

CWLOA Update

March 2018 Newsletter
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CWLOA

Colorado Women's Lacrosse Officials Association

Official Professionalism

March 2018
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As an official in Colorado you need to bring professionalism in approaching each game, during it and after. This is a point of emphasis this year.

1/ Arrive at the game site 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time for a high school game. This allows time to get into uniform, find your partner, and have a pre-game discussion. Officials are to be on the field 20 minutes prior to the game time for high school.

2/ Be neatly dressed in the official uniform: solid black kilt/shorts/pants; one inch vertically striped black and white shirt; any accessories you wear due to weather must be black (jacket, hat, visor, etc.)

3/ Use a bag, preferably black to carry a rulebook, whistle, cards, tape measure, flag, pen and coin.

4/ Inspect the field – check markings for correctness, condition, boundaries, substitution area and table placement at midfield.

The day of the game you should email or call your partner to be sure they are on the game, and email the school to confirm the game, place and start time.

If you are caught in traffic and going to get to the site later than 30 minutes before the start time, call your partner to let them know.

Where do I get the school and other official's phone numbers or emails? In Arbiter, after you are signed in go to your schedule; click on the game number (first column); that shows you your partner and contact information. On that page you'll also see the site of the contest. Click on that and you will see the

Things to Note:

- USLacrosse Rules Test needs be completed by **March 8th** (score 85% or higher)
- If you are a new official you need to take the US Lacrosse [online course](http://learning.uslacrosse.org) (learning.uslacrosse.org) 2018 Girls' Lacrosse Rules Online Course
- If you haven't yet completed a background check and you are supposed to, please do.
- Be sure to login to Arbiter and accept game assignments.

Volunteers are still needed for the Youth on field training on March 11th – from noon to 4 pm at Lorenz Park.

Contact Cyndy Schlaepfer-Youker or Michelle Gazarik if you can help out (cglaoofficials@gmail.com).

REMINDER: March 11th is Daylight Savings Day

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Process to perform a Stick Check

We conduct a stick check at the beginning of each contest to make certain crosses meet specifications.

1/ Check the pocket depth – hold crosse horizontal, stick at eye level, drop ball into pocket, press and release, and you should be able to see the ball above the sidewall. If you can't, the pocket is too deep. Have the player adjust the

pocket. Make sure the ball does not become wedged and easily falls out when the crosse is turned upside down. Turn the stick over, drop the ball into the back of the stick, and roll it out. If the ball is showing over the sidewall and rolls out, the pocket is legal.

2/ Visually check sticks to see that they are legal in

length. Measure any stick that appears questionable. Visually check the head and stop of molded head sticks to determine if they have been altered in any way.

3/. Check to be sure there are not more than two shooting /throw strings in the field player's stick and that these are not rolled, coiled or twisted more than twice between each thong.

There is NO PENALTY or CARD given to a player for an illegal stick. It does not matter if the stick is too long, too deep a pocket, has incorrect stringing, or been altered from the manufacture it will be a MINOR FOUL if caught during the play of game and NO PENALTY if caught before the game. A stick that cannot be corrected (too long, incorrect stringing) will have to remain at the table for the duration of the game.

2018 Assigning Instructions – *How to get games going forward*

There are lots of open games following the draw and more will open as the season progresses!

Two Arbiter sites: ASO & CHSAA – since there are two sites it is important that you share between sites, blocks, etc., using the share feature in Arbiter under your profile tab. Sharing will also better ensure all assigners know when you are assigned.

ASO: alet038676@aol.com – Melissa & Jerry Letofsky

Arapahoe, Cherokee Trail, Cherry Creek, Eaglecrest, Grandview, Mullen, Overland, Smoky Hill
Castle View, Chaparral, Heritage/Littleton, Rangeview, Regis, Rock Canyon, ThunderRidge

CHSAA: shared by Jeffco, Metro, Mountain & Southern leagues

Jeffco: dvelichk@jeffco.k12.co.us – Dale Velichkoff

Bear Creek, Chatfield, Columbine, Conifer, Dakota Ridge, Evergreen, Golden, Green Mountain, Ralston Valley,
Wheat Ridge, Valor Christian

Metro: 2 assigners – DPS: donna_wingo@dpsk12.org – Donna Wingo – Metro: shlep4ukr@gmail.com – Cyndy Schlaepfer-Youker

DPS: Denver East, Denver Kennedy, Denver North, Denver South

Metro: Centaurus, Colorado Academy, Kent Denver, St. Mary's Academy, Loveland

Mountain: schouty@msn.com – Randy Schouten

Aspen, Battle Mountain, Eagle Valley, Steamboat Springs, Summit, Fruita, Monument,
Durango is Assigned independently

Southern: dan.cronin.cos@gmail.com – Dan Cronin

Air Academy, Cheyenne Mountain, Liberty, Palmer, Palmer Ridge, Pine Creek, Pueblo West, Rampart

Fort Collins: Northern Colorado Sports Officials – Sean Grogan grogansb@gmail.com - Rocky Mountain

Open games on ASO can be self-assigned. The self-assign feature can be accessed by clicking on schedule tab and then on the self-assign tab on the gray task bar. Only games that fit your Arbiter availability (time and distance) will be listed. They will also email openings as the game date gets close.

CHSAA assigners do not use self-assign. Each assigner uses email to communicate openings. Some will communicate at least weekly.

The assigners may try to fill openings by assigning an official that indicates in Arbiter that they are available. This process requires that you *keep your availability in Arbiter updated with any availability changes to avoid getting assignments that you cannot accept. We all have things that come up, so please do your best to keep your Arbiter blocks current.*

There have been a number of turn backs from the auto assign involving time and distance issues. You can prevent these assignments by using the block features in Arbiter. If you have any questions about Arbiter, please contact cwloaboard@gmail.com and we will try to help you.

Middle school games are assigned by Cyndy Schlaepfer-Youker - shlep4ukr@gmail.com

Youth games will be assigned by Dan Cronin (dan.cronin.cos@gmail.com) in Colorado Springs & Pueblo and by Cyndy Schlaepfer-Youker & Michelle Gazarik (cglaoofficials@gmail.com) in metro Denver, Loveland & Ft Collins. These games are assigned in a third Arbiter site so please communicate with Dan or Michelle/Cyndy if you are interested in working youth games. The youth games are on Saturdays from March 31 - May 20.

CWLOA Mentor Program

Mentoring Link: <http://tinyurl.com/cwloa-mentor-link>
(copy / paste into browser)

Start signing up now. Ideally, we would like to have the mentor/ mentees paired by the beginning of the season. The partnerships will be for this year only unless you want to continue into next year.

What do you have to lose? Nothing!

What do you have to gain? A friend to share lacrosse stories, enjoy a laugh or too, and appreciate the

community spirit of lacrosse, while also being able to check on things that happened in your games with someone more experienced so you can learn and get comfortable on the field quicker than otherwise.

Our Mentor Program chair is Michelle Gazarik. Please contact her with any questions.

c: 757-817-0599 e: mvgazarik@gmail.com.

Rule Changes Reminders for 2018

Illegal Draw: An Illegal Draw occurs when:

- either player draws too soon.
- No attempt is made to draw up.
- Movement of the crosse is not up.
- Player taking the draw moves after the official says “ready” and before the official’s whistle.
- Ball does not go higher than the heads of the players drawing.

Note: If the ball goes directly out of bounds from a legal draw, the draw will be retaken. There shall be no substitutions during a re-draw.

Violations by other players during the draw

and/or prior to possession will be major or minor fouls. Early entry violations shall be administered at the spot of the ball.

2018 Points of Emphasis (see full points in the rule book)

Illegal Defensive Positioning:

This is a clarification of the process and understanding of these fouls and to minimize injuries in the critical scoring area. When a defender is in the 3 seconds or the free space to goal, she illegally occupies a space to which she is not entitled and is reducing opportunities for the offense to safely attack. For illegal defensive positioning associated with obstruction of free space to goal to occur, the attack must create opportunity.

Contact in the Midfield –

Incidental v. Dangerous: The safety of all players is a priority to the committee, and rough or dangerous play in the midfield not only disrupts the flow of play, but also puts players at a significant risk for injury. Contact that occurs that physically forces the opponent off of their position or path is illegal contact. Deliberate illegal contact made to the body of any offensive player in a defenseless position MUST be carded. Officials should also consider carding players who repeatedly commit fouls in the midfield.

All major fouls in the midfield should be enforced with the offender placed four meters directly behind the ball carrier.

Cross in the Sphere/Check to the Head:

It is the responsibility of the

defender to keep her stick out of the sphere and throat area of the ball carrier. Defenders who penetrate the space and throat area should be assessed a major foul. Repeated violations of this rule may be carded. This rule applies even when the ball carrier does not have her stick in a legal checking position. A check to the head or a check that causes the attacker’s stick to contact her head is a mandatory card.

Professionalism:

Encouraging all coaches, players, officials and administration to conduct themselves in a professional manner before, during and immediately following all contests. The committee encourages calm, patient and productive dialogue.

Upcoming Calendar Events

February: NCAA and College Club games start

March: Girls high school season starts regular season is 3/7 through 5/7.

March 31st: Youth Games start

May: NCAA Playoffs & HS Playoffs

June: Tournaments, Youth, HS and college

We wanted to give you a heads up to some lacrosse events that are coming up so you can put these on your calendar if you are interested in participating as an official or attending as a spectator!

March 3 – On-field training/ HS Play day: You should already be assigned to a site. If you are not, please email Don Bryant (dbryant7@hotmail.com) and he will get you assigned. Please get to the site you are assigned ½ hour before start to sign in and get oriented.

HS Dates to note:

May 19th & May 23rd – HS Semi Final and Final @ DU
 May 18th & 20st – NCAA Playoffs –Div II Semi-final and Final (Tampa, FL)
 May 22st - 23rd – CGLA Festival, site TBD

June 2nd & 3rd - Rocky Mountain Jamboree Tournament

June 15th – 17th - Denver Shootout Tournament

June 18th – 20th – Vail Lacrosse Tournament

June/July: Vail Lacrosse Shootout

Girls’ U19 June 24th - June 27th

Women’s Elite July 1st - July 4th

Women’s Masters July 1st – July 3rd



cwloaboard@gmail.com

CWLOA.com

Facebook: CWLOA

Promoting the ideals of sportsmanship, personal responsibility and team work in the sport of lacrosse

CWLOA is a nonprofit organization focused on recruiting training and rating new officials, developing and supporting higher-rated officials and promoting a safe and positive environment for women's lacrosse throughout Colorado.

The association seeks to provide safe, fair, and impartial officiating for women's lacrosse games while promoting the ideals of sportsmanship, personal responsibility, and team work in the sport of lacrosse.

CWLOA board president – Cyndy Schlaepfer-Youker cwloaboard@gmail.com

Have an idea for an article or a question you want answered?

Submit to: cwloaboard@gmail.com

Want to become more involved? These are the areas we need ideas and help with:

Recruiting / Training / Rating / Mentoring / Web site – updating/design / Recognition

Please send an email to cwloaboard@gmail.com and include your name, email, phone number. Let us know how you would like to be involved, and list special skills you would be able to provide, if any.

Spotlight – Zoe Smith – Official

Tell us about how you became involved with women's lacrosse?

Growing up in Baltimore, playing lacrosse was akin to breathing! I can't remember a spring that didn't involve lacrosse. I caught the bug as a young girl, and I still can't get enough of it!

When did you first become an official, and expound on your involvement?

Lauren Benner encouraged me to try it when I began coaching at the club level. Before this, I was extremely wary of the idea. I thought I would be afraid to blow my whistle! The first time I donned my stripes, hit the field, and that first draw whistle blew, it came naturally to me. I fell in love with officiating right away! I am eternally grateful to the more experienced officials who trained me and continue to help me achieve my goals each year.

What is your favorite lacrosse memory?

When I was a junior at Carolina, we beat Virginia in triple OT to go to the NCAA Final Four (first appearance in the program's history)!

What do you like to do in your free time and for entertainment?

If I'm not chasing my 9 year old daughter and 11 year old son around, I love to go running on my own (or with other grown-ups!) Also, I adore traveling, even if it's to Virginia for a lacrosse tournament!

What is one officiating goal you personally want to achieve this coming season?

I'm excited to work on my hand signals and set-ups so things run as smoothly as possible for the players.

From last month's spotlight official (Nathan McCrary:) If you could change one of the lacrosse rules, which one would you change and why?

I would have HS go to free movement just like NCAA. It speeds up the game and makes it so fun!

Lastly, ask a question for our next month's spotlight

What's the weirdest scenario you've seen in your time officiating girls' lacrosse?