



Canadian Lacrosse Association Rules Emphasis 2010

The tightened standards of these CLA Rules of Emphasis will definitely enhance the quality of the game, facilitate better skills development for the players and provided everyone involved with a more satisfying Lacrosse experience. Officials are expected to implement these published Rules of Emphasis consistently, no matter the time of game, the score on the on-floor or floor strength of the teams. Coaches are expected to teach their players appropriate standards of all Rules and to show support for all aspects of the rules emphasis initiative at the team level.

RULE 03 – THE PLAYERS’ BENCH

RULE 30 – ATTEMPT TO INJURE

RULE 38 – CHECKING FROM BEHIND

RULE 64 – SLASHING

RULE 72 – UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS

RULE 3 – THE PLAYERS’ BENCH

REFERENCE: CANADIAN LACROSSE RULE BOOK – Page 3.

EMPHASIS 2010: RULE 3 – THE PLAYERS’ BENCH:

SITUATION 1 – Rule 3

? What happens when one team continually leaves the door to the players' bench open or unlatched?

A If the door is open, give one warning. On the second and subsequent occurrences, assess a bench minor.

A If a player is checked through an unlatched door, assess a bench minor (no warning).

SITUATION 2 – Rule 3

? Who has the choice of Players' Benches and Goal to defend?

A The home team has the choice of ends and must start the game using the bench closest to that end. In all disputes of benches or goals to defend, the referees shall determine who has which bench and who defends which goal.



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Emphasis 2010: Application of rule:

Team A in possession of the ball and a violation occurs, for the first time only.

Stop the play, assess the warning, award the ball to non-offending team.

This is the best way to get the teams attention and to make sure everyone knows a warning has been assessed.

RULE 30 – ATTEMPT TO INJURE

REFERENCE: CANADIAN LACROSSE RULE BOOK – Page 33.

EMPHASIS 2010: RULE 30 – ATTEMPT TO INJURE:

SITUATION 1 – Rule 30

? What rules could also be called as Attempt to injure?

A The following rules may also be called as Attempt to Injure:

Rule 33 – Boarding	Rule 40 – Cross checking	Rule 59 – Kneeing
Rule 35 – Butt ending	Rule 45 – Fighting	Rule 64 – Slashing
Rule 37 – Charging	Rule 50 – High Sticking	Rule 65 – Spearing
Rule 38 – Checking from behind	Rule 57 – Kicking a player	Rule 72 – Unnecessary Roughness

SITUATION 2 – Rule 30

? Can non-playing personnel be assessed a match penalty?

A Yes a match penalty can be assessed to:

1. a team official
2. a coach
3. a manager
4. a trainer
5. all bench personnel

SITUATION 3 – Rule 30

? What is the procedure if you order a combatant to stop fighting during an altercation and his/her opponent is injured and the player refuses to stop?

A Any player involved in an altercation who will not stop fighting when ordered to do so, shall be assessed a match penalty if his/her opponent is injured and cannot defend himself/herself.



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SITUATION 4 – Rule 30

? What is the procedure if you notice a combatant wearing a ring during an altercation?

A Any player involved in an altercation who is wearing rings, tape or any other material shall be assessed a match penalty.

Emphasis 2010: Application of rule:

There has been a great deal of concern expressed by members of the NOCP Committee with regard to Contact to the Head. As a result of this, it wishes to express the following assessment of the situation.

In situations where a player/goalkeeper makes deliberate intentional contact to the neck or head region of an opponent they shall be assessed a match penalty for attempt to injure.

Attempts to remove illegal contact to the neck and head region from the game will continue only through strict application of these Rules.

Intentional or avoidable contact to the neck or head (helmet or facial protector) is illegal and such contact shall result in a penalty.

Based on the degree of violence of impact, the Referee shall assess the severity of the penalty to any player/goalkeeper who checks an opponent to the neck or head area in any manner.

Any player/goalkeeper who injures an opponent in this manner should be assessed a major or match penalty.

Any player/goalkeeper who deliberately and intentionally attempts to injure an opponent with contact to the neck or head region should be assessed a match penalty for attempt to injure or indeed injures an opponent.

Note: Referees are instructed to make the call and are not to substitute with a lesser penalty, when a player is checked to the neck or head region with significant impact that may result in injury or cause injury to the opponent.



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RULE 38 – CHECKING FROM BEHIND

REFERENCE: CANADIAN LACROSSE RULE BOOK – Page 43 - 44.

EMPHASIS 2010: RULE 38 – CHECKING FROM BEHIND

SITUATION 1: Rule 38

? Can a check from behind ever be a possession call?

A No. Checking from behind is the most dangerous check in the game and is a mandatory penalty, regardless of severity. A deliberate check from behind near the boards or goal post will be a major or match penalty. A check from behind after a stoppage in play will be a major or match penalty.

Emphasis 2010: Application of rule:

A: The minimum penalty is a double minor. Do not substitute with a less severe penalty! This is the most DANGEROUS CHECK in the game and must be enforced to the letter.

B: The Referee standard is: “If you see it, you will call it!” If the player turns his back to receive a check then there is no call. Be mindful of what occurs immediately after a shot on net or a goal. This rule is to be strictly applied – Send a message! This is a safety issue and must be enforced as the objective is to prevent serious neck, back and spinal cord injuries.

C: Checking From Behind is defined: intentionally pushes, body-checks, illegally cross-checks or hits an opposing player from behind and out of peripheral vision of player being checked; intensity of impact affects only the type of penalty assessed.

1) Fouls involving minimal force = Minor + Minor

2) Fouls involving greater than minimal force = Major plus Game Misconduct:

- a) The check happens during a stoppage in play.
- b) The check causes the head to snap back.
- c) The check happens near the boards.
- d) The check happens near the net.

3) Fouls involving greater than minimal force = Match Penalty:

- a) The check happens during a stoppage in play.
- b) The check causes the head to snap back.
- c) The check causes the player to hit the net.
- d) The check causes the player to hit the boards.



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RULE 64 - SLASHING

REFERENCE: CANADIAN LACROSSE RULE BOOK – Page 74 - 75.

EMPHASIS 2010: RULE 64 – SLASHING:

SITUATION 1 – Rule 64

? Does a player have to hit an opponent to be penalized for slashing?

A NO. Any player who swings the stick at an opponent whether in or out of range shall be penalized for slashing.

SITUATION 2 – Rule 64

? Can a slash be called a Match Penalty?

A Any slash or swing with intent to injure shall be called under Rule 30 Attempt to Injure.

SITUATION 3 – Rule 64

? How does a Referee judge a one-handed or two-handed slash?

A Referees are instructed to judge his/her call on the intent of swing. Not by the size or force of swing.

SITUATION 4 – Rule 64

? Can a player slash a non-ball-carrier?

A No. Non-ball carrying offensive players cannot be slashed in any way at any time.

SITUATION 5 – Rule 64

? When is a follow through slash not called?

A Any player unintentionally striking an opponent who is moving into the range of the follow through of a shot or pass shall not be penalized.

Emphasis 2010: Application of rule:

This is a safety issue and must be enforced.

Rule 64 a). A minor, major or match penalty at the discretion of the Referee shall be assessed to any player who slashes an opponent with the stick.

A player/goalkeeper may not strike an opponent with that portion of the stick not held between the hands. Stick-to-stick contact is allowed but hands (gloves) are considered part of the body and may not be touched.



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SLASHING: The following are slashing fouls that must be called when they occur:

1. **Swing of the stick intended to intimidate opponent, with or without contact.**
2. **Swing of the stick towards an opponent involving any significant degree of force, with or without contact.**
3. **Swing of the stick towards an opponent involving a baseball or golf type grip, with or without contact.**
4. **Swing of the stick that results in contact to vulnerable or unprotected areas (gloves/ hands, arms, wrist, knee, hamstring, calve, ankle, foot, back, ribs,) of an opponent, regardless of the degree of violence or force.**
5. **Aggressive use of the stick that is not a true attempt to dislodge the ball from the stick.**

RULE 72 – UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS

REFERENCE: CANADIAN LACROSSE RULE BOOK – Page 86 - 87.

EMPHASIS 2010: RULE 72 – UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS:

SITUATION 1 – Rule 72

? When should a major penalty be assessed for pulling the facemask or chinstrap?

A This penalty should only be assessed when the player is pulling on the helmet in a fashion that may cause injury or he/she is using it for any kind of advantage. Simply grabbing the helmet does not justify assessing this penalty.

Emphasis 2010: Application of rule:

The following situation was added to the Rule Book Case Book 2009. This is considered to be a point of emphasis for this year.

SITUATION 2 – Rule 72

? What is the call when one player incites and/or instigates unnecessary roughness?

A A player must be assessed the only penalty or more penalty time than the retaliator. For example a single minor to the player that started the altercation or a second minor to that player and a single minor to his/her opponent.

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Copies of this document should be made available to all candidates for NOCP Clinics Entry 1 – 5, and to be posted on the CLA website for Officials.

RULE EMPHASIS 2010: Has been formally approved by the N.O.C.P. Committee on November 1, 2009.

RULE EMPHASIS 2010: Has been designated as preliminary to Module 7 of the Power Point Clinic Entry, 1, 2 Levels and part of the Level 3 -5 Clinic by the N.O.C.P. Committee, Nov. 1, 2009.

