



## **2026 Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules and World Box Lacrosse Interpretations**

The included penalties are **automatic** suspensions.  
“**Automatic**” means that the coaches sit the player until  
they are notified by the Commissioner.  
Notification is not required.



# **Table of Contents**

## **DISCIPLINARY RULES**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Match Penalty – “Reckless and Endangering Play”                                | 4  |
| 2. Major Penalties  | 5  |
| 3. Gross Misconduct   | 5  |
| 4. Misconduct   | 6  |
| 5. Abuse of Officials   | 6  |
| 6. Assault of an Official (Physical or Verbal)                                    | 7  |
| 7. Unsportsmanlike Actions by a Player on an Opponent                             | 7  |
| 8. Fighting   | 7  |
| 9. Fighting Off Playing Floor/Third Man In/Leaving Players Bench or Penalty Bench | 7  |
| 10. Two Majors in One Game  | 8  |
| 11. Coach or Manager Pulling Team from Floor                                      | 8  |
| 12. Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs                                       | 8  |
| 13. Major Penalty in the Last 5 Minutes of Play                                   | 8  |
| 14. Two Majors in One Game  | 8  |
| 15. Four Majors in One Season   | 8  |
| 16. Playing An Ineligible Player  | 9  |
| 17. Suspensions To Coaches and Bench Personnel                                    | 9  |
| 18. Serving A Suspension  | 9  |
| 19. Additional Games  | 10 |
| 20. Commission Discretion to Reduce Suspensions                                   | 10 |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>APPENDIX A: Offence/Defense Rules</b> | <b>11</b> |
|--|-----------|

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>APPENDIX B: Fair Play Guidelines</b> | <b>12</b> |
|---|-----------|

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>APPENDIX C: BCLA General Operating Policies</b> | <b>13</b> |
|--|-----------|

## CONDUCT & MAINTENANCE OF ORDER

Coaches, Managers and Parents alike are responsible for Maintenance of Order at arenas. Coaches should engage assistance from Assistant Coaches or a Team Manager with players that they feel require extra supervision in cases where, for example, a player is ejected from a game. Associations should be engaged by Coaches that feel they have a player, or parent, that may be cause for concern; providing active support by all parties should be encouraged to allow for all participants to be supported in the game of lacrosse. Associations are encouraged to discipline their own Association Coaches, Managers, Players, Spectators or Parents as they deem necessary.

**See BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy Reg.22**

### DISCIPLINARY RULES

#### 1. MATCH PENALTY – “RECKLESS AND ENDANGERING PLAY”

##### Match Penalties

- **7.6.1** A match penalty involves the suspension of the player for the balance of the game and the offending player shall be ordered to the dressing room immediately. The in-home player shall replace the penalized player in the penalty box for the full five (5) minutes of playing time regardless of the number of goals scored. For all match penalties, regardless of when imposed, or prescribed additional penalties, a total of ten (10) minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player.
- **7.6.2 MATCH PENALTY AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION** - A player incurring a match penalty shall automatically be suspended according to 2026 Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules below

##### **A Match Penalty may be assessed under the following rules:**

- **Rule 8.12** Boarding
- **Rule 8.3.1** Butt Ending
- **Rule 8.14** Checking from Behind
- **Rule 8.4** Illegal Cross Checking
- **Rule 8.16** Elbowing
- **Rule 8.18** Fighting
- **Rule 8.21** Kicking/Kneeing
- **Rule 8.3.2** High Sticking
- **Rule 8.7** Slashing
- **Rule 8.5** Spearing
- **Rule 8.10.1** Contact on Goalkeeper initiated by Attacker
- **Rule 8.11.2** Illegal Body Checking

- **Rule 8.13** Spearing with the Head
- **Rule 8.15** Dangerous Contact to the Head
- **Rule 8.17** Face Masking
- **Rule 8.19** Head Butting
- **Rule 8.20** Intentional Contact during Dead Ball Situations
- **Rule 8.22** Roughing

**Suspensions:**

- **1st Offence: Three (3) Games**
- **2nd Offence: Five (5) Games / Hearing**
- **3rd Offence: Five (5) Games and second hearing by local Minor Commission**

**2. MAJOR PENALTIES**

Serious infractions that are assessed Major Penalties under the following rules:

- **Rule 8.3.1** Butt Ending
- **Rule 8.5.2** Spearing
- **Rule 8.21.2** Kicking
- **Rule 8.7.2** Slashing

A GAME MISCONDUCT MAY BE ASSESSED IN ADDITION TO THESE 5-MINUTE PENALTIES AND THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINE ACTION WILL APPLY.

- **1st Offence:** One (1) game
- **2nd Offence:** Three (3) games
- **3rd Offence:** Five (5) games and hearing by the local Minor Commission

**3. GROSS MISCONDUCT**

Due to the seriousness of this infraction, Commissioners must confirm the facts of the game report with the game officials and/or zone officials where a gross misconduct has been assessed. The Commissioner will consult on all gross misconduct infractions with the BCLOG Vice Chair - Minor or Zone Officials Rep for review before ruling on the infraction. If the facts reveal that the incident falls short of being a gross misconduct a commissioner in consultation with their respective Commission Chair and the BCLOG Vice Chair - Minor may reduce the penalty to a lesser category as deemed appropriate.

Commissioners' letters to coaches and club presidents must emphasize that Rule 7.7 will not be tolerated.

**Rule 7.7 Definition of Gross Misconduct Penalty** The referee may impose a "Gross Misconduct" penalty on any player, Coach, Trainer or Equipment Manager who is guilty of a gross misconduct of any kind. Any person incurring a "gross misconduct" penalty shall be assessed a game misconduct. For all gross misconducts regardless of when imposed, a total of ten (10) minutes shall be charged in the records of the offending player.

The following list of infractions, but not limited to, can result in a gross misconduct being assessed:

- Interfering with or striking a spectator; or
- Racial taunts and/or slurs; or
- Spitting on or at an opponent, spectator or referee.

The Referee shall report the incident to the appropriate governing body. Any participant found to have committed a "GROSS MISCONDUCT" (as described in Rule 7.7 of the WL Playing Rules) shall be assessed a five (5) game suspension and a hearing by the local Minor Commission or the BCLCG (if required) will be conducted.

#### 4. **MISCONDUCT**

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: (Assessed under Rule 8.41). *(Not involving abuse of an official, ie, unsportsmanlike conduct between players, or between coaches)*. Game Misconduct assessed for simple misconduct and or unsportsmanlike conduct.

- **1st Offence:** No further disciplinary action is warranted
- **2nd Offence:** Two (2) games
- **3rd Offence:** Players who receive three (3) Game Misconducts in a season shall be assessed a five (5) game suspension and a hearing by the local Minor Commission will be conducted.

Coach/Bench Personnel who receive a Third Game Misconduct are to be reported to the BCLCG for further possible action. *NOTE: Any GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY that occurs at the end or completion of the game, shall result in an automatic One (1) game suspension. A 10-minute misconduct assessed without a major attached is not subject to additional discipline or suspension.*

#### 5. **ABUSE OF OFFICIALS**

For infractions of Rule 8.33 ABUSE OF OFFICIALS (Note: this rule covers both Referees and Bench Officials such as Timekeepers, Scorekeepers, Offensive Time Clock operators, etc.)

**Rule 8.33 Abuse of Official by a player:** (Game Misconducts assessed for Abuse of an Official).

- **1st Offence:** Three (3) games
- **2nd Offence:** Five (5) games/Hearing by local Minor Commission
- **3rd Offence:** Five (5) games and a second hearing by the local Minor Commission

**Rule 8.33 Abuse of Official by non-playing personnel (Coaches):**

- **1st Offence:** Three (3) games
- **2nd Offence:** Five (5) games/Hearing by BCLCG
- **3rd Offence:** Five (5) games and a second hearing by BCLCG

**Rule 8.33 Abuse of Official by non-playing personnel (Trainer):**

**1st Offence** – Immediate indefinite suspension, case is to be forwarded to BCLCG. As a minimum, this person will not be allowed back on the bench until they successfully complete the appropriate coaching level.

6. **ASSAULT OF AN OFFICIAL (PHYSICAL OR VERBAL)** – Match, Game or Gross Misconducts Assessed under the following rules:
- Rule 8.30 Abuse of Officials and Misconduct
  - Rule 7.7 Gross Misconduct

Any player found to have physically or verbally threatened a Referee or other Game Official (Assault of an Official) shall be suspended until a hearing of the local Minor Commission. Any Coach/Bench Personnel found to have physically or verbally threatened a Referee or other game Official (Assault of an Official) shall be suspended until a hearing by the BCLCG. In such cases a minimum One (1) Year (12 months from the date of the infraction) suspension is recommended.

7. **UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACTIONS BY A PLAYER ON AN OPPONENT**

Rule 8.41.14 Unsportsmanlike Conduct including, but not limited to, grabbing the facemask, hair pulling, biting, throwing a ball at a player or throat slash gesture. If a major + game misconduct is given for any of these offenses, the following suspensions shall apply:

- **1st Offence:** Three (3) games
- **2nd Offence:** Five (5) games / Hearing by local Minor Commission
- **3rd Offence:** Five (5) games and a second hearing by local Minor Commission

8. **FIGHTING**

Assessed under Rule 8.18 and BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy Regulation 19:

- **1st Offence:** Game Misconduct (given at game) plus two (2) games additional suspension
- **2nd Offence:** Game Misconduct (given at game) plus four (4) games additional suspension
- **3rd Offence:** Game Misconduct (given at game) and five (5) games and a hearing by the Local Minor Lacrosse Commission.

Assessed under Rule 8.18.3, 8.15.5, and 8.18.6, an instigator or aggressor of a fight will receive an automatic 1 (one) game suspension.

9. **FIGHTING OFF PLAYING FLOOR**

Assessed under Rule 8.18 and BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy Regulation 19:

- **1st Offence:** Game Misconduct (given at game) plus two (2) games additional suspension
- **2nd Offence:** Game Misconduct (given at game) plus four (4) games additional

suspension

- **3rd Offence:** Game Misconduct (given at game) and five (5) games and a hearing by the Local Minor Lacrosse Commission.

Assessed under Rule 8.18.3 or 8.18.5, an instigator or aggressor of a fight will receive an automatic 1 (one) game suspension.

FIGHTING OFF PLAYING FLOOR as per Rule 8.18.13, if the fight occurs during the jurisdiction of the referee, the matter will be referred to the local Minor Commission for investigation and hearing, with recommendation to follow the Minor Directorate Operating Policy Regulation 19.

THIRD MAN IN (INTERVENTION IN A FIGHT ALREADY IN PROGRESS)

Each Offence: Game Misconduct (given at game) plus two (2) game suspension. Rule 8.18.14 Assessed to the player/goalkeeper who is first to intervene in an altercation when in progress.

LEAVING PLAYERS' BENCH OR PENALTY BENCH DURING AN ALTERCATION OR GOALTENDER LEAVING THEIR CREASE TO JOIN IN AN ALTERCATION

Rule 8.18.15 for goalies, 8.42 for players Two (2) games in addition to the balance of the game in which the infraction occurred.

#### **10. TWO MAJORS IN ONE GAME**

(Rule 7.3.2) Any player who accumulates two major penalties in one game shall be assessed, in addition to the game misconduct assessed, the following:

- **1st Offence:** Three (3) Games
- **2nd Offence:** Five (5) Games
- **3rd Offence:** Five (5) Games and Hearing by local Minor Commission

#### **11. COACH OR MANAGER PULLING TEAM FROM FLOOR**

Immediate suspension of coach pending a hearing by the BCLCG. If a manager pulls a team off the floor, then an immediate suspension will be given to the coach, pending a hearing by their local Minor Commission.

#### **12. UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS** (*BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy Regulation 22.02*)

Immediate suspension and an automatic referral for hearing by local Minor Commission.

#### **13. MAJOR PENALTY IN THE LAST 5-MINUTES**

A major penalty in the last five (5) minutes of the 3rd period and during any subsequent overtime receives an automatic one-game suspension. A ten (10) minute misconduct is not considered for suspension under this rule. The first call for illegal goaltender equipment in

the last five (5) minutes will not be a "suspendable" offence.

#### 14. **FOUR MAJORS IN ONE SEASON**

Any player who accumulates four major penalties in one season will be assessed as follows:

- **4<sup>th</sup> Major Penalties** - One (1) game suspension.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Major Penalties** - Two (2) game suspension
- **6<sup>th</sup> Major Penalties** - Three (3) game suspension
- **7<sup>th</sup> Major Penalties** Four (4) game suspension
- **8<sup>th</sup> Major Penalties:** Five (5) game suspension and a Discipline Hearing. *(A 10-minute game misconduct is not considered a major penalty for this section).*

#### 15. **PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

Any team that plays an ineligible player or who is not properly registered as per BCLA Minor Directorate Operating policy 4.04(b). Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player during a regularly scheduled, sanctioned tournament or playoff games shall forfeit all games won during which an ineligible player was a participant. The Coach will be suspended for two (2) games for the first Offence and for the second Offence, an automatic referral to the BC Lacrosse Coaches Group for appropriate disciplinary action.

#### 16. **SUSPENSIONS TO COACHES AND BENCH PERSONNEL**

Coaches and bench personnel who receive a suspension or game ejection will be reported to the local Commission and the BCLCG Vice Chair Minor.

#### 17. **SERVING A SUSPENSION**

The BCLA Operating Policy regarding suspensions and discipline shall apply as per REGULATION 11 of the BCLA General Operating Policy and REGULATION 18 of the Minor Directorate Operating Policy.

All suspensions **MUST** be noted on Game Sheet in the note section as well as crossing the suspended person (player or coach) off the game sheet rosters, to be counted against the suspension ***(in the case of electronic game sheets, suspension must be noted in game notes and player marked as suspended in the lineup).***

A suspended person will be removed from **all team** games until the person has served the suspension. This suspension may be served during BCLA sanctioned tournaments, league, playoff, or Provincial Championship Games only. **The suspended person cannot participate in exhibition games until such time the suspension is fully served.** Any suspended person will be allowed to practice with the team.

Any suspended person (player or coach) must not appear in or near the dressing room on or near the player's or timekeeper's bench or playing surface (before, during or after games). Any interaction with the game by the suspended player or coach from the stands may result in additional discipline. The BCLA Operating Policy on suspension and discipline shall apply.

**Regulation 18.07** from the BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy:

- a. A suspended player may only serve the suspension during games played by the team the player is officially registered with.
- b. A suspended coach may only serve the suspension during games played by the team the coach received the suspension for; however, a coach is suspended from all bench activities until such suspension is served.

**Regulation 18:** Suspensions, **18.03**, Paragraph (d) reads: "A member may receive an initial verbal notification of a fine, suspension or decision directly face to face, or by telephone/email/text. This must be followed by a formal written notification presented or e- mailed within seventy-two (72) hours to the member after initial verbal notification."

## **18. ADDITIONAL GAMES**

**Regulation 18.02** from the Minor Directorate Operating Policy Section reads:

A Commissioner may not levy a suspension of more than five games to any one person per game. Except for Coaches/Bench personnel, the Commissioner may recommend further suspensions in writing to the governing Commission.

If a Coach /Bench personnel receives a five-game suspension from a league Commissioner, the Commissioner may recommend in writing that a further suspension may be warranted by the BCLCG. The Commissioner may at any time ask the BCLCG to investigate the conduct or ethical behavior of a coach or bench personnel without handing down any suspension. Results of these actions must be related in writing back to the Commissioner and the governing Commission.

## **19. COMMISSION DISCRETION TO REDUCE SUSPENSIONS.**

- a) During League play, only in Zones 1,2,7 and 8, and where there are fewer than 10 league games for a team during a season, these suspensions MAY be reduced by a commissioner with the consultation of and agreement with the Commission Chair and a full written report provided to the Secretary and Chair of the Minor Directorate. **NOTE:** These Zones will be subject to the full Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules and Guidelines as written during all tournament games and Provincials. For example, if a player is suspended for 5 games during a tournament and can serve only one game during the tournament, the balance of 4 games must be served during the player's next consecutive 4 games.
- b) During inter-zone play, the above guideline will also apply to Zone 6 Female Box Lacrosse coach/players playing inter-zone games.

**APPENDIX A**  
**BCLA MINOR DIRECTORATE - OFFENCE/DEFENCE RULES**

---

Minor Directorate Operating Policy Playing Rules Section 4.11:

In all aspects of Minor Directorate play, the practice known as Offence/Defense is not to be played in any of its forms. Offence/Defense is simply defined as a Player playing only one end of the floor, at even strength. The exception to this rule is in U17 and U22 Female where Offence/Defense play is allowed.

1. All Minor Association Coach Coordinators/Head Coach and/or Presidents are advised that they are responsible for the actions of their coaches. They are also to advise **all coaches** in their association that the practice of playing the offence/defense system when at even strength (not including pulling the goaltender or for a face-off) is **prohibited (with exception of U17 and U22 Female)** in BC Minor Lacrosse, as per current operating policy and such action can result in suspension.
2. If any Zone/Association Coaching Coordinator, League Commissioner, BCLCG Executive Member or Minor Directorate Executive clearly determines a coach is utilizing offence/defense on a persistent basis as a tactic, (not including pulling a goaltender or during face-offs) while at even strength, they are to advise by phone or electronic means the BC Lacrosse Coaches Group (BCLCG) Vice Chair - Minor Box. The BCLA Vice Chair will designate a representative to adjudicate. The BCLCG Vice Chair - Minor Box will formally advise the Association Coaching Coordinator/Head Coach and/or President of the incident.
3. It will be the responsibility of the BCLCG designated representative to ensure that the Coaches first infraction will result in the removal of the head coach for the remainder of the game, or the coach in charge of the bench.  
If the head coach has been previously removed or suspended, or if the violation occurs in the final period of the game, the head coach or coach in charge of the bench will be suspended for the following game.
4. If the Coach is again found to be utilizing the offence/defense tactic by the above-named persons in Paragraph 2, they will advise the BCLCG Vice Chair - Minor Box. If this is the second infraction the BCLCG Vice Chair - Minor Box will advise the League Commissioner to assess an immediate FIVE (5)-GAME Suspension and a hearing.
5. If at any time in playoffs, Provincial Championships, or BC Summer Games (even if it is the first instance for the Coach), the Coach will receive an automatic FIVE-GAME Suspension from the BCLCG and must attend a hearing called by the BCLCG. This hearing may determine the future status of that Coach within the BCLCG. A hearing will then be conducted by the BC Lacrosse Coaches Group (BCLCG) prior to the following year to determine the future status of said Coach as per BCLCG guidelines.
6. It is the responsibility of the BCLCG Vice Chair – Minor Box to ensure that a complete up-to-date record of such infractions is kept both by the BCLCG and the BCLA Technical Director.

## APPENDIX B FAIR PLAY GUIDELINES

---

From BCLA APPENDIX C and BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy Regulation 4.15:

Per BCLA General Operating Policy Regulation 17.01, the BC Lacrosse Association Minor Directorate supports and promotes the Fair Play Codes as outlined in Appendix C of the General Operating Policy. Breach of the Fair Play Codes shall not be tolerated by Minor Club executives. Per BCLA General Operating Policy Regulation 17.02, if required, remedial action from this Code will be deferred to the appropriate Governing Body that has jurisdiction, and the process of investigation and discipline shall apply.

1. All Minor Association Presidents and Coach Coordinators will be advised that they are responsible for the actions of their coaches. They are also to advise **all coaches** in their association that, should it be discovered that a coach is failing to adhere to the Fair Play Guidelines, they may be subject to a hearing by the BC Lacrosse Coaches Group (BCLCG), which can result in a suspension.
2. From Appendix C – Fair Play: A Coach's Role
3. **As a coach, you are a role model and leader and have a significant impact on your athletes' attitude. You can:**
  - Encourage your team to respect the opposing team and the rules of the game, to accept the judgments of the officials and opposing coaches without argument
  - Teach your players how to manage conflict and stress, and use good judgement in tough situations
  - Avoid overplaying talented players and allow average players equitable playing time.
  - Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with praise and set a good example.
4. If a Coach is discovered to be in violation of the Fair Play Guidelines during a Provincial Championship or BC Summer Games, they will be warned either verbally or in writing by the Vice Chair of the BCLCG, or delegate, that if they continue to be in violation of the Fair Play Guidelines the game will be stopped and the coach shall be ejected from the game and suspended for the balance of the tournament, and the remainder of the year. This is not appealable. A hearing will then be conducted by the BCLCG prior to the following year to determine the future status of said Coach as per BCLCG guidelines.
5. It is the responsibility of the BCLCG Vice Chair – Minor Box to ensure that a complete up-to-date record of such infractions is kept both by the BCLCG and the BCLA Technical Director.

**APPENDIX C**  
**BCLA GENERAL OPERATING POLICIES**

---

Coaches should acquaint themselves with BCLA General Operating Policy, including but not limited to:

Regulation 12 Gender Equity (page 8)

Regulation 13 Transgender Participant Policy (page 9)

Regulation 14 Harassment (page 10)

Regulation 15 Doping Control Program (page 13)

Regulation 16 Concussion Awareness and Education (page 16)

Regulation 23 Social Media (page 19)