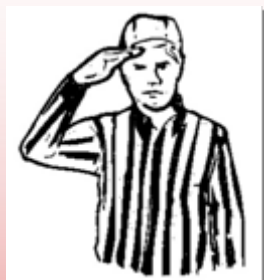
**Rule 4, SECTION 8: Goal Scored - A goal is scored when a loose ball passes from the front, completely through the imaginary plane formed by the rear edges of the goal line, the goal posts and the crossbar of the goal, regardless of who supplied the impetus.**

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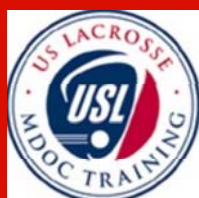




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**5. “A player intending to body check a player who has thrown or shot the ball can hit that player after he has passed or shot provided he takes no more than X steps.”**

**Rule 5, Section 8, Art 3 ... Any avoidable act on the part of a player that is deliberate and excessively violent, whether it be with the body or crosse. This may include a legal body check. (Buddy Pass)**

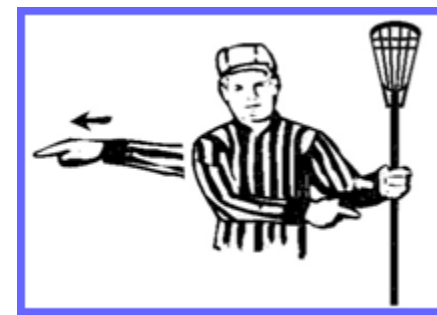
**6. “It’s brand new stick [or it was okay in the last game], so it has to be legal.”**

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**Rule 1, Sections 6, 7 & 8  
Crosse dimensions, crosse  
construction, and crosse  
prohibitions**



## 7. “Hockey helmets are allowed in our league.”



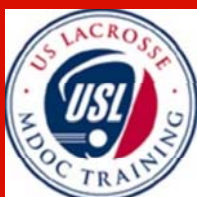
(Only if you want to gamble your house, your car, and your present and future earnings.)

**Rule 1, Section 9: Player Equipment: Mandatory Equipment... A protective helmet, designed for lacrosse... NOCSAE, etc.**

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**8. “We had possession at the end of the period, so we get possession instead of a face-off at the start of the next period.”**

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**Rule 4, Section 3: In the event of an extra-man situation or a flag down situation at the conclusion of any period.**



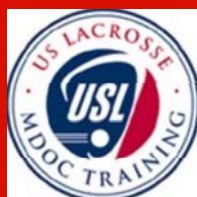
**9 “If a goal is scored on a flag down, the penalty is wiped out.”**

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**Rule 7, Section 9, Art. 2...If a goal is scored after a slow whistle on a technical foul, no penalty is given...**



# 10. “No subs are allowed on a face-off technical.”

**On a face off, who is restrained, and who is not?**

**The midfielders are not restrained, so they can sub on the fly.**

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# 11. “The goalie can’t get called for a slash.”

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## Yes, he can!!

**Rule 4-19 Situation J: Can the goalkeeper be called for a personal foul if his crosse slashes an opposing player after an outlet pass?**

**Ruling: YES.**



## 12. “The goalie doesn’t have to serve his own penalties unless it’s unsportsmanlike conduct.”

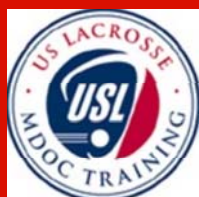
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**Rule 7-1(d) - If the goalkeeper is penalized or injured, the official will allow a full one-minute delay for replacing the goalie on the field beginning with his warm up.**

**The goal keeper serves his own penalties.**



## 13. A man-down team cannot be called for stalling.

**Wrong!!**



**Rule 6-10, Situation A: Team A is playing a man-down and appears to be trying to keep the ball from play. Can Team A be warned for stalling?**

**Ruling: YES**

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**14. “Hey ref, how can that be a slash? He swung his stick, but it never even touched the guy!”**

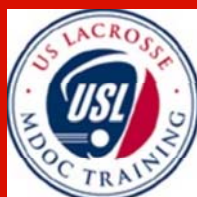
**Slashing - Art. 1: Slashing includes the following actions: a. Swinging a crosse at an opponent’s crosse or body with deliberate viciousness or reckless abandon, *regardless of whether the opponent’s crosse or body is struck.***



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# 15. “After a penalty in the Goal Area the restart is on the corner of the box.”

## NFHS

### Resuming Play After Penalty - Rule 7-3:

When a penalty occurs and the ball is in the offended team's offensive half of the field, the ball shall be put in play by the team awarded the ball, at the spot where the ball was when play was suspended.

**IF THE BALL WAS IN THE GOAL AREA WHEN PLAY WAS SUSPENDED. IT SHALL BE RESTARTED **LATERALLY** OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA NEAREST TO THE SPOT OF THE BALL AT THE TIME OF THE WHISTLE.**

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**15. “After a penalty in the Goal Area the restart is on the corner of the box.”**

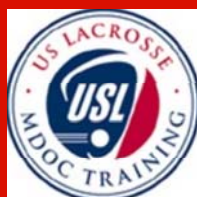
### **NCAA RULE 7-3**

**When a penalty occurs and the ball is in the offended team's offensive half of the field, the ball shall be put in play by the team awarded the ball, at the spot where the ball was when play was suspended, OR **LATERALLY ACROSS THE FIELD OUTSIDE THE ATTACK AREA****

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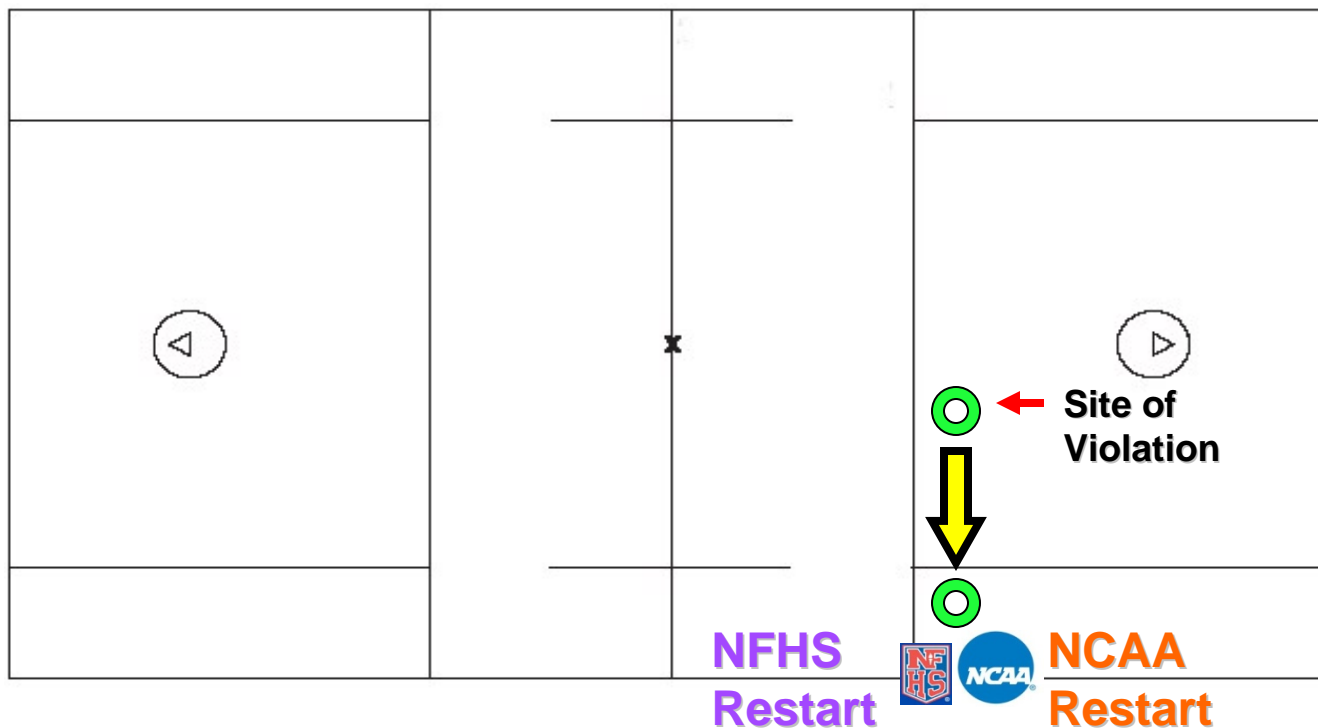


# 15. After a penalty in the Goal Area the restart is on the corner of the box.

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**NFHS - NEW in 2009**

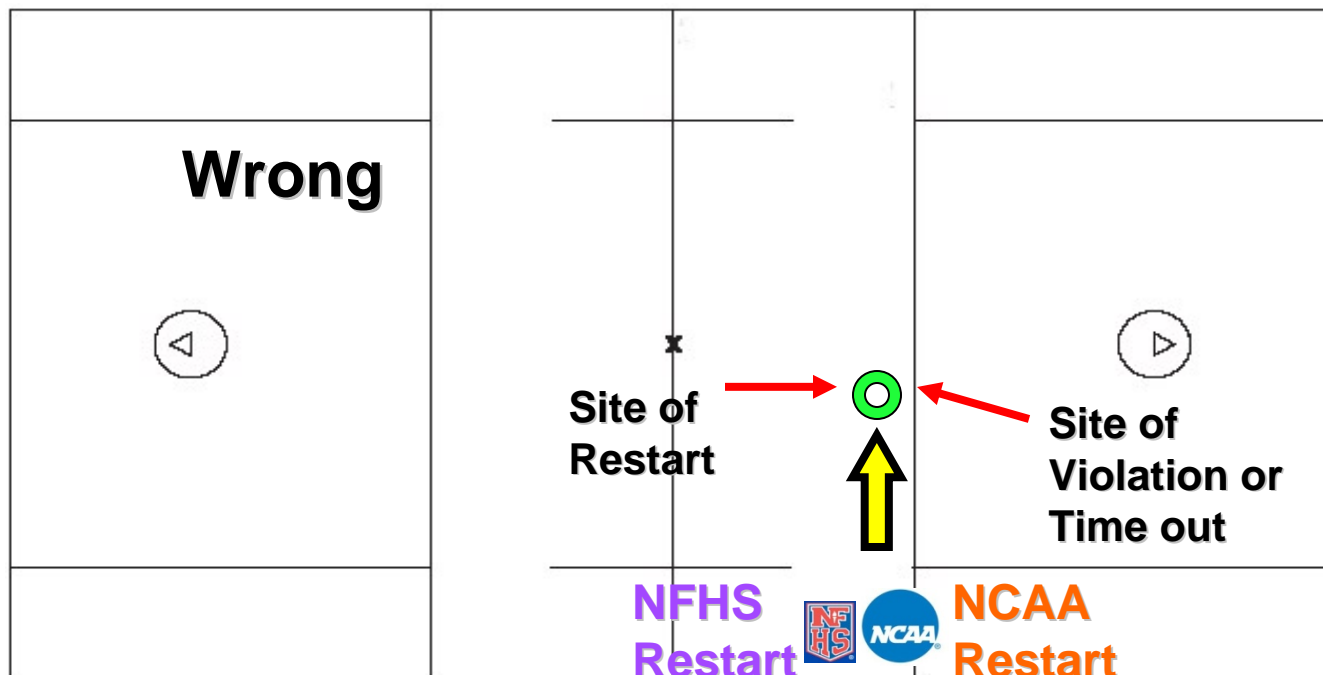


# 15b. After a penalty just outside the Goal Area the restart is on the corner of the box.

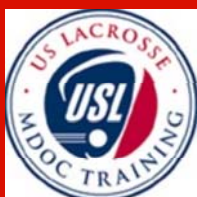
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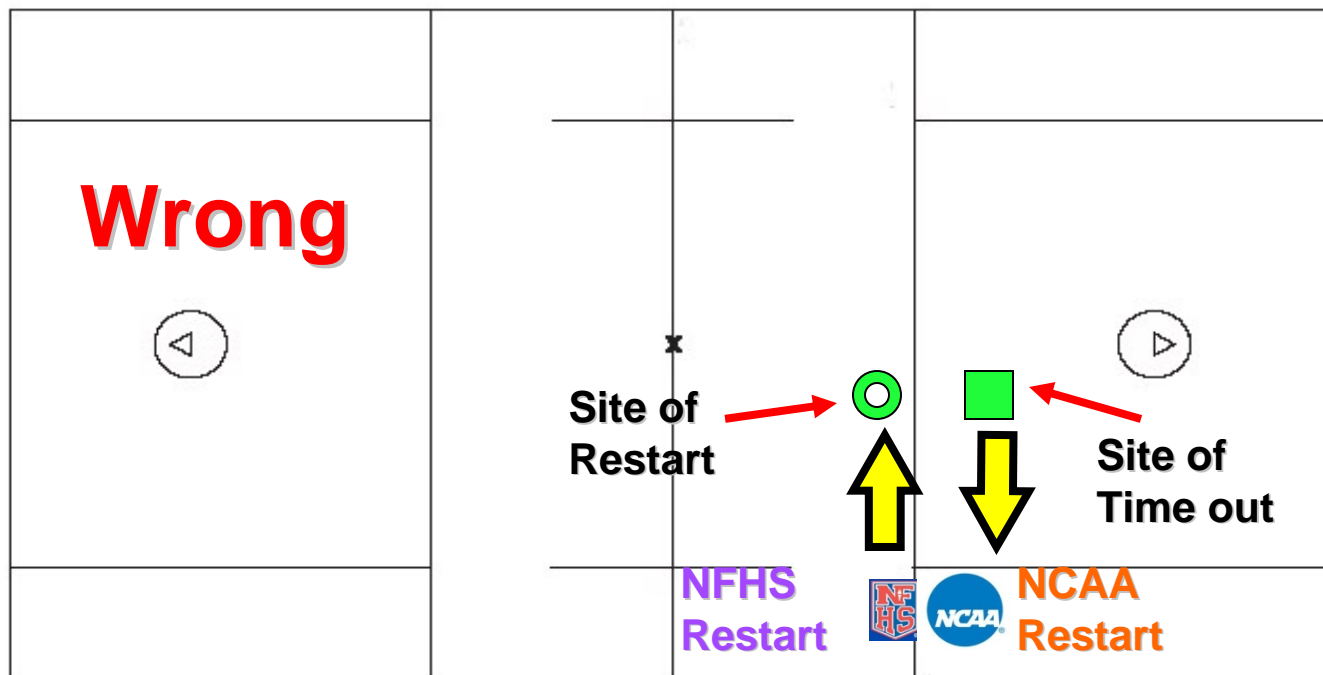


# 15b. After a Time Out inside the Goal Area the restart is on the corner of the box.

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**NFHS - NEW in 2009**



## 16. “Ref, he’s playing while on his knees!!!”

A player **MAY** play while on his knees, stick checks are legal, **BUT** it is illegal to body check an opponent who has any part of his body other than his feet on the ground.

Rule 5-3, Art. 5



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## 17. “Hey Ref!! He left his feet on that check!!”

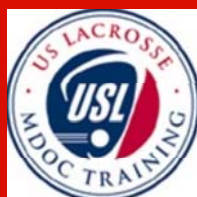
**Rule 5-3, Art 4: “To be legal, such a body check shall be below the neck, and both hands of the player applying the check shall remain in contact with his cross.”**

**Rule 4-16: Body checking of an opponent in possession of the ball or within five yards of a loose ball, from the front or side above the waist and below the neck, is legal.**

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## 18. When is a cross check not a crosse check?

**Question:** Hopefully every official knows the classic cross check, but over the years I have come across different interpretations of contact with the gloves, **absolutely touching and together on the shaft**, exerting a two handed thrust on the chest of the opponent (not a punching motion) sometimes putting the player on the ground.

- What is your interpretation of this type of check?

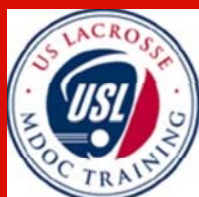
**Answer:** In reading the way that is written I would say that if the glove hands are together and the arms may be extended to make contact with the opponent **legally**.

[WSKimber](#) (10-6-08)

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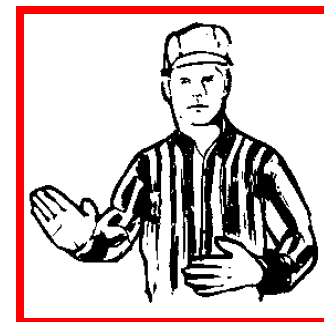
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## 19. The PUSH !!

Why is the push from behind to push an opponent with the ball out of bounds along the sideline a loss of possession call, while the same push in the middle of the field is called a technical foul?

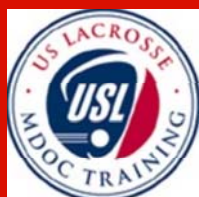
Trick question!! It is **NOT**, though this is very frequently called incorrectly.



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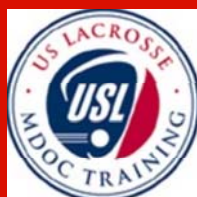
## **20. “Players can not be in the alley on a face off.”**

**Players may be in the alley on a face off. Their only restriction is to be behind the restraining line. The players need NOT be in the attack or defensive area.**

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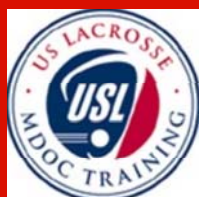


# Questions??

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**A good source of information and answers to questions is**

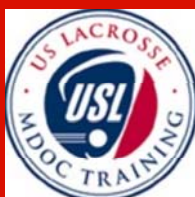
**The Lacrosse Forums**

**<http://lacrosseforums.com>**



**Download a copy of this Power Point:**

**<http://whale.wheelock.edu/Mythical-Rules-Williamson 2009.ppt>**



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