



## **2023 Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules and CLA Rule 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.**

### **Conduct and Maintenance of Order See BCLA Minor Directorate Operating Policy Reg.22**

**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.**

## **Job Descriptions**

### **League Commissioners**

- (a) Are ratified by the Minor Directorate, with names submitted prior to March 1 of the playing season.
- (b) Rule on disciplinary matters for their league in their Commission, following the Minor Directorate Disciplinary Rules, using the Minor Directorate Suspension Tracking Sheet provided in the Commissioner's Package, submit a summary report at the end of the season to the Provincial Director and to the Minor Directorate Secretary for purposes of tracking carryover suspensions into the next box season.
- (c) Ensure all teams are tiered properly. Watch for inequality of teams within their league and the placement and movement of teams, as per Commission Operating Policy.
- (d) Assist in making schedules for their league.
- (e) Attend Commission meetings.
- (f) Ensure copies of score sheets are given to the Chair of the Commission monthly.
- (g) Any communication between League Commissioners and coaches should include Head Coaches and Club Presidents
- (h) League Commissioners report directly to the Commission Chair.
- (i) To work with their Commission and Commission Chair in promoting Box Lacrosse within their Commission.
- (j) Shall receive Team Rosters from Club Registrars by May 7<sup>th</sup> (as per MD policy Regulation 4.02 (a) and MD Regulation 1.01 League Commissioners, (j)) and compare these to Game Sheet Rosters and report exceptions to Club Presidents and Registrars

NOTE: for U7 and U9 Commissioners, track the names of players to criss-cross to another team for the purposes of participating in a tournament, per MD Regulation 14.09 which is limited to one tournament per player, per season.

### **Commission Chairs**

- (a) Communication link between the Minor Directorate (through Zone Directors) and their Associations.
- (b) Ensure good communications with the Executive and their Associations and possibly with players and parents.
- (c) Maintain a good working relationship with all Associations within their Commission.
- (d) Responsible to Minor Directorate and all Associations within the Commission.
- (e) Responsible for schedule and guidelines for league play and Provincial play-offs in their Commission.
- (f) Select their Commissioners, as per Commission Operating Policy and acts as Head Commissioner.
- (g) First level of appeal on all matters within their Commission (jurisdiction, player's discipline, and player movement).

NOTE: per Regulation 14.02 Commission Chairs will confirm Tournament Commissioners for all sanctioned tournaments in a Commission by April 1(as per policy Regulation 14.02)

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# **DISCIPLINARY RULES**

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

### Match Penalties (ref Rule 80)

A match penalty shall be a major penalty assessed to a player/goalkeeper to be served by a substitute player. Any participant who receives a match penalty shall be ejected from that game and immediately suspended until the appropriate governing body rules on the incident.

Penalty assessed under the following rules:

- Rule 30 Reckless and Endangering Play
- Rule 33 Boarding (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 35 Butt Ending (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 37 Charging (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 38 Checking from Behind (where rule 30 is applied)
- Rule 42 Elbowing (where a Match is assessed)
- Rule 57 Kicking a Player (where a Match is assessed)
- Rule 62 Abusing an Official (any intentional contact with any official)
- Rule 65 Spearing (where a Match is assessed)

<b>1st Offence</b>	Three (3) Games
<b>2nd Offence</b>	Five (5) Games/Hearing
<b>3rd Offence</b>	Five (5) Games and second hearing by local Minor Commission

**NOTE:** Any situation where in the referee’s discretion Rule 30 Reckless and Endangering Play is applied, i.e.: Match Penalties for Slashing, High Sticking, Cross Checking, etc.

## **2. RECKLESS AND ENDANGERING PLAY**

When a player has been assessed a **MATCH PENALTY** for **RECKLESS AND ENDANGERING PLAY**

under any of the appropriate rules, a **five (5) game suspension** will be given and a hearing by the Commission will be conducted.

## **3. MAJOR PENALTIES**

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

- Rule 35 Attempted Butt Ending
- Rule 65 Attempted Spearing
- Rule 57 Attempted Kicking of a Player

**A GAME MISCONDUCT WILL BE ASSESSED IN ADDITION TO THE 5-MINUTE PENALTY AND THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINE ACTION WILL APPLY.**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offence</b>	One (1) game
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offence</b>	Three (3) games
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offence</b>	Five (5) games and hearing by the local Minor Commission

#### **4. 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. **(Assessed under Rule 48 in the CLA Rulebook). Commissioners letters to coaches and club presidents must emphasize that 48(a) will not be tolerated.**

- Rule 48(a)** The Referee shall assess a gross misconduct Penalty to any player or non-playing personnel who:
- (i) makes derogatory comments based upon race, ethnic origin, religious background or gender.
  - (ii) makes obscene gestures.
  - (iii) persists in such behaviour after being ejected from a game.
  - (iv) behaves in any manner to dishonour, embarrass or disgrace the game.

**Rule 48(b)** The Referee shall report the incident to the appropriate governing body.

Any participant found to have committed a “GROSS MISCONDUCT” (as described in Rule 48 of the CLA 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.

Any participant whom is assessed a “GROSS MISCONDUCT” for threatening a Referee or an Official under Rule 62 shall be suspended until a hearing by the local Minor Commission or the BCLCG (if required). In such cases a minimum One (1) year (12 months from the date of infraction) Suspension is recommended.

#### **5. MISCONDUCT**

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** (Assessed under Rule 28). *(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.

**NOTE:** The section above deals strictly with incidences of unsportsmanlike conduct by players or coaches that are not directed at officials.

## **6. ABUSE OF OFFICIALS**

For infractions of Rule 28 ABUSE OF OFFICIALS AND MISCONDUCT (Note: this rule covers both Referees and Bench Officials such as Timekeepers, Scorekeepers, Offensive Time Clock operators, etc.)

**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 local Minor Commission

**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

**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.

## **7. ASSAULT OF AN OFFICIAL (PHYSICAL OR VERBAL) – Match, Game or Gross Misconducts Assessed under the following rules:**

- Rule 28 Abuse of Officials and Misconduct
- Rule 48 Gross Misconduct
- Rule 62 Abusing Officials

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.

## **8. UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS**

Unnecessary Roughness assessed under Rule 72(b).

Rule 72(b) UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS, grabbing the facemask, helmet or chinstrap, hair pulling or head butting.

**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

**9. FIGHTING**

Assessed under Rule 45 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 45B, an instigator or aggressor of a fight will receive an additional game suspension.

**10. FIGHTING OFF PLAYING SURFACE**

As per Rule 23a, if the fight occurs during the jurisdiction of the referee (begin 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time and shall continue until the teams have entered the dressing rooms after the game), 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.

**11. THIRD MAN IN**

**Each Offence** - Game Misconduct (given at game) plus two (2) game suspension.

Rule 67 Assessed to the player/goalkeeper who is first to intervene in an altercation when in progress.

**12. LEAVING PLAYERS' BENCH OR PENALTY BENCH DURING AN ALTERCATION OR GOALTENDER LEAVING THEIR CREASE TO JOIN IN AN ALTERCATION. Rule 60**

Two (2) games in addition to the balance of the game in which the infraction occurred.

**13. COACH OR MANAGER PULLING TEAM FROM FLOOR Rule 63**

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.

**14. 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.

**NOTE:** All participants (players, coaches, fans) should be aware of the BCLA Code of Conduct (Regulation 1) and BCLA Doping Control Program (Regulation 15) contained in the BCLA Operating Policy – General Section.

**15. MAJOR PENALTY IN THE LAST 10-MINUTES**

A major penalty in the last ten (10) minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 ten (10) minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> period and during any subsequent overtime, resulting in a five (5) minute major, will not be a "suspendable" offence.

**16. TWO MAJORS IN ONE GAME Rule 77(c)**

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

**17. FOUR MAJORS IN ONE SEASON**

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

**4 Major Penalties** will be assessed one (1) game suspension.

**Subsequent Major Penalties:**

**5<sup>th</sup> Major** will be assessed a two (2) game suspension

**6<sup>th</sup> Major** will be assessed a three (3) game suspension

**7<sup>th</sup> Major** will be assessed a four (4) game suspension

**8<sup>th</sup> Major** will be assessed a five (5) game suspension and a Discipline Hearing.

For the purpose of this section, a **10-minute game misconduct is not considered a major penalty.**

**18. 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. Should this occur in the playoffs, and then only the games played in the playoffs will be awarded to the opposing side. 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 Technical Support Group for appropriate disciplinary action.

**19. 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.

**20. 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 Score Sheet in the note section as well as crossing the suspended person (player or coach) off the score sheet rosters, to be counted against the suspension.**

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.

## **21. 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. With the exception of 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 behaviour 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.

## **22. 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 the course of 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**

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Minor Directorate Operating Policy Playing Rules Section 4.11:

In all aspects of Minor Directorate play, the practice known as Offence/Defence is not to be played in any of its forms. Offence/Defence is simply defined as a Player playing only one end of the floor, at even strength.

1. All Minor Association Coach Coordinators/Head Coach and/or President, 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/defence system when at even strength (not including pulling the goaltender or for a face-off) is **prohibited** 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/defence 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 Technical Support 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/defence 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 Technical Support 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

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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 failing to adhere to the Fair Play Guidelines, may be subject to a hearing by the BC Lacrosse Coaches Technical Support Group (BCLCG) which can result in a suspension.
2. From Appendix C – Fair Play: A Coaches Role
3. **As a coach you are a role model and leader and have a significant impact 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 equal 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**

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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)