



March 18, 2026

NFHS Boys Lacrosse Weekly Rule Interpretations

Field Setup and Equipment

One of the 2026 Points of Emphasis is Pregame Responsibilities which outlines the roles host management, coaches and officials play in ensuring the field and equipment adhere to the rules and all essential personnel are present and prepared to conduct a safe and timely start to the game. There are a few rule and editorial changes that impact field setup and equipment such as the requirement for a cone to be placed at the corner of the Coaches Area and the Team Area and for a working horn to be accessible at the sideline table. Additionally, all equipment must be kept in the bench area at least 6 yards away from the sideline and new recommendations were made for flat-iron goals on all surfaces.

Coaches and host management are responsible for handling field preparation and ensuring their team and facilities meet all requirements. This includes:

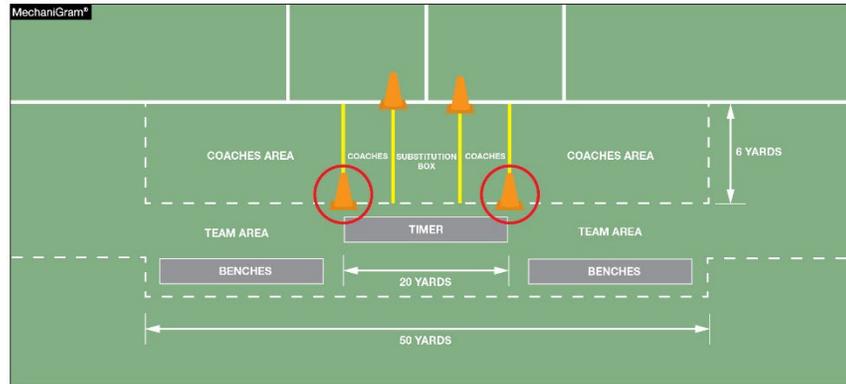
- Ensuring the field is marked and set up properly, including lines, pylons/cones.
- Ensuring players are properly equipped.
- Submitting a team roster for the scorebook.
- Confirming team readiness and adherence to game regulations.
- Ensure table personnel are present early to check equipment and meet with officials.
- Ensure all table equipment is operational.

Officials are responsible for verifying safety standards and equipment compliance and coordinating with game personnel. This includes:

- Checking the field setup including lines, goals, cones/pylons and bench areas.
- Reviewing game procedures with table personnel.
- Conducting pregame meetings with coaches and teams to review player equipment and enforce compliance.

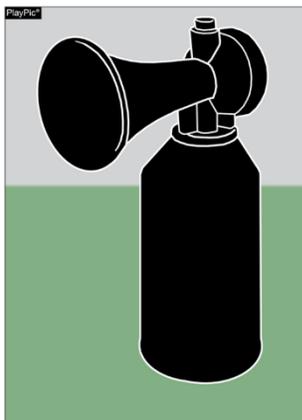
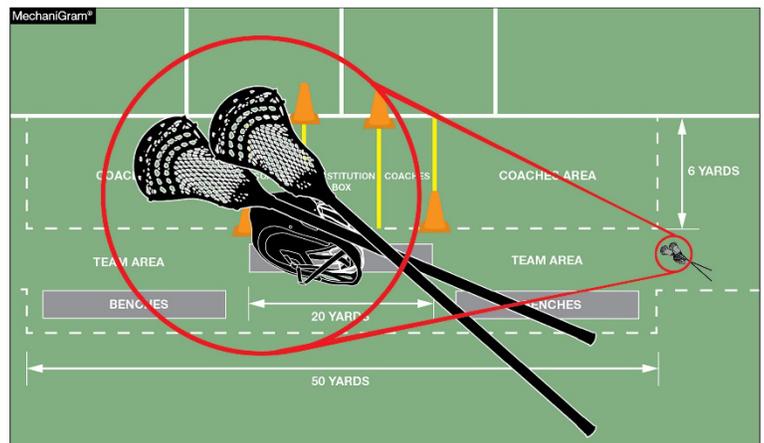
The Field

SITUATION: Officials arrive at the game site and notice that there are no cones at the corner of the team areas. **RULING:** No penalty. **COMMENT:** Officials notify the home team's head coach. If no cones/pylons are available, the game is played, and the official shall notify the sponsoring authority. (1-2-12d)



Equipment

SITUATION 1: While the officials are walking the field before the game, they notice the visiting team's bags and equipment are outside of the team area close to the sideline. Officials notify the visiting team's head coach and ask that all equipment be moved into the team area for player safety. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** If the coach fails to correct the situation, the head coach will be issued a technical foul (Delay of Game). (1-2-9, 6-5-2f)



SITUATION 2: Officials arrive at the game site and discover there is no way to operate the horn from the sideline table. After notifying host management/home team's head coach, the only option is to radio up to the press box and request a horn. **RULING:** Illegal procedure. **COMMENT:** If the issue can be fixed in a timely manner by securing a hand-held horn, no penalty is administered. When the issue cannot be fixed before the start of the game, the home team is penalized with a technical foul for illegal procedure, and the visiting team is awarded possession to start the game. (1-12).