

*This Training Memo is being sent to all SDCLOA officials individually via Arbiter*

## **Dead Ball Officiating**

In our lacrosse training, emphasis is put on player safety & fair play. We typically discuss scenarios and situations that involve dynamic (live ball) play. We must remember as officials that we're responsible for both fair play & safety in between the action as well. **Dead ball officiating is an extremely important part of what we do**, and this memo describes several scenarios in which we must maintain the integrity of the game, even though the action has stopped.

## **Pregame**

- Each team is entitled to warm up on its half of the field. When you arrive to certify coaches and conduct pregame duties (walk field, address table, stick checks, etc.) ensure that opposing teams stay on their own side of the midline and do not intermingle. Don't have a (sh\*\*) storm before the first whistle has even blown.
- After coin toss, but before line up, check the nets. Look for holes, balls left over from warm ups, and that the pipes are placed properly on the goal line **[Pipes on back edge of football line for proper crease line width]**

## **Face Offs**

- Face Off official ensure that players are properly positioned on the "set". Sticks up to and parallel to the midline, heads perpendicular to the ground, hands are off the plastic, and the neutral zone is clear
- Wing official, communicate to players to "respect the line" and "keep it clean going in. Don't interfere." **[DO NOT call out color "Hey BLUE, Off the Line – Keep it neutral]**

## **Out of Bounds**

- Make every attempt to never turn your back to the field. If you have to momentarily, **correct yourself ASAP and spin a 180** so that you have your back to the sideline and all the players in front of you. Be a kid at the zoo and always keep your eyes on the animals.
- Remember the proper procedure for awarding the ball on a sideline out of bounds play:
  1. **BLOW YOUR WHISTLE! [KILL THE PLAY to avoid extracurricular activity]**
  2. Signal dead ball (one arm raised at 12 O'clock)
  3. Signal direction of goal that awarded team will be attacking (arm at 9 or 3 O'clock)
  5. Eyes on the players

## **Slow Restarts (after time outs, penalty enforcement, equipment fixes, start of period when no face off)**

- Each official shall have one arm raised (12 O'clock) to signal ball is dead
- Each official shall count players
- When counts are satisfied the Off official/s shall point in direction of the goal that the team (in possession) will be attacking
- On official will blow restart in and wind arm, starting from the 12 O'clock position

**NOTE: On official should have whistle in his mouth during the dead ball interval.** This prevents the defender who is 5 yards away from getting a 'jump' on the ball carrier. Bringing the whistle to your mouth just prior to winding the restart is a dead giveaway to what's coming and it may allow the defense

an unfair advantage. **Whistle in mouth!**

- Whenever the restart occurs in the attacking end, the officials shall communicate to the goalie where the ball is: "Goalie, top right!"; "Ball's at X"; "Keeper! With me! Ball's with me!", etc.

### **After a Goal**

- Lead official shall blow whistle **[IMMEDIATELY! KILL IT]** and raise arms (touchdown!). **DO NOT STOP OFFICIATING IN THIS SITUATION!**
- If you (LEAD) are pushed to the outside when goal is scored: Whistle, angle 45-degrees off GLE towards top of crease where players from both teams are mingled, and watch for mischief while signaling goal
- If you (Lead) are moving towards or immediately next to crease: Whistle, step in to crease, position yourself 90-degrees off of GLE and look towards top of crease for post-whistle infractions by either team
- **DO NOT ANGLE 90-degrees off of GLE if you are pushed out from crease!** What are you officiating? The far end line 95 yards away? Position yourself to see the top of the crease (45-degrees)
- **Trail must stay with action immediately after goal is scored.** Look for late hits, taunting or other unsportsmanlike acts (punches, cross checks after whistle, player/s drawing undue attention to themselves, etc.) **NO BALL WATCHING!**
- Once situation has "Cooled Down" lead retrieves ball from net and exchanges with trail
- **REMEMBER:** The 3 to 4 seconds immediately following a goal is when the inmates tend to riot. The trail should NEVER turn his back or fall asleep mentally when opposing players are intermingled immediately after a goal

### **Time Outs**

- Bench side official should hustle to midline about 10- 20 yards from side line (Wing line or beyond) and watch teams as they cross each other enroute to their respective benches
- **DO NOT PULL OUT YOUR CARD AND NOTE TIME OUT UNTIL ALL THE PLAYERS ARE AT THEIR BENCHES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Any time! Every Time!
- Once teams have crossed, switch on the 100-second timer, meet partner at midfield, and conduct stick checks, discussion items, etc.
- Far side official should also watch players crossing from wherever he is positioned – or get to a good position to witness – and then retrieve ball after field is cleared

### **Post Game**

- Be in no hurry to cross paths with coaches, especially if they were feisty during the game
- Crew should assemble in a spot on the field, away from coaches, but with an eye on the teams as they conduct postgame handshakes
- If all is well..... Get the heck out of Dodge!

### **Remember key Points:**

- Eyes on participants at **ALL TIMES!** Live & dead ball.
- Don't chase loose balls when time out is called – wait until field is cleared
- Trail **must** stay with shooter after ball is gone and keep eyes on front of cage after a goal
- Lead should not blindly signal goal and ignore players atop the crease. **KEEP FOCUSED** even as you signal goal and position/angle yourself where you can see the post-goal actions of the players
- **NEVER** turn your back to the field longer than a second or two. Always keep your eyes on the players during dead ball periods.
  - **Remember if you have opposing players tumbling out of bounds together and are physically tied-up or entangled, that will be your primary concern.**
  - **Communicate verbally “Okay, fellas, play over. Easy up! Easy up!”**
  - **Your partner will have to mind the rest of the farm.**
  - **Work as a team even in dead ball situations.**
- **Remember: we start officiating from the moment we walk on the field to the moment we depart – whether the ball is **live or dead!****

Good Luck,  
John “Biz” Bistowski  
SDCLOA President & Training Chair