

## FEDERATION RULE CLARIFICATIONS AS OF 3/2/22

I would like to address some of the questions I have received thus far regarding this year's Federation rules:

1.) Facing off procedure regarding permitting a knee on the ground as the athlete prepares to get in position:

4.3.3 SITUATION J (p. 35), If a player rises from a kneeling position and stays in a crouch until the whistle is blown is a "legal faceoff position." This mirrors the NCAA rule in terms of allowing the faceoff payer to temporarily kneel in order to correctly position himself and his stick for the faceoff.

I was told by someone who worked for US Lacrosse that Federation's initial thinking to prohibit kneeling was because some players are already kneeling when the official comes to the faceoff spot and they remain kneeling until faceoff. I have a simple solution to that problem.

**Official should jog to the center line after a faceoff, but if one or more are kneeling, ask them to stand and then give the "Down" command and go from there. That should eliminate that concern. We really don't want to make calls which can be prevented. The coaches want faceoffs to occur, and I don't want to unduly upset Johnny's mother, giving her son a violation.**

In conclusion, let him kneel to get into position. The real emphasis is to be on the "palms up" position of the glove hand next to the throat.

With that having been stated, please do not be confused by this question on his year's test:

1. **During a faceoff, which of the following are not allowed to touch the ground prior to the whistle?**
- o A) Feet.**
  - o B) Gloves.**
  - o C) Knees.**
  - o D) Crosse.**

**The correct answer is C, knees, because the question is prefaced with the word "During". I share this as a reminder to READ THE QUESTIONS SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ANSWER.**

**2. In the absence of specific language addressing the penalty for the player's failure to wear a cup, I hang my hat on the following:**

A.) This year cup or pelvic protection is considered mandatory (Rule 1.9.1f, p. 16)

The situations which follow the rule indicate how the rule is to be adjudicated so,

B.) 1.9.1 SITUATION A state's failure to wear mandatory equipment results in a one-minute non-releasable foul.

C.) SITUATION 1.9.1 C (after the mouthpiece ruling state), "The safety of all participants is paramount.

D.) I see no exceptions posted which would indicate the failure to wear a cup is anything other a one minute non-releasable, such as the mouthpiece does.

E.) Rule 5, Section 6, (p.71) At the bottom of the paragraph, it specifically states: that "failure to properly wear mandatory equipment will be penalized as a non-releasable foul." Exception: Mouthpiece violation (6-5-2x)

**LET THE COACH'S CERTIFICATION TAKE CARE OF THE CUP ISSUE, "COACH ARE ALL YOUR PLAYERS PROSPERING EQUIPPED AS PER RULE?" LET IT GO AT THAT.**

By rule, I think is appropriate to enforce the failure to wear a cup is a one minute non-releasable. My advice, however, as in ALL cases involving injury, stay away. There is no need for an official's attention. That's why teams have trainers. Having said that, if it becomes obvious to the other team coach that the player failed to wear mandatory protective equipment, then we have no choice. We can't really pick and choose which rules we enforce and which we don't (although most of us have rules we look not to), but when it comes to safety, we really can't be selective. MY ADVICE: Do your best not to get unnecessarily involved, but if you must make the call, the message will be sent to every player on both teams that we take this rule seriously.

**3. The rules now say that faceoff players must initially play the ball:**

**4-3-i. pg. 32** Upon the whistle starting play, players must attempt play the ball first before they may bodycheck their opponent.

Note that the faceoff player cannot initially play the opponent's body. However, the faceoff player can initially play the opponents stick in any legal way (he cannot pin the opponents crosse to the ground, etc.). Like NCAA, federation has now interpreted, "Playing the stick is playing the ball"

**4. Home team jerseys are to be WHITE: By rule 1.9.1h(8), the home team is to wear WHITE and visitor in" non-white."** The penalty which accompanies that: rule is found under 1.9.2, SITUATION A: prior to the game it is noticed a team's jerseys do not conform to the rule. Penalty: technical foul, award the opening faceoff to the opposing team. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THIS RULE IS TO BE ENFORCED ONLY ONE TIME PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME. If the opening faceoff has occurred, all that counts at that point would be any safety mandatory safety equipment which is not

being properly worn as in shoulder pads, arm pads, gloves etc., which shall result in a 1 minute non-releasable (1.9.1 SITUATION A. If a player scores without such equipment, goal is good and then player serves and forfeits ensuing faceoff (1.9.1 SITUATION E). Remember a mouthpiece violation is to be enforced as a technical (1.9.1 SITUATION E (b) In both cases, any goal which is scored is still good and then the penalty enforced (1.91. SITUATION E).

Simple memorization of equipment rule: **Tailor** made rule as in clothing and eye shade is a technical, whereas SAFETY is 1 minute non-releasable.

NOTE: If a team violates the jersey rule, enforce the foul, play the game and then report to your assigner, so he can contact the school's AD.

With the season right around the corner and the warmer weather, good time to take your work out outside.

REMEMBER: Federation test remains open on-line until March 19th.

Check out this site for future rulings, quizzes and future play situations which may arise during the season. You can always send me any you wish to have clarification. If you encounter it, maybe someone else will, so I may publish for good of the group.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate.

Thanks,

Jim Bateman

