



2014 NOCSAE Ball Standard FAQs

Why has this new ball requirement been added to the rules?

The NOCSAE ball standard requirement has not changed and has been in the rules for several years. The only change is that balls must now include labeling which states "Meets NOCSAE Standard." The governing bodies decided that the rulebooks should be updated to help ensure compliance with the standard. US Lacrosse began communicating information about this requirement to its constituents in 2012, and added the new language to men's and women's rulebooks in 2013.

Why is a standard really needed?

The core issue involved in the approval of any equipment standard is safety. Adherence to a ball standard is a matter of quality control. The properties of all lacrosse balls (ie-weight, density, size, etc.) must be consistent to protect the integrity of other protective equipment, such as the facemask, helmet and eyewear, used in the game and to minimize risk to the participants.

What levels of the game are impacted by this new rule?

All levels of play, other than the international game and the men's professional leagues, have approved this rule change. This includes US Lacrosse rules that govern boys' and girls' youth play, girls' high school play and men's and women's collegiate club games, NFHS rules that govern boys' high school games, and NCAA rules that govern men's and women's college varsity.

What about the balls we use in practice?

US Lacrosse does not mandate the specific types of equipment that are used in practice, although the organization's Best Practices strongly encourages the use of lacrosse-specific equipment that is compliant with approved safety standards at all times.

What happens if an official shows up at a game and a legal ball is not available?

If the home team cannot provide legal balls for play, they shall ask the visiting team to provide legal balls, or inquire whether legal balls are otherwise available. In this scenario, a technical foul (boys) will be called or a minor foul (girls) assessed on the home team and officials will award the opening faceoff/draw to the visiting team. If neither team is able to provide legal balls for play and legal balls are otherwise unavailable, the game cannot be played. In both scenarios, the matter should be reported to the sponsoring authority (conference, league, or state association.)

What happens if a goal is scored with a non-legal ball?

The goal will stand, but the officials will remove the ball from play and restart with a legal ball. No penalty will be assessed.

Do all game balls (including end line balls) need to be legal balls?

Yes. As with many rules, safety is a primary consideration.

Are sample images of the new balls available online?

Images of a ball with the NOCSAE language and packaging with the NOCSAE language can be seen at www.uslacrosse.org/2014ballstandard