



Clarifications Regarding Pre-game Stick Checks and Stick Check Requests

Pre-game Inspections By Officials (Rule 5, Sections 30)

Officials perform a pocket-depth check and brief examination of the head of the stick. All sticks that might be used in the game are required to be checked. For any stick that fails the pocket depth check, the player shall step to the side of the line, fix the stick, and have it re-inspected by the official. The stick may be re-inspected without penalty. If it fails to pass the pocket depth re-inspection, it must be placed at the table until it can be re-inspected at halftime.

If during the pre-game stick check, the official suspects a violation of Appendix E (excluding pocket depth), the official will conduct a closer examination of the stringing and head of the stick, including measurements. If a violation of Appendix E (excluding pocket depth) is found, the player will have the opportunity to step to the side of the line and fix her stick. If the stick is unable to be fixed prior to the completion of the pre-game stick inspections (this includes the examination of the randomly selected 5 sticks for each team), then a non-releasable yellow card will be issued.

The random selection of 5 sticks per team includes measurements of the length and width of the stick (it is not a complete inspection of the head of the stick that is required upon a team requested stick check). However, if the official suspects a violation of Appendix E (excluding pocket depth), the official will conduct a closer examination of the stringing and head of the stick, including measurements. If a violation of Appendix E (excluding pocket depth) is found, the player will also have the opportunity to fix her stick. If the stick is unable to be fixed prior to the completion of the pre-game stick inspections, then a non-releasable yellow card will be issued.

The intention of this clarification by the Committee is to permit minor stringing fixes that are similar to pocket depth violations.

Note that officials will not extend the time frame of the pre-game inspection to re-inspect sticks multiple times.

Team Requested Stick Checks (Rule 5, Section 31)

If a team requests a stick check prior to the start of the game, pursuant to Rule 5, Section 31, and the stick is found to violate Appendix E (excluding pocket depth), the violation will always result in a non-releasable yellow card. The stick may be re-inspected prior to the first draw by the official for use in the game. However, the stick must remain in the penalty box until the penalty for the non-releasable yellow card has been served.

Officials will not delay the start of the game to re-inspect sticks multiple times.

If a team requests a stick check during a timeout, at halftime, before overtime, or prior to the start of a draw, pursuant to Rule 5, Section 31, and the stick is found to violate Appendix E (excluding pocket depth), the violation will always result in a non-releasable yellow card.

The following is intended to clarify questions regarding the specific times that teams are permitted to request stick checks.

Timeouts – Team timeouts only. Team stick check requests are **not** permitted during officials' timeouts, injury timeouts, or TV timeouts.

At Halftime – Team stick check requests may be made at any point during halftime.

Before the Game – Team stick check requests are permitted only after the field has been cleared following warm-up for pre-game inspections.

*The only exception to this is Rule 5, Section 33, where a team may use one of its requests for the measurement of the overall length and the distance between the sidewalls of an opponent's stick. This must be made at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the game.

Before Overtime – Team stick check requests may be made at any point during the 5-minute rest period following the end of regulation and before the first period of overtime or during the 3 minute rest period following each 6-minute period of overtime.

Prior to the Start of the Draw – Team stick check requests may be made at any point before the official's hands are on the drawers' sticks. If a team requests a stick check following a goal and prior to the start of the draw, ***no coaching may take place while the official is conducting the examination of the stick. Additionally, players must remain on the field and coaches may not go onto the field.***

Other Clarifications

- If a non-releasable card is issued to either one team or both teams for violations of Appendix E (excluding pocket depth) prior to the start of the game, the game begins with a draw.

- If during the pre-game inspections, a player is found to have two illegal sticks that violate Appendix E (excluding pocket depth) and neither stick is fixed prior to the completion of the pre-game inspections then the player will receive two non-releasable yellow cards.
- If a coach or a player has a question about a stick during warm-up, they are permitted to ask the official for assistance at any point up until the pre-game meeting between officials and head coaches.

Reminder

Team rosters must be in the official scorebook at least 15 minutes before the start of the game. Starting lineups must be recorded in the official scorebook at least 10 minutes before the start of the game. No changes are permitted to the starting lineups fewer than 10 minutes before the game, except in the case of injury.