

NEW ENGLAND COASTAL LACROSSE (NECLAX)

Rules of Play for the 2018 Season

Summary of Significant Modifications to the 2018 Rules for Boys Youth Lacrosse (Youth Rules)

Significant key rules (e.g. slashing, checking) should be reviewed and discussed among coaches and referees before every game.

Before EVERY game, the following should be verbally communicated by the home field coach to all spectators, coaches, players, & referees on the spectator side of the field

*Under NO circumstances should coaches or spectators yell or berate officials. Any issues should be brought up by a coach to the other coach and discussed with all officials during halftime or at the end of the game. The point of the discussion should be to ensure every- one understands the ruling, not to criticize an official. Keep in mind that the majority of the junior officials are **kids** that came through our programs and are still learning the game, especially from the point of an official. At all times, coaches and spectators must keep in mind that they represent NECLAX and the game of Lacrosse and should set the example of excellent sportsmanship and control to all. Coaches and spectators are responsible for the perception others have of our league and the game of lacrosse and should never abuse that privilege.*

All New England Coastal Lacrosse League games are played in accordance with the 2018 Youth Boys' Rulebook Official Rules for Boys' Lacrosse, as modified by the NECLAX League. The significant modifications to the Youth Rules that will be in effect for the 2017 Season are as follows:

US LACROSSE AGE AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

NECLAX Regulations further require that 14U players be students in the 8th grade or lower.

8U PHILOSOPHY

8U play shall be instructional and non-competitive. Therefore, NECLAX discourages recording or publication of scores. 8U teams will be required to take the ball below Goal Line Extended (GLE) when they get the ball in the offensive half prior to scoring.

10U PHILOSOPHY

In order to maximize each player's touches and participation in the play of the game, NECLAX advocates that 10U contests be short squad (e.g., 7-on-7) on short fields whenever possible. Teams within a program should be balanced as evenly as possible in terms of age, size, physical and cognitive maturity, and ability. 10U teams will be required to take the ball below Goal Line Extended (GLE) when they get the ball in the offensive half prior to scoring.

1. **Officials.** The Home Team shall have the responsibility of providing two CLOA officials at each 14U game, one CLOA and one High School Boys official at each 12U game and two High School Boys officials at each 10U game. A single certified youth official may officiate 10U games when not enough are available.
2. **Spectators.** All spectators shall be on the side of the field opposite the bench area.
3. **Time.** The times for the differing levels of play are listed on the 2018 NECLAX Youth Rules Officials Quick Reference Guide.
4. **Equipment.** All players are required to wear arm pads and a protective cup. Helmets should have NOCSAE lacrosse seal appearing legibly on the exterior of the helmet shell.



5. **Stick Checks.** Whenever certified adult referees are available, random stick checks are allowed. Penalty for infraction is a 1 min non-releasable.
6. **Stalling.** Offensive stalling rules (get it in/keep it in) shall be enforced in accordance with the Youth Rules for U15 only.
7. **Penalties on Goalies.** The in-home may serve a goalkeeper's penalties, **except for Unsportsmanlike Conduct or a penalty or combination of sequentially served penalties totaling two or more minutes.** If a dressed goalkeeper is not available, reasonable time to dress one shall be afforded, in addition to the one-minute delay for his warm-up allowed.
8. **Six Goal Rule.** If a team is leading by 6 goals, there shall be no face off after each goal scored by either team while one leads by 6 goals or more and possession of the ball shall be awarded to the losing team after each goal. Face off shall resume if the lead is reduced to fewer than 6 goals. The losing team shall be entitled to waive this rule and participate in a face off.

9. **Fouling Out.** NECLAX will adhere to the Youth Rules for fouling out. Fouling out does not constitute ejection from the game. 14U, 12U, and 10U - Any player who accumulates 3 personal fouls or 5 minutes in personal foul penalty time shall be disqualified from the game. A substitute for that player may enter the game when the disqualified player would have been permitted to re-enter had he not fouled out. For 8U, a disqualified player must leave the field but his team may replace him with a substitute; no man up situation should occur.
10. **Concussions.** Appendix IV of the 2018 Youth Boys' Rulebook Official Rules for Boys' Lacrosse provides guidelines for the management of concussions. Specifically, any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional.
12. **Permissible Checking Distance.** All stick checks, body checks, legal holds and legal pushes must be on a player in possession of the ball or within 3 yards of a loose ball or ball in flight. This change from 5 yards to 3 yards does not apply to a free play restart, in which no player may be closer than 5 yards to the player awarded the ball.
13. **Slashing.** For NECLAX play, the ONLY permissible check with the crosse is on the opponent's crosse or his gloved hand on his own crosse. STRIKING AN OPPONENT WITH THE CROSSE ANYWHERE EXCEPT ON HIS CROSSE OR HIS GLOVED HAND ON HIS OWN CROSSE IS SLASHING! At the 8U level only, any check other than a poke check is slashing. The only legal stick check is a poke check to the opponent's crosse or gloved hand on his crosse. Any other stick check is a slash. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Any one-handed check shall be considered a slash, whether or not it makes contact with the opposing player. **This applies to every age level.**

14. **RULE 5: Personal Fouls from the 2018 Youth Boys' Rulebook Official Rules for Boys' Lacrosse states:**

Personal fouls are those of a serious nature. Personal fouls include either a safety or sportsmanship violation. In keeping with the overarching emphasis on player safety and sportsmanship at the youth level, US Lacrosse expects strict enforcement of the Cross Check, Illegal Body Check, Checks Involving The Head/Neck, Slashing, Unnecessary Roughness, and Unsportsmanlike Conduct rules.

PENALTY: The penalty for a personal foul shall be suspension from the game of the offending player for 1, 2, or 3 minutes, depending on the official's judgment of the severity and perceived intent of the personal foul. The ball shall be given to the team fouled.

EXCEPTION 1: The penalty for personal fouls 5.3 ILLEGAL BODY CHECKS (to a defenseless player) and 5.4 CHECKS INVOLVING THE HEAD/NECK are automatically 2 or 3 minute non releasable fouls.

15. **Game Termination.** Officials shall have the authority to terminate a boys youth game in response to flagrant acts of unsportsmanlike behavior including excessively rough play or the encouragement of excessively rough play by coaches, athletes, or spectators. A game termination will be the last resort in ensuring the players' safety and preserving the integrity of the game. If possible, game officials will issue at least one strong warning if the game is in danger of being terminated. However, it is conceivable that games may be terminated on the first instance of a flagrant unsportsmanlike act. Every effort should be taken to avoid game termination, including the enforcement of existing rules for team-conduct penalties, unsportsmanlike-conduct penalties, and ejection fouls.

Any termination or expulsion will be reported to the NECLAX Board. Any team deemed responsible for a game termination will pay a \$100 fine and pay for any referee costs (regardless of who is the home team).

This summary of the significant modifications to the Youth Rules covers all levels of play within the NECLAX League. Please review the entire 2018 Youth Boys' Rulebook Official Rules for Boys' Lacrosse and the 2018 NECLAX Youth Rules – Officials Quick Reference Guide on the next page.

2017 NECLAX Youth Rules – Officials Quick Reference Guide

	Bantam (8-U)	Lightning (10-U)	Junior (12-U)	Senior (14-U)
Crosse Lengths				
Short	37" - 42" (USL)	37" - 42" (USL)	40" - 42"	40" - 42"
Long	None	None	52" - 72"	52" - 72"
Goalie	37" - 54"(USL)	37" - 54" (USL)	40" - 72"	40" - 72"
# of Poles	None	None	4	4
Field / # of players	Cross-field / 4v4 (3 + GK)	Cross-field / 7v7	Regular / 10v10	NFHS
Game Balls	Soft	Regular (NOCSAE)	Regular (NOCSAE)	Regular (NOCSAE)
Tech Fouls	Explain & Award (no time serve)	Time Serve or Award	Time Serve or Award	Time Serve or Award
Scrum	Kill quickly & award	Kill quickly & award	n/a	n/a
Offsides	NONE	YES >5 D end or >4 O end	Yes	Yes
Personal Fouls	Leave Field & Sub	Time Serve	Time Serve	Time Serve
Stick Checks/Slashing	Poke, Lift, Chest level (no one-handers)	Poke, Lift, Chest level (no one-handers)	Poke, Lift, Chest level (no one- handers)	No one-handers
Body Contact	Legal holds & pushes, boxouts, incidental	Legal holds & pushes, boxouts, incidental	Legal holds & pushes, boxouts, incidental	Within 3yds
Counts	<===== (Goalie - 4 Sec crease count ONLY) =====>			
Over & Back	n/a	n/a	In effect (after chop-in)	In effect (after chop-in)
Time Outs	NONE	NONE	2 per half	2 per half/1 per overtime
Face-offs	NONE Coin toss win has first Poss. (re-start at GLE after goal)	YES (wings are restrained; & others @ GLE until poss)	10v10	10v10
Keep Score	NO	YES	YES	YES
Coaches on Field	YES	NO	NO	NO
Arm/Elbow Pads/Cup	Full	Full	Full	Full
Substitutions	Whole-team	On the fly	On the fly	On the fly
Game Lengths	2 X 12 Mins-running (4 min half)	4 x 10 Mins-running (2 min half)	4 X 10 Mins stop (5 min half)	4 X 10 Mins stop (5 min half)
Overtime	None	None	None	4min (Until winner is determined – Coaches must agree)
Face-off Mercy Rule	n/a	*****	6 or more at anytime – if coach wants	*****
Final 2 Minutes	n/a	n/a	n/a	Team up must GIKI
Penalties On Goalkeeper	The in-home may serve a goalkeeper's penalties, except for Unsportsmanlike Conduct or a penalty or combination of sequentially served penalties totaling two or more minutes. If a dressed goalkeeper is not available, reasonable time to dress one shall be afforded, in addition to the one-minute delay for his warm-up allowed.			
Fouling Out	n/a	3 PFs OR 5mins in PF Time	3 PFs OR 5mins in PF Time	3 PFs OR 5mins in PF Time

References: *USL 2018 Youth Boys' Rulebook Official Rules for Boys' Lacrosse.* **Highlights** are NECLAX modifications to Boys rules.