



**April 8, 2026**

## **NFHS Boys Lacrosse Weekly Rule Interpretations**

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

**Coaches:** Sportsmanship starts with team leadership. Coaches can set the tone for their programs by encouraging respect by players, coaches and spectators toward officials and opponents. Coaches lead by both words and actions. It is important to not just talk about good sportsmanship, but to demonstrate it in every interaction before, during and after the contest.

**Reminders:**

- Taunting, baiting and trash talk are not tolerated.
- Team celebrations should be limited in length, appropriate for an educational setting and positive in nature.
- Captains are the team's sole representative(s) on the field during the game and should not be argumentative with or critical of the officials.

**Officials:** Officials are responsible for enforcing conduct (technical foul) and unsportsmanlike conduct (personal foul) penalties to players, substitutes, nonplaying team members, coaches and/or anyone officially connected to a competing team. An official may suspend the play of the game for any reason deemed necessary for the proper enforcement of the rules or conduct of the game. Rule enforcement is necessary to maintain the integrity of the game and minimize risk of injury.

**SITUATION 1:** An assistant coach for Team A commits an unsportsmanlike act. The official calls (a) a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct on the head coach or (b) a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct on the assistant coach who committed the unsportsmanlike act.

**RULING:** (a) Incorrect call by the official; (b) correct call by the official and Team A's in-home will serve 1-3 minutes. **COMMENT:** Although the head coach is responsible for the actions of all non-playing members of the squad, penalties shall be called on the individual(s) who commit the infractions. (2-3-2)

**SITUATION 2:** B1 slashes A1. The official assesses a one-minute releasable penalty on B1. B1 then argues with the official and receives an additional two-minute unsportsmanlike conduct

penalty. Can a goal by A1 wipe out any of B1's personal foul time? **RULING:** The two minutes of non-releasable unsportsmanlike conduct is served first, followed by the one minute of releasable penalty time for a slash. If A1 scores during the first two minutes of B1's penalty time, B1 is not released. If A1 scores during the final minute of B1's releasable penalty time for the slash, B1 is released. (5-10, 7-2)

**SITUATION 3:** A1's crosse is lying on the ground. B1 drops their own crosse, then secures A1's crosse and continues to play. **RULING:** Personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct. **COMMENT:** B1 must leave the field and serve a one-minute non-releasable penalty. (5-10d, 5-10 PENALTY)

**SITUATION 4:** During play, B1 deliberately removes a piece of mandatory equipment. **RULING:** Personal foul, unsportsmanlike conduct. **COMMENT:** B1 serves a non-releasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. (5-10c, 5-10 PENALTY)