

Boy's Officials Review & Update

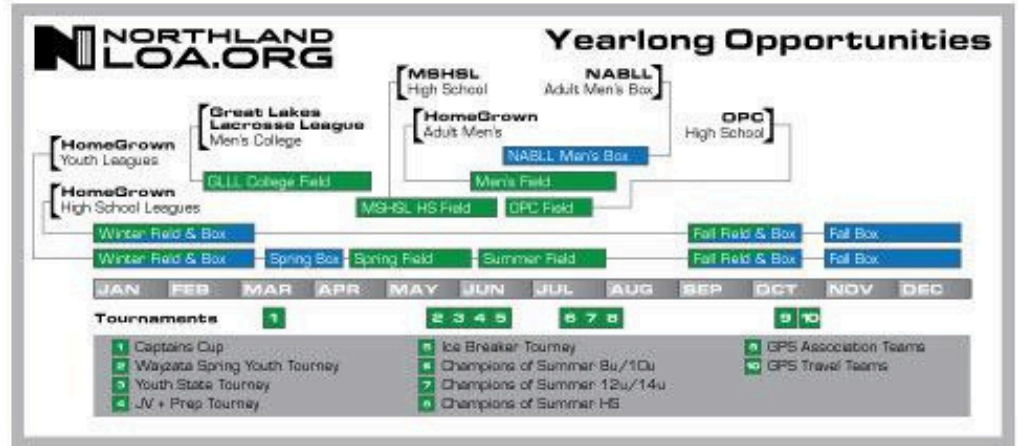


Northland LOA - Who are We?

Damon Kocina - President

Volume
3500+
 Games assigned in 2024

Experience
 Adult referees available for MSHSL games **80+**
 Refs with state tourney or post-HS experience **25**





Boy's Officials Review & Update - 2026 Points of Emphasis

Teams ready to play at game time: There is generally no time allotted for on-field warmups. Coaches should be prepared to meet with the officials and should know their in-home and nominated defender numbers. Teams should be getting into position so the game can start at the scheduled time. The clock starts running even if teams are not ready.

Coaches policing players before game: Coaches certify that players are legally equipped before the game. This means they must ensure: (1) all players have legal mouth guards and know to wear them properly (2) all players have removed all jewelry (including piercings, rings, bracelets, necklaces) (3) eye black, if worn, is limited to a single stroke inside the eye socket (not on the cheeks/nose or beyond the eye socket).

Body checking: There are no takeout checks (checks with the force and intent to put the opponent on the ground) permitted at any youth level. There is some legal pushing allowed, and at 14U, completely upright non-takeout checks are legal if not violent.



Boy's Officials Review & Update - 2026 Points of Emphasis

Communication with officials: Many officials working youth games are newer and will not make every call correctly nor will they have a firm grip on every technical rule. It's critical that coaches understand this. All officials should absolutely be able to throw a flag whenever there is violent contact. If the rules about such contact are not being enforced, it is appropriate for a coach to calmly and politely speak to the officials to remind them to call violations of the stick-checking and body-checking rules for that level of play on both teams.

Violent contact: Officials must call penalties for violent contact early in the game and to elevate the length of penalties for excessively violent contact after the first offense by a team. In particular, a second "take-out" or "excessive" body check by the same player should generally be a 3:00 NR penalty or an ejection foul. *Targeting* is **always** an ejection in youth games.

Restarts: Goalies no longer get 5 seconds to return to the crease. For 12U/14U, play restarts even if a defender is within 5 yards and that player is subject to penalty if he doesn't give up the path to the goal or defends the player in possession in any manner.



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Legal stick checking for 8U and 10U: The only legal checks for 8U/10U are a poke below shoulder height, a lift below shoulder height, and a check down starting below shoulder height for the shorter player. All checks toward the body are illegal; this does not mean every such check will be called a slash—there could be a warning, or two, first—but if it has any force and hits the body or if it dislodges the ball, it should always be called a slash. Any check above shoulder height is a slash. This means many checks considered “clean” at higher levels will result in a 1-minute (or longer) penalty.

8U one-pass rule and restarts after goals: The 8U one-pass rule has changed and will be enforced by officials exactly as written. No modifications can be made to this rule, and coaches who complain about the rule or attempt to force the officials to modify the rule are subject to penalty. Also, restarts after goals will now be at midfield.

All 2025-26 Points of Emphasis are listed in the [2025-26 GNLL Boy's Youth Rules Document](#)



Key NFHS rule changes affecting youth games for 2025–2026

NFHS boys lacrosse rules are the base rule set for GNLL youth lacrosse. The following 2026 NFHS rule changes will be enforced for youth (and high school) fall lacrosse starting in September 2025:

- The goalie no longer gets 5 seconds to get back to the crease if out of the crease when play stops.
- There is now an immediate 1-minute NR penalty for a non-goalkeeper entering the crease for the purpose of acting as a goalkeeper or blocking shots. (As in prior years, play is stopped immediately if the ball is loose or in possession, but a shot in flight will be allowed to come to its natural conclusion before play is stopped).
- If a player's helmet comes off during play, it is a technical foul (unless it is clear the helmet came off as a result of a foul; however, the player whose helmet came off must still leave the game until the next dead ball)

Boy's Officials Review & Update - 8U & 10U Pass Rules



Goal scored: When a goal is scored, both teams will have up to 20 seconds to substitute, and the scored-upon team will start with a player in possession outside the crease anywhere along the goal-line extended. The other players, including the defense, may line up anywhere on the field as long as there is no player within 5 yards of the player in possession. The one-pass rule will apply on the restart. Note: there is no rule requiring the defensive team to wait on the other side of midfield after a goal.

One-pass rule: In any situation in which a face-off would normally be held in a higher-level game (see above), the team awarded possession must attempt one pass before they are allowed to shoot at the goal. That pass attempt must **originate** in the offensive end. A player with any part of their body on or over the midline is considered in the offensive end. Note: This rule does not apply on every possession, only in situations where there would normally have been a face-off in a higher-level game.

Boy's Officials Review & Update - 8U & 10U Pass Rules



PLEASE
enforce this as
written!

We want standardization so players, coaches, officials, and spectators all know what to expect in every game.

We are asking coaches to follow the rules as written so that we can create this standardization and have a better footing for any possible adjustments in the future.

Rule Change Review deadline for 2026-27: July 31, 2026

Boy's Officials Review & Update - Ejections and Unsportsmanlike Conducts



Ejection Review

After any ejection, the crew chief will submit an ejection report to Northland LOA and the GNLL.

After the game, the association may decide to request a review. A form will be made available.

Representatives of both Northland and GNLL will investigate the ejection and can choose to confirm, alter, or waive the normal automatic suspension due to specific factors.

Response will be as quick as possible, difficult mid-tournament.

Cumulative USCs

Officials will report all Unsportsmanlike Conducts given to coaches to Northland LOA and the GNLL. This is regardless of when the infraction occurs (before, during, or after the game).

If an individual receives 3 USCs in a single season, they will be assessed an automatic 1 game suspension. Further violations may produce larger penalties.

Meant to encourage more positive communication and allow for tools for officials to manage matters of conduct.

Boy's Officials Review & Update - Passing Along Feedback



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!!

Harold Buck (Assigner):
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Damon Kocina (Pres.):
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Matt Ripley (VP):
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Northland LOA has a mindset of getting better every time we step on the field. Please let us know if:

- You had a great or negative experience with an official ([Officials Evaluation Form](#))
- Questions about interpretation consistency
- Potential rule changes
- Assigning quirks

If you have game footage, please include. We have an established process for reviewing game film.