

From: Jim Bateman

MD State Rules Interpreter

By way of reminder, let me say because it was a private school playing a public school, so as an MPSSAA requirement, we MUST play by Federation rules.

The term "defenseless" does not exist in NCAA rules, but in Federation it certainly does:

Rule 5-4, Art 5 is titled "Checks involving the head/neck or defenseless Player."

Art 5 . . . A Player shall not body check a player in a defenseless position. This includes, but not limited to a) body-checking a player from the blind side b.) Player whose head is down scooping the ball c) or body-checking a player whose head is turned away to receive a pass, even if that [player turns toward the contact immediately before the body check.

Penalty times above are two - three minutes non-releasable fouls at the official's discretion. An excessively violent violation may result in an ejection.

In a recent game the goalie's body checked the opponent who had his head initially turned to receive a pass and b.) was in mid-air when checked. In my fellow officials' opinion, the player was "defenseless" which was the call made by both near side officials and under Federation rules, I back up that call 100%.

Jim Bateman