

RULE INTERPRETATION on STICK Entering Goal.

At the end of my 2026 clinic presentation, I posted a video clip where the shooter's ball and stick simultaneously go into the goal. What would your procedure and ruling be?

First, because of the unusualness of the situation, I would not signal anything until I **come together with my fellow official(s) to discuss**. Once you put your hands up and call it a goal, it becomes harder to reverse. That's why you see NFL officials slow to make a touchdown call until they can locate the ball.

In this case, it is important to all officials are on the same page.

Secondly, since there is no specific rule which addresses this specific situation, we need to think about any rule or rules on which to hang our hat. While you may have the scoring team's coach say, the rule states if the ball crosses the plane of the goal, it is a good goal and he would be partially right.

However, there are probably two other rules which may lead us to better and more fair judgement.

Under technical fouls, Rule 6-5, Art 2b(2) on page 73 states "illegal actions with the crosse – **A player shall not:**

2. **"take part in the play of the game in any manner without the crosse."**

- Since it could be argued that at the time of the shot the player was in possession of the stick, I like the below rule better:

Rule 4-9 under "Goal Not Counted" (p. 42)

g. **"If the head comes off the crosse on a successful shot, the goal shall be disallowed** and the ball awarded to the defensive team."

Point to emphasize: Whenever you have a situation like this which may not be specially covered by rule, first come together and discuss what you think is the spirit of any rulings – **SAFETY**. It should be obvious that if the head of the cross becomes dislodge, it would be a distraction for the goalkeeper, which potentially could cause him to follow the path of the stick and consequently get hit by an 80 mph shot, - **SAFETY** is paramount in such a quick moving sport, so if above all else, you think **SAFETY** first, that may help you come to a fair decision on an otherwise unspecified rule situation..