



Minor Directorate

2008

Disciplinary Rules and Rule Interpretation

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The following penalties are automatic suspensions. “Automatic” means that the coaches sit the player until they hear from the commissioner. Refer to rule #14. Notification is not required

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Disciplinary Rules

1. MATCH PENALTY – “ATTEMPT TO INJURE”

Match Penalties (ref Rule 80)

A match penalty shall be a major penalty assessed to a player/goalkeeper to be served by a substitute player. Any player/goalkeeper who receives a match penalty shall be ejected from that game and immediately suspended until the appropriate governing body rules on the incident.

Penalty assessed under the following rules:

- Rule 30 Attempt to Injure
- Rule 33 Boarding (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 35 Butt Ending (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 37 Charging (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 38 Checking from Behind (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 57 Kicking a Player (where a Match is assessed)
- Rule 62 Molesting an Official (any intentional contact with any official)
- Rule 65 Spearing (where a Match is assessed)
- Any situation where in the referee’s discretion Rule 30 Attempt to Injure is applied, i.e.: Match Penalties for Slashing, High Sticking, Cross Checking, etc.

1st Offence

Three (3) Games

2nd Offence

Five (5) Games/Hearing

3rd Offence

Second Hearing by local Minor Commission

2. ATTEMPT TO INJURE WITH MALICE

When a player has been assessed a **MATCH PENALTY** for **ATTEMPT TO INJURE** under any of the appropriate rules and has demonstrated a clear case of malice, a **five (5) game suspension** will be given and a hearing by the Commission will be conducted.

3. MAJOR PENALTIES

Serious infractions that are assessed Major Penalties under the following rules:

- Rule 35 Attempted Butt Ending
- Rule 65 Attempted Spearing
- Rule 57 Attempted Kicking of a Player

A GAME MISCONDUCT WILL BE ASSESSED IN ADDITION TO THE 5-MINUTE PENALTY AND THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINE ACTION WILL APPLY.

1st Offence – One (1) game

2nd Offence – Three (3) games

3rd Offence – Hearing by the local Minor Commission

4. **GROSS MISCONDUCT**

Due to the seriousness of this infraction, Commissioner's **must** confirm the facts of the game report where a gross misconduct has been assessed. The Commissioner will forward all gross misconduct infractions to the BCLOA Vice Chair-Minors for review before ruling on the infraction. If the facts reveal that the incident falls short of being a gross misconduct a Commissioner in consultation with their respective Commission Chair and the BCLOA Vice-Chair Minor may reduce the penalty to a lesser category as deemed appropriate. (**Assessed under Rule 48 in the CLA Rulebook**)

- Rule 48(a)** The Referee shall assess a gross misconduct Penalty to any player or non-playing personnel who:
- (i) makes derogatory comments based upon race, ethnic origin, religious background or gender.
 - (ii) threatens a Referee or an Official.
 - (iii) makes obscene gestures.
 - (iv) persists in such dishonor after being ejected from a game.
 - (v) behaves in any manner to dishonor, embarrass or disgrace the game.

Rule 48(b) The Referee shall report the incident to the appropriate governing body.

Any participant found to have committed a "GROSS MISCONDUCT" (as described in Rule 48 of the CLA Playing Rules) shall be assessed a five (5) game suspension and a hearing by the local Minor Commission will be conducted.

Any participant whom is assessed a "GROSS MISCONDUCT" for threatening a Referee or an Official shall be suspended until a hearing by the local Minor Commission. In such cases a minimum One (1) year (12 months from the date of infraction) Suspension is recommended.

5. **ABUSE OF OFFICIALS AND MISCONDUCT**

Abuse of Officials and Misconduct – For infractions of **Rule 28 ABUSE OF OFFICIALS AND MISCONDUCT** the following levels of action will apply. (Note: this rule covers both Referees and Minor Officials such as Timekeepers, Scorekeepers, Offensive Time Clock operators, etc.)

Level 1: Game Misconduct assessed for simple (misconduct) and or (unsportsmanlike conduct).

1st Offence – No further disciplinary action is warranted

2nd Offence – Two (2) games

3rd Offence – *Players who receive three (3) Game Misconducts in a season will be reported to the local Commission discipline committee for investigation and the Minor Directorate Discipline Committee will be notified of the outcome.

Note: Coach/Bench Personnel who receive the Third Game Misconduct are to be reported to the BCLCA for further possible action.

Level 2: Abuse of Official. Game Misconducts assessed for Abuse of an Official.

1st Offence – Three (3) games

2nd Offence – Five (5) games/Hearing by local Commission

3rd Offence – Second Hearing by local Minor Commission

Note: Coach/Bench Personnel who receive the second offence shall be reported to the BCLCA for possible further action.

Level 3: Assault of an Official (Physical or Verbal) – Match, Game or Gross Misconducts assessed under the following rules:

- **Rule 28 Abuse of Officials and Misconduct**
- **Rule 48 Gross Misconduct**
- **Rule 62 Molesting Officials**

Any player found to have physically or verbally threatened a Referee or other Game Official (Assault of an Official) shall be suspended until a hearing of the local Minor Commission. Any Coach/Bench Personnel found to physically or verbally threaten a Referee or other game Official (Assault of an Official) shall be suspended until a hearing by the BCLCA. In such cases a minimum One (1) Year (12 months from the date of the infraction) Suspension is recommended.

6. UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS, MAJOR PENALTIES

Assessed under rule 72 b:

Rule 72(b) UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS, grabbing the facemask, helmet or chinstrap, hair pulling or head butting.

1st Offence – Three (3) games

2nd Offence – Five (5) games/Hearing by local Minor Commission

3rd Offence – Second Hearing

7. FIGHTING

1st Offence – One (1) Game

2nd Offence – Three (3) Games

3rd Offence – Hearing by local minor Commission

8. COACH OR MANAGER PULLING TEAM FROM FLOOR

Suspension of coach or manager until a hearing by local minor Commission

9. FIGHTING OFF PLAYING SURFACE

If the fight occurs during the jurisdiction of the referee (begin 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time and shall continue until the teams have entered the dressing rooms after the game), the matter will be referred to the local minor Commission for investigation and hearing.

10. THIRD MAN IN

Each Offence – Two (2) Games

Rule 67A Who is first to intervene in an altercation when in progress.

11. LEAVING PLAYER(S) OR PENALTY BENCH DURING AN ALTERCATION OR GOALTENDER LEAVING THEIR CREASE TO JOIN IN AN ALTERCATION

Two (2) games in addition to the balance of the game in which the infraction occurred.

12. UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Immediate suspension and an automatic referral for hearing by local minor Commission.

13. MAJOR PENALTY IN LAST 10-MINUTES

A major penalty in the last ten (10) minutes of the 3rd period and during any subsequent overtime receives an automatic one game suspension. Ten (10) minute misconduct is not considered for suspension under this rule.

14. THREE MAJORS IN ONE GAME

ANY PLAYER WHO ACCUMULATES THREE MAJOR PENALTIES IN ONE GAME (i.e.: fighting, masking & kneeling – 3 separate offences in one incident) shall be assessed, in addition to the game misconduct assessed, the following:

1st Offence – Two (2) Games

2nd Offence – Four (4) Games

3rd Offence – Hearing by local Minor Commission

15. FOUR MAJORS IN ONE SEASON

ANY PLAYER WHO ACCUMULATES FOUR MAJOR PENALTIES IN ONE SEASON, will be assessed a one (1) game suspension. Subsequent major penalties: 5TH Major will be assessed a one (1) game suspension, 6th Major will be assessed a two (2) game suspension, the 7th Major will be assessed a three (3) game suspension and an 8th Major will be assessed suspension until a Disciplinary Hearing is held. For the purpose of this Section a 10-minute game misconduct is not considered a major penalty.

16. PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

ANY TEAM THAT PLAYS AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER OR WHO IS NOT PROPERLY REGISTERED AS PER BCLA OPERATING POLICY 4.04(B)

Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player during a regularly scheduled, sanctioned tournament or playoff games shall forfeit all games won during which an ineligible player was a participant. Should this occur in the playoffs, and then only the games played in

the playoffs will be awarded to the opposing side. The Coach will be suspended for two (2) games for the first Offence and for the second Offence, an automatic referral to the British Columbia Lacrosse Coaches Association for the appropriate disciplinary action.

17. SUSPENSIONS TO COACHES, MANAGERS AND BENCH PERSONNEL

COACHES, MANAGERS AND BENCH PERSONNEL WHO RECEIVE A SUSPENSION, will be reported to the local Commission and the BCLCA.

18. SERVING A SUSPENSION

A suspended player will be removed from **all team** games until he/she has served the suspension. This suspension may be served during BCLA sanctioned tournament, league, playoff or Provincial Championship Games only. The suspended player cannot participate in exhibition games until such time that the suspension is fully served. The suspended person must not appear in the dressing room or on or near the player's bench. The BCLA Operating Policy on suspension and discipline shall apply. Any player suspended will be allowed to practice with the team.

Suspended coaches or bench personnel shall not be in the arena where their team is playing during a scheduled league game, exhibition game and sanctioned tournaments, playoffs or Provincial Championships. This includes dressing rooms at anytime before or after games or interacting with team in anyway/any where between periods.

Regulation 16.07 reads:

A suspended player may only serve the suspension during games played by the team the player is officially registered with.

Please note that at the 2003 Annual General Meeting that Regulation 15: Suspensions, 15.03 3rd paragraph was changed to the BCLA Operating Policy and will be enforced.

Regulation 15: Suspensions, 15.03, 3rd paragraph reads:

A member may receive an initial verbal notification of a fine, suspension or decision directly face to face, or by telephone. This must be followed by a formal written notification presented, faxed, e-mailed or post-marked within seventy-two (72) hours to the member after initial verbal notification.

Rule Interpretation

Butt Ending (Rule 35(a))

All "Spike Checks" are to be called "**Butt Ending**" with corresponding penalty. Where a player jabs, punches or swings the exposed butt end of the stick below their bottom hand, a **Butt Ending** penalty will be called. When the bottom hand covers the end of the stick and

jabs, punches or swings at an opponent the proper call is covered under Unnecessary Roughness, not Butt Ending.

Checking from Behind (Rule 38)

See Technical Bulletin.

Slashing (Rule 64)

Rule 64(a) Note 2

- **NOTE:** A player/goalkeeper may not strike an opponent with that portion of the stick not held between the hands. Stick-to-stick contact is allowed but hands (gloves) are considered part of the body and may not be touched. **(This note now affects both minor and senior)**
 - ❖ This note previously only applied to minor lacrosse, this change dictates that a more strict application of the slashing rule be applied in all Senior divisions.

Cross Checking (Rule 40)

- All checks to be place and push, referees are to yell “Place and Push” frequently throughout the games.
- Zero tolerance to cross checking during line changes by either team.
- All chopping action while checking to be called.
- Cross checking on the non-ball carrier in the defensive zone of the team with possession to be called.
- All cross checking down on an opponent’s body from the neck to shoulder to be called and a five (5) major or match penalty assessed.
- All cross checking below the waist or to the hip or leg area to be called and a five (5) major or match penalty assessed.

Major Penalties (ref Rule 77)

Rule 77(a) and (b) and 77(b) Note

- (a) Major penalties require the removal of the offending player (other than the designated goalkeepers) without substitute for five minutes. **(“...unless terminated by goals.” Has been removed (see Rule 77(b))**
- (b) If a team is short-handed due to receiving a major penalty and the opposing team scores two goals, the short-handed team is allowed to substitute for the penalized player from the bench. The penalized player shall serve the full five minutes and will return to the bench on the next dead ball following the expiration of the penalty.
- (c) **NOTE:** A dead ball is defined as a stoppage for a face-off, a penalty or a time-out. A turnover for a 10 second call, a 30 second call, an out of bounds call or another possession type call does not constitute a dead ball.

Ten Minute Misconduct Penalties (ref Rule 78)

Ten-minute misconduct penalties require the removal of the offending player (other than the designated goalkeepers) for ten minutes. A substitute shall be permitted immediately. The Player shall remain in the penalty bench until the first face-off after the misconduct has expired.

Game Misconduct Penalties (ref Rule 79)

Game misconduct penalties require the removal of the offending Player/goalkeeper for the remainder of the game. Any other penalties incurred by the player shall be served by another player. Ten minutes shall be charged in the records against any players assessed game misconduct penalties. **(Game misconduct penalties do not count in accumulation under Rule 14)**

Match Penalties (ref Rule 80)

A match penalty shall be a major penalty assessed to a player/goalkeeper to be served by a substitute player. Any player/goalkeeper who receives a match penalty shall be ejected from that game and immediately suspended until the appropriate governing body rules on the incident.

Expulsions (ref Rule 81)

Any Player/goalkeeper who is assessed five penalties in the same game shall be expelled from playing the balance of the game.

Additional Games

Depending upon the severity of the penalty, additional games may be imposed by the league Commissioner and/or the local minor Commission.

APPENDIX A:
BCLA MINOR DIRECTORATE - OFFENCE / DEFENCE RULES

Minor Directorate Operating Policy Playing Rules Section 4.11:

In aspects of Minor Directorate play, the practice known as Offence/Defence is not to be played in any of its forms. Offence/Defence is simply defined as a Player playing only one end of the floor, at even strength.

1. All Minor Association Coach Coordinators will be advised that they are responsible for the actions of their coaches. They are also to advise **all coaches** in their association that the practice of playing the offence/defence system when at even strength (not including pulling the goaltender or for a face-off) is **prohibited** in BC Minor Lacrosse, as per current operating policy and such action can result in suspension.
2. If any Zone/Association Coaching Coordinator, League Commissioner, BCLCA Executive Member or Minor Directorate Executive clearly determines a coach is utilizing offence/defence on a persistent basis as a tactic, (not including pulling a goaltender or during face-offs) while at even strengths, they are to advise by phone or electronic means the VP of Minors for the BCLCA. The VP Minors will formally advise the Association Coaching Coordinator/Head Coach and/or President of the incident and it will be their responsibility to ensure that the Coach has been warned and the first infraction has been recorded.
3. If the Coach is again found to be utilizing the offence/defence tactic by the above named persons in Paragraph 2, they will advise the VP of Minors for the BCLCA. If this is the second infraction the VP Minor will advise the League Commissioner to assess an immediate TWO-GAME Suspension, which is not appealable.
4. If found a third time, the Coach will receive an automatic FIVE-GAME Suspension from the Commissioner and must attend a hearing called by the Coaches Association. This hearing may determine the future status of that Coach within the BCLCA.
5. If, in any Provincial Championship or BC Games, offence/Defence is found to be utilized by a coach, they will be warned either verbally or in writing by the tournament chairman, or representative, that if they continue employing the offence/defence tactic the game will be stopped and the coach shall be ejected from the game and suspended for the balance of the tournament, and the remainder of the year, this is not appealable. A hearing will then be conducted by the Coaches Association prior to the year following, to determine the future status of said Coach as per BCLCA guidelines.
6. It is the responsibility of the VP Minor to ensure that a complete up-to-date record of such infractions is kept both by the BCLCA and the BCLA Technical Director.

These rules were passed and are effective as of November 19, 2007.