

2020 Points of Emphasis

Starts and Restarts

As the second year of allowing self-starts begins, the committee would like to clarify how starts and restarts will be administered at free positions in the midfield, in the critical scoring area and near the boundary. Officials need to be cognizant of not disadvantaging the ball carrier when unnecessarily resetting play, and players must show evidence of recognizing the call made by stopping within playing distance of the foul prior to the self-start outside the critical scoring area. When a whistle is required to start play and a player self-starts on her own, a false start penalty set up will be administered. Consistent and proper officiating in this area will provide smooth transition for starting and restarting play.

Delay of Game – Self-start

As the pace of play has increased, the committee has identified both offensive and defensive delay of game outside the critical scoring area and with boundary restarts as a point of emphasis. Teams and players that attempt a self-start beyond a playing distance, fail to move when directed, make no attempt to move or engage and/or encroach on the ball carrier prior to her commencing play shall be penalized. Officials are encouraged to manage delays with a warning, upgrade to a major foul and the use of the green, green-yellow and yellow cards.

Repeated Fouls

Limiting repetitive fouls and managing illegal play are priorities of the NFHS/USL Girls Lacrosse Rules Committee, not only because they disrupt the flow of play, but they also place the player(s) at risk for injury. Any foul on the field is a warning to all participants. When a team and/or an individual player is recognized by the official(s) and continually committing a foul or a series of fouls, a warning shall be given and any consecutive foul may be carded. Officials must be aware of teams and players that continually foul in particular situations; for example, during transitions and stalls when players foul in order to breakdown and slow a team's movement. Consistent officiating of repetitive fouling will decrease the risk of injury, improve game management, maintain the pace of play and uphold the integrity of the game.