



**2020 Harmonized
Rule Change Summary
Men's & Women's Lacrosse
Reviewed By The Rules Committee**

November 23, 2020

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Introduction

This document contains the Harmonized rule change proposals that were reviewed and considered by the Men's and Women's Rules Subcommittees in 2020

Women's Rules Committee Composition		
Sachi Yamada	World Lacrosse Subcommittee Chair, Women's Rules	Japan
Laurent Charwat	World Lacrosse Subcommittee Chair- Women's Officiating	USA
Jane Lee	World Lacrosse Athletes Commission	Korea
Paul Mollison	Sub Committee Member	Australia
Jordan Trautman	Sub Committee Member	USA
Lorna Powell	Sub Committee Member	Scotland

Men's Rules Committee Composition		
Ian Ashworth	World Lacrosse Subcommittee Chair- Men's Rules	England
Mark Polden	World Lacrosse Subcommittee Chair- Men's Officiating	Australia
Leigh Augustine	Sub Committee Member	USA
Christian Geschke	Sub Committee Member	Germany
Keith Nyberg	World Lacrosse Athletes Commission	Australia
Alex Russell	Sub Committee Member	England

In total, **five** rule changes were considered for harmonization. Of these, **one** proposal has been brought forward for member's consideration. **Four** proposals have not been brought forward and have been sent back to Committee for further review or have been abandoned. The four rule changes not put forward have been included in the Appendix of this document for completeness.

At the 2019 General Assembly, a series of Women's rule changes were brought forward for member vote that required a corresponding change be made in the Men's game so that the rules could be harmonized in both forms of the game. It was suggested that these changes were deferred for future consideration when the rules could be considered together for both the Men's and Women's games.

The single proposed rule change shall be considered as a consolidated proposal as applied to both the Men's and Women's games. It shall be voted on as one proposal. If approved, the rule change would take effect in both rule sets as from January 1, 2021, however it will not be used for World Championship play until January 2022

The single proposed Rule Change recommended by the Rules Committee shall be considered as a consolidated proposal applicable to both Men's and Women's lacrosse. It shall be voted on as one proposal in an electronic postal vote in December 2020, where a two-thirds majority of members voting in favor of each proposal is required to pass. If approved, the rule change will take effect from March 1, 2021, however they will not be used in World/Regional Federation Championship play until March 2022. Member nations are free to implement rules that best suit their domestic competitions; however, it is advised that members shall consider the integrity of the game and the safety of players and officials when making any changes to the approved World Lacrosse Rules.

Each rule change (proposed or not) shows the current rule wording and the proposed changes to the wording of the new/revised rules. Each proposed change is highlighted and contains a rationale for the change. Moreover, the Rules Subcommittees', who has analyzed and discussed these rules, provide their comments and the recommendations from each committee are highlighted, along with a summary of the two Committee Positions and any subsequent recommendations.

The Rules Committee, consisting of the Rules Chairs of each the three Rules Subcommittees, will continue to review areas of the games that is felt would be right to harmonize and will continue to bring further proposals for member consideration.

It is also the view of the Rules Committee and the Technical Director that a larger study reviewing the design of the current Harmonized Field is undertaken, to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the game as it grows and evolves internationally.

I would like to thank the members of the Rules Subcommittee for their time and dedication to collating, preparing and debating the rule changes contained here.

We thank you in advance for your interest and involvement in helping to shape rules to grow and develop lacrosse now, and into the future. Should you have any questions or require further clarification in the first instance please contact Brent Nowicki – World Lacrosse Rules Chair bnowicki@worldlacrosse.sport.



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Executive Summary

Rule Change Proposal	Women's Rule Sub Committee Position	Men's Rule Sub Committee Position	Rule Committee Recommendation
1 Harmonization of Overtime Procedures	Agree	Already the current rule in the Men's game	The Women's and Men's Subcommittee, therefore, recommend this harmonized proposal.
Rule Change Proposals Not Put Forward For Vote(Information Only)			
2 Harmonization of the Restraining Lines	Proposes to defer this proposal	Recommends this harmonized proposal	The Rules Committee believes the matter should be deferred until a wider consultation may take place. The Rules Committee will consult wider across the game and members to determine if the field markings and dimensions should be reviewed and make the appropriate recommendations for consideration by the members at a future General Assembly
3 Harmonization of the Goal Circle/Crease Count timing for the Goalkeeper	Agrees in principle but suggests that there is a review to understand any unintended consequences to the application of this rule and look at how the rule might be better harmonised and proposes to defer this proposal	Recommends this harmonized proposal but is open to a wider discussion on the issue.	While both Subcommittees agree with the harmonization of the crease count and goal circle principles between the Men's and Women's games, the matter should be tabled until a larger discussion on the issue may take place. The Rules Committee will consult wider across the game and members to determine if the field markings and dimensions should be reviewed and make the appropriate recommendations for consideration by the members at a future General Assembly
4 Alternate Possession	Not discussed	Not discussed	For further evaluation and consideration on the impact of the game.

Rule Change to be Considered by Members by a Future Electronic Postal Vote

Women's Rule Change Proposal #1	2020-22 Women's Field Rule Book		Descriptor
Change	11	Duration of Play	Remove the break in overtime after two -four -minute periods of play have been played. Teams will now continue to play 4 minute periods and change ends at restart play without a break until a goal is scored.
Present Rule			
RULE 11: DURATION OF PLAY			
<p>H. Each team may request two 90 seconds time outs during regulation play and one time out during overtime. Time outs not used during regulation play cannot be used during overtime. A team may request a time out after a goal is scored or when her team has possession of a 'dead ball' anywhere on the field outside the Advantage Flag area. The coach may request a time out through the score table, or the player who is given possession of the ball may request a time out directly through a field umpire.</p> <p>'Dead ball' possession includes possession of the ball following a foul and when the ball goes out of bounds. When a possession time out is called, players must leave their crosses in their place on the field and return to that same place to restart play. No substitutions will be allowed during this 90 seconds stoppage of play. The time out will begin when the umpire calls the time out. After one minute, a warning horn will sound and teams must be on the field and ready to restart the game at the 90 seconds or horn. A minor foul will be called if a team is not ready to start. Successive team time outs are not allowed.</p> <p>J. Overtime Procedures – Playing off a tied game when required.</p> <p>1. When the score is tied at the end regulation playing time, play shall be continued after 2 minutes intermission, with sudden victory overtime. In sudden victory overtime teams shall play periods of 4 minutes each until a goal is scored, deciding a winner. The game ends upon the scoring of the first goal. There will be a 2 minutes break between every 8 minutes of sudden victory overtime.</p> <p>Sudden Victory Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The umpires will call together the captains of each team at the center of the field at the end of regulation play and during the 2 minutes intermission. The charge umpire will toss a coin to determine choice of goal to defend; the visiting captain will call the coin toss. b. All periods of sudden victory overtime will start with a center draw. c. The teams will change ends at the end of each 4 minutes period. d. The game ends when a goal is scored. <p>2. Each team may request one 90 seconds time out during sudden victory overtime.</p> <p>3. 8 minutes (two 4 minutes periods) of stop clock 'sudden victory' overtime will be played. At the end of the first 4 minutes the teams will change ends with no delay for coaching, and the game will be restarted with a center draw.</p> <p>4. If the teams are still tied after the first 8 minutes of overtime (two 4 minutes periods) there will be a 2 minutes break. Play will continue with 'sudden victory' stop clock overtime periods of 8 minutes with 2 minutes break, until a goal is scored.</p>			

Proposed Change

RULE 11: DURATION OF PLAY

1. Each team may request two 90 seconds time outs during regulation play. ~~and one time out during overtime.~~ Time outs not used during regulation play cannot be used during overtime. A team may request a time out after a goal is scored or when her team has possession of a 'dead ball' anywhere on the field outside the Advantage Flag area. The coach may request a time out through the score table, or the player who is given possession of the ball may request a time out directly through a field umpire.

'Dead ball' possession includes possession of the ball following a foul and when the ball goes out of bounds. When a possession time out is called, players must leave their crosses in their place on the field and return to that same place to restart play. No substitutions will be allowed during this 90 seconds stoppage of play. The time out will begin when the umpire calls the time out. After one minute, a warning horn will sound and teams must be on the field and ready to restart the game at the 90 seconds or horn. A minor foul will be called if a team is not ready to start. Successive team time outs are not allowed.

11J. Overtime Procedures – Playing off a tied game when required.

1. When the score is tied at the end regulation playing time, play shall be continued after 2 minutes intermission, with sudden victory overtime. In sudden victory overtime teams shall play periods of 4 minutes each until a goal is scored, deciding a winner.

The game ends upon the scoring of the first goal. ~~There will be a 2 minutes break between every 8 minutes of sudden victory overtime.~~

Sudden Victory Procedure:

- a. The umpires will call together the captains of each team at the center of the field at the end of regulation play and during the 2 minutes intermission. The charge umpire will toss a coin to determine choice of goal to defend; the visiting captain will call the coin toss.
 - b. All periods of sudden victory overtime will start with a center draw.
 - c. The teams will change ends at the end of each 4 minutes period.
 - d. The game ends when a goal is scored.
2. ~~Each team may request one 90 seconds time out during each period of sudden victory Overtime.~~

~~3. 8 minutes (two 4 minutes periods of stop clock 'sudden victory' overtime will be played. At the end of the first each 4 minute period the teams will change ends with no delay for coaching, and the game will be restarted with a center draw.~~

~~4. If the teams are still tied after the first 8 minutes of overtime (two 4 minutes periods) there will be a 2 minutes break. Play will continue with 'sudden victory' stop clock overtime periods of 8 minutes with 2 minutes break, until a goal is scored.~~

Justification

Harmonises the time out procedures between women's and men's lacrosse, which currently has the same Overtime timing procedures. There will be no time outs allowed in in overtime thereby reducing any opportunity to further extend the game.

Women's and Men's Subcommittee Recommendation

The Women's and Men's Subcommittee considers appropriate 4-minute overtime periods with a 2-minute break between each period of play (without timeouts). The Subcommittees agree that the Women's game adopt the current Men's rule in this respect, and notes that this approach has been adopted in the proposed Sixes rules.

The Women's and Men's Subcommittee, therefore, recommend this harmonized proposal.

Appendix
Rules Changes Discussed but Not put forward for Vote
(Information only)

Women's Rule Change #2	2018-19 W Field		Descriptor
Change	1 F	Field Markings	Common Restraining Line Women & Men's Field Move Restraining Line from 25m to 22m in conjunction with proposal from Men's Field to move Restraining Line from 18m to 22m
Present Rule			
<p>F. Restraining lines will be marked at each end of the field, 25 meters up field from each goal line. These solid lines will extend across the full width of the field. The 25 meters is measured from the back edge of the goal line to the front/midfield edge of the restraining line.</p>			
Proposed Change			
<p>F. Restraining lines will be marked at each end of the field, 22 meters up field from each goal line. These solid lines will extend across the full width of the field. The 22 meters is measured from the back edge of the goal line to the front/midfield edge of the restraining line.</p>			
Additionally the Field Diagram dimensions will require updating			
Justification			
<p>Simplifies the harmonised lacrosse field layout where women's and men's lacrosse lines are both marked. Instead of two lines demarking the Goal Area on a field marked for both men's and women's lacrosse, there shall now only be one line. This will make it easier for grounds people marking fields and for permanently marked fields. Given that both games now have 10 players on the field, we do not believe that it will cause any playing issues. However, it does increase the area of the Men's Attack goal area which is used for the purposes of calling a stall.</p>			
Women's Subcommittee Recommendation			
<p>The Women's Subcommittee does not disagree with the modification of the restraining lines but believe that such modification should be considered in a wider context and on review of the entirety of the field markings. For this reason, the Women's Subcommittee proposes to defer this proposal until a more complete review and discussion can take place.</p>			

Men's Rule Change #2	2018-19 M Field		Descriptor
Change	Rule 5	The Goal Area	Common Restraining Line Women & Men's Field Move Restraining Line from 18m to 22m
Present Rule			
<p>Rule 5 The Goal Areas</p> <p>5.1 In each half of the field a line shall be marked from sideline to sideline, between the goal line and the centerline, 18 meters (19.69 yards) from the goal line. These lines shall be designated the goal area lines.</p> <p>5.2 The areas between the goal area lines and the end lines (but excluding the lines themselves) at each end of the field shall be designated the goal areas.</p> <p>5.3 The goal area line, on the side of the field where the team bench areas and the score table area are located, shall extend 9 meters (9.84 yards) off the field of play. The extensions of the goal area lines shall indicate one of the boundaries of the team bench area and the coaches' area.</p>			
Proposed Change			
<p>Rule 5 The Goal Areas</p> <p>5.1 In each half of the field a line shall be marked from sideline to sideline, between the goal line and the centerline, 22 meters (24.06 yards) from the goal line. These lines shall be designated the goal area lines.</p> <p>5.2 The areas between the goal area lines and the end lines (but excluding the lines themselves) at each end of the field shall be designated the goal areas.</p> <p>5.3 The goal area line, on the side of the field where the team bench areas and the score table area are located, shall extend 9 meters (9.84 yards) off the field of play. The extensions of the goal area lines shall indicate one of the boundaries of the team bench area and the coaches' area.</p> <p>Additionally, the Field Diagram dimensions will require updating</p>			
Justification			
<p>Simplifies the harmonised lacrosse field layout where women's and men's lacrosse lines are both marked. Instead of two lines demarking the Goal Area on a field marked for both men's and women's lacrosse, there shall now only be one line. This will make it easier for grounds people marking fields and for permanently marked fields. Given that both games now have 10 players on the field, we do not believe that it will cause any playing issues. However, it does increase the area of the Men's Attack goal area which is used for the purposes of calling a stall.</p>			
Men's Subcommittee Recommendation			
<p>The Men's Subcommittee accepts to enlarge the Restraining Line from 18m to 22m from the goal line for purposes of this harmonized proposal. Doing so would minimize multiple line markings between Men's and Women's games.</p> <p>The Men's Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this harmonized proposal but is open to a wider discussion on the issue.</p>			
Final Summary			
<p>The Subcommittees disagree with the harmonization of field lines and dimensions between the Men's and Women's games, The Rules Committee believes the matter should be deferred until a wider consultation may take place. The Rules Committee will consult wider across the game and members to determine if the field markings and dimensions should be reviewed and make the appropriate recommendations for consideration by the members at a future General Assembly</p>			

Women's Rule Change #3	2020-22 Women's Field Rule Book		Descriptor
Change	18	Goal Circle Rules	Reduce length of time the ball is allowed in the Goal Circle from 10 seconds to 5 seconds
Present Rule			
<p>A. Goal Circle Rules</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Only one player, either the goalkeeper or the deputy, an unprotected field player, is allowed to remain inside the goal circle at any one time. A ball touching or resting on any part of the goal circle line belongs to the goalkeeper or the deputy. 1. With the following exceptions, no other players are allowed to enter or have their feet, body or Crosse on, or over the goal circle line at any time. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On a shot, the attack shooter may follow through with her Crosse over the goal circle line, but her feet must not touch or cross over the goal circle line. The attack's shooting motion must be initiated from outside the goal circle; therefore the shooter's Crosse must be outside the goal circle when she receives a pass from a teammate to attempt or complete a shot. b. On a shot, only the player/s directly marking/defending the attack shooter may reach into the goal circle with their Crosse/s to block the shot or check the shooter's Crosse. The defender/s feet must not touch or cross over the goal circle line. c. Defensive player/s within a stick's length actively marking an opponent without the ball may move through the goal circle for 3 seconds when their team is not in possession of the ball. 2. When inside the goal circle, the goalkeeper: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Must move the ball out of the goal circle within 10 seconds after the ball has entered the goal circle. b. May stop the ball with her hand, body and/or her Crosse. If she catches the ball, she must put the ball in her Crosse and proceed with the game. c. Must remove a ball lodged in the goal netting, her clothing or pads, and place it in her Crosse and proceed with the game. <p>Guidance: <i>The Umpire may signal time out to assist the goalkeeper with dislodging the ball from her clothing, equipment or the goal netting. The 10 second count will begin at the whistle to restart play.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. As the defense is in possession of the ball when it enters the goal circle, the goalkeeper or the deputy may play the ball with any part of their body while inside the goal circle as long as the ball leaves the goal circle within 10 seconds. e. May reach outside the goal circle with her Crosse and bring the ball back into the goal circle provided no part of her body is grounded outside the goal circle. (Rule 24 Definitions) <p>Guidance: <i>From inside the goal circle, the goalkeeper or the deputy may, with one or both feet, step or stand on the goal circle line. As long as her feet are touching any part of the goal circle line, she is considered to be inside the goal circle.</i></p> <p><i>In the process of bringing the ball back into the goal circle, it is a minor foul if the goalkeeper covers the ball with her Crosse and this prevents an opponent from making a play on the ball. (Rule 20.A.2)</i></p> 3. The Deputy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. May only enter or remain in the goal circle when her team has possession of the ball. b. Must immediately leave the goal circle when her team loses possession of the ball. A player/team is not in possession of a loose ball that is outside the goal circle, on the ground or in the air. 			

- c. May enter the goal circle to play a rolling or low bouncing ball.
 - d. Must never enter the goal circle to defend any shot, including a bounce shot.
 - e. Must move the ball out of the goal circle within 10 seconds after the ball has entered the goal circle.
 - f. While inside the goal circle, must remove a ball lodged in the goal netting or her Crosse, place it in her Crosse and proceed with the game.
4. After a goalkeeper or the deputy moves the ball out of the goal circle within 10 seconds, the ball must not return to her team's goal circle until the ball has been played. **Played** refers to an action whereby the ball leaves a player's Crosse and is touched by another player, or her Crosse is checked Crosse to Crosse by an opponent. (Rule 24 Definitions)
- a. If the goalkeeper passes the ball from inside the goal circle to another player, the ball has been played.
 - b. If the goalkeeper moves out of the goal circle with the ball in her Crosse, she may not return the ball to her goal circle until it has been played.
 - c. If the goalkeeper gains possession of the ball outside the goal circle, she may return the ball to the goal circle for one 10 second count.

Guidance: *The goalkeeper is inside the goal circle when she saves a shot on goal; the 10 seconds count begins. While she is looking for an open teammate, her Crosse with the ball in it is hanging outside the goal circle. As the 10 seconds count is about to expire, an opponent legally checks the goalkeeper's Crosse but is unsuccessful in dislodging the ball. The goalkeeper quickly pulls her Crosse with the ball in it back into the goal circle and passes the ball to an open teammate. **LEGAL:** the ball was outside the goal circle when the goalkeeper's Crosse was played, checked Crosse to Crosse by an opponent.*

5. When both feet of the goalkeeper or the deputy are completely outside the goal circle:
- a. She loses all of her goalkeeping privileges.

Guidance: *When the goalkeeper is completely outside of her goal circle, she is not exempt from obstructing the free space to goal.*

- b. She may only re-enter the goal circle without the ball.
- c. She may throw the ball into the goal circle and then follow it into the goal circle.
- d. She must return to the goal circle to play the ball that is inside the goal circle.

B. Goal Circle Fouls

1. Field players:

- a. On a shot, the attack shooter and the defender/s immediately marking the shooter must not step on or over the goal circle line. Other defensive players actively marking an opponent within a stick's length may move through the goal circle.
- b. The shooter must not receive a pass or initiate a shot when her Crosse is inside the goal circle
- c. During and immediately following the shot, the attack shooter must not illegally interfere with the goalkeeper or defender/s immediately marking her. Defenders must not illegally interfere with the attack shooter.

Guidance: *Defenders who have legally established their position near the goal circle before the shot must not be penalized for illegal contact caused by the attack shooter or one of her teammates.*

- d. Defenders must not push the shooter into the goal circle or in any other way illegally interfere with the shooter or the shot.

- e. The deputy must not illegally enter or remain in the goal circle.
2. The goalkeeper or the deputy must not:
- a. Allow the ball to remain inside the goal circle for longer than 10 seconds. Once the goalkeeper or the deputy moves the ball out of the goal circle, her team must not return the ball to their goal circle until it has been played by another player.

Guidance: *The umpire will use a visible, hand chopping motion to count each second that the ball remains in the goal circle.*

The umpire will count from 1 to 10, and when necessary, will count the last 5 seconds out loud.

- b. Reach outside the goal circle with any part of her body to play an aerial or ground ball while she is inside the goal circle. (Rules 20.A.4, 21.A.20)
- c. Rake the ball into her goal circle when any part of her body is completely grounded outside the goal circle. (Rule 20.A.2)
- d. Throw any of her equipment to another player.
- e. When outside the goal circle, step on the goal circle line or back into the goal circle if she has possession of the ball.

Guidance: *The goalkeeper straddles the goal circle line to pick up a ground ball and steps back into the goal circle. ILLEGAL: the goalkeeper was grounded. To resume play, the goalkeeper remains at the spot of the foul (inside the goal circle), and the attack is awarded a free position for the goal circle foul 4m behind the 11m mark on the goal line extended.*

C. Penalties for Goal Circle Fouls

1. With two exceptions below, when the defense commits any goal circle foul, the attack will be awarded a free position 11 m on the goal line extended that is nearest to the foul and the defender will be placed 4m behind unless it is the goalkeeper.
 - a. Whenever the goalkeeper commits a goal circle foul, she remains at the spot of the foul and if she was in or partially inside the goal circle, she remains inside the goal circle for the free position.
 - b. When the deputy is illegally in the goal circle the umpire must immediately stop play. The free position is awarded to the attack player nearest to the center 11m hash mark when play stopped. The deputy will move 4m behind the attack player with the ball and the marking area will be cleared. The goalkeeper must NOT return to the goal circle until play resumes at the whistle.
2. When the attack commits a goal circle foul, the goalkeeper or the deputy will take the free position inside the goal circle. If a goal was scored, the goal will not count. Before play resumes, all players must move 1 m away from the goal circle.

Guidance: *If the goalkeeper is completely outside the goal circle when the attack commits a goal circle foul, the defense player closest to the goal circle, which may or may not be the goalkeeper, shall take the free position inside the goal circle.*

An attack player in front of the goal receives a pass from a teammate who is behind goal. The attack player's Crosse is inside the goal circle when she receives the pass; she shoots and scores. ILLEGAL no goal, the attack is penalized for a goal circle violation. An attack shooter must receive a pass and initiate her shot from outside the goal circle.

D. When a major foul must be carded during goal circle play, the game will resume according to Rule 21.B.7 & 23.B. During a scoring play, the game will resume according to Rule 22.D.5.

Proposed Change

RULE18: GOAL CIRCLE RULES AND PENALTIES

E. Goal Circle Rules

2. Only one player, either the goalkeeper or the deputy, an unprotected field player, is allowed to remain inside the goal circle at any one time. A ball touching or resting on any part of the goal circle line belongs to the goalkeeper or the deputy.
6. With the following exceptions, no other players are allowed to enter or have their feet, body or Crosse on, or over the goal circle line at any time.
 - d. On a shot, the attack shooter may follow through with her Crosse over the goal circle line, but her feet must not touch or cross over the goal circle line. The attack's shooting motion must be initiated from outside the goal circle; therefore the shooter's Crosse must be outside the goal circle when she receives a pass from a teammate to attempt or complete a shot.
 - e. On a shot, only the player/s directly marking/defending the attack shooter may reach into the goal circle with their Crosse/s to block the shot or check the shooter's Crosse. The defender/s feet must not touch or cross over the goal circle line.
 - f. Defensive player/s within a stick's length actively marking an opponent without the ball may move through the goal circle for 3 seconds when their team is not in possession of the ball.
7. When inside the goal circle, the goalkeeper:
 - f. Must move the ball out of the goal circle within 5 seconds after the they have gained possession ball has entered the goal circle within the Goal Circle
 - g. May stop the ball with her hand, body and/or her Crosse. If she catches the ball, she must put the ball in her Crosse and proceed with the game.
 - h. Must remove a ball lodged in the goal netting, her clothing or pads, and place it in her Crosse and proceed with the game.

Guidance: *The Umpire may signal time out to assist the goalkeeper with dislodging the ball from her clothing, equipment or the goal netting. The 5 second count will begin at the whistle to restart play.*

- i. As the defense is in possession of the ball when it enters the goal circle, the goalkeeper or the deputy may play the ball with any part of their body while inside the goal circle as long as the ball leaves the goal circle within 10 seconds.
- j. May reach outside the goal circle with her Crosse and bring the ball back into the goal circle provided no part of her body is **grounded** outside the goal circle. (Rule 24 Definitions)

Guidance: *From inside the goal circle, the goalkeeper or the deputy may, with one or both feet, step or stand on the goal circle line. As long as her feet are touching any part of the goal circle line, she is considered to be inside the goal circle.*

In the process of bringing the ball back into the goal circle, it is a minor foul if the goalkeeper covers the ball with her Crosse and this prevents an opponent from making a play on the ball. (Rule 20.A.2)

8. The Deputy:

- g. May only enter or remain in the goal circle when her team has possession of the ball.
- h. Must immediately leave the goal circle when her team loses possession of the ball. A player/team is not in possession of a loose ball that is outside the goal circle, on the ground or in the air.
- i. May enter the goal circle to play a rolling or low bouncing ball.

- j. Must never enter the goal circle to defend any shot, including a bounce shot.
 - k. Must move the ball out of the goal circle **5 seconds after the they have gained possession within the Goal Circle**
 - l. While inside the goal circle, must remove a ball lodged in the goal netting or her Crosse, place it in her Crosse and proceed with the game.
9. After a goalkeeper or the deputy moves the ball out of the goal circle **within 10 seconds**, the ball must not return to her team's goal circle until the ball has been played. **Played** refers to an action whereby the ball leaves a player's Crosse and is touched by another player, or her Crosse is checked Crosse to Crosse by an opponent. (Rule 24 Definitions)
- d. If the goalkeeper passes the ball from inside the goal circle to another player, the ball has been played.
 - e. If the goalkeeper moves out of the goal circle with the ball in her Crosse, she may not return the ball to her goal circle until it has been played.
 - f. If the goalkeeper gains possession of the ball outside the goal circle, she may return the ball to the goal circle for one 10 second count.

Guidance: *The goalkeeper is inside the goal circle when she saves a shot on goal; the 5 seconds count begins after the has gained possession within the Goal Circle. While she is looking for an open teammate, her Crosse with the ball in it is hanging outside the goal circle. As the 5 seconds count is about to expire, an opponent legally checks the goalkeeper's Crosse but is unsuccessful in dislodging the ball. The goalkeeper quickly pulls her Crosse with the ball in it back into the goal circle and passes the ball to an open teammate.*

LEGAL: *the ball was outside the goal circle when the goalkeeper's Crosse was played, checked Crosse to Crosse by an opponent.*

10. When both feet of the goalkeeper or the deputy are completely outside the goal circle:

- e. She loses all of her goalkeeping privileges.

Guidance: *When the goalkeeper is completely outside of her goal circle, she is not exempt from obstructing the free space to goal.*

- f. She may only re-enter the goal circle without the ball.
- g. She may throw the ball into the goal circle and then follow it into the goal circle.
- h. She must return to the goal circle to play the ball that is inside the goal circle.

F. Goal Circle Fouls

3. Field players:

- f. On a shot, the attack shooter and the defender/s immediately marking the shooter must not step on or over the goal circle line. **Other defensive players actively marking an opponent within a stick's length may move through the goal circle.**
- g. The shooter must not receive a pass or initiate a shot when her Crosse is inside the goal circle
- h. During and immediately following the shot, the attack shooter must not illegally interfere with the goalkeeper or defender/s immediately marking her. Defenders must not illegally interfere with the attack shooter.

Guidance: *Defenders who have legally established their position near the goal circle before the shot must not be penalized for illegal contact caused by the attack shooter or one of her teammates.*

- i. Defenders must not push the shooter into the goal circle or in any other way illegally interfere with the shooter or the shot.

- j. The deputy must not illegally enter or remain in the goal circle.
4. The goalkeeper or the deputy must not:
- f. Allow the ball to remain in their possession inside the goal circle for longer than 5 seconds. Once the goalkeeper or the deputy moves the ball out of the goal circle, her team must not return the ball to their goal circle until it has been played by another player.

Guidance: *The umpire will use a visible, hand chopping motion to count each second that the ball remains in the goal circle.*

The umpire will count from 1 to 5, and when necessary, will count the last 5 seconds out loud.

- g. Reach outside the goal circle with any part of her body to play an aerial or ground ball while she is inside the goal circle. (Rules 20.A.4, 21.A.20)
- h. Rake the ball into her goal circle when any part of her body is completely grounded outside the goal circle. (Rule 20.A.2)
- i. Throw any of her equipment to another player.
- j. When outside the goal circle, step on the goal circle line or back into the goal circle if she has possession of the ball.

Guidance: *The goalkeeper straddles the goal circle line to pick up a ground ball and steps back into the goal circle. ILLEGAL: the goalkeeper was grounded. To resume play, the goalkeeper remains at the spot of the foul (inside the goal circle), and the attack is awarded a free position for the goal circle foul 4m behind the 11m mark on the goal line extended.*

G. Penalties for Goal Circle Fouls

- 3. With two exceptions below, when the defense commits any goal circle foul, the attack will be awarded a free position 11 m on the goal line extended that is nearest to the foul and the defender will be placed 4m behind unless it is the goalkeeper.
 - a. Whenever the goalkeeper commits a goal circle foul, she remains at the spot of the foul and if she was in or partially inside the goal circle, she remains inside the goal circle for the free position.
 - b. When the deputy is illegally in the goal circle the umpire must immediately stop play. The free position is awarded to the attack player nearest to the center 11m hash mark when play stopped. The deputy will move 4m behind the attack player with the ball and the marking area will be cleared. The goalkeeper must NOT return to the goal circle until play resumes at the whistle.
- 4. When the attack commits a goal circle foul, the goalkeeper or the deputy will take the free position inside the goal circle. If a goal was scored, the goal will not count. Before play resumes, all players must move 1 m away from the goal circle.

Guidance: *If the goalkeeper is completely outside the goal circle when the attack commits a goal circle foul, the defense player closest to the goal circle, which may or may not be the goalkeeper, shall take the free position inside the goal circle.*

An attack player in front of the goal receives a pass from a teammate who is behind goal. The attack player's Crosse is inside the goal circle when she receives the pass; she shoots and scores. ILLEGAL no goal, the attack is penalized for a goal circle violation. An attack shooter must receive a pass and initiate her shot from outside the goal circle.

- H. When a major foul must be carded during goal circle play, the game will resume according to Rule 21.B.7 & 23.B. During a scoring play, the game will resume according to Rule 22.D.5.

Justification
To increase the pace of the game and to maximise the time the ball is in play and to simplify and unify rules across the games.;
Women's Subcommittee Recommendation
The Women's Subcommittee does not disagree with the reduction in goal circle count and a harmonisation of such crease-count rulings between the Men's and Women's game, but believe that such modification should be considered in a wider context involving considerations of the goal cylinder and overall goal circle principle. For this reason, the Women's Subcommittee proposes to defer this proposal until a more complete review and discussion can take place.

Men's Rule Change #3	2018-20 Men's Field Rule Book		Descriptor
Change	49.1	Privileges of the Goalkeeper	Increase the length of time the ball is allowed in the Crease from 4 seconds to 5 seconds
Present Rule			
Rule 49 Prohibitions Relating To The Goal Crease			
49.1 An attacking player shall not be in his opponents' goal crease area, nor shall he touch any part of the cage with his body, at any time while the ball is live in his opponents' half of the field.			
49.2 A goalkeeper or defending player who is outside the goal crease area and who has the ball in his possession may not enter the goal crease area.			
49.3 A player who is in his goal crease area may not remain in the goal crease area with the ball in his possession for longer than 4 seconds. This shall be audibly and visually counted by the nearest referee as "1001, 1002, 1003, 1004".			
If a player tries to circumvent the 4-second rule by deliberately dropping the ball and then picking it up, then he will be assessed a technical foul.			
Proposed Change			
Rule 49 Prohibitions Relating To The Goal Crease			
49.1 An attacking player shall not be in his opponents' goal crease area, nor shall he touch any part of the cage with his body, at any time while the ball is live in his opponents' half of the field.			
49.2 A goalkeeper or defending player who is outside the goal crease area and who has the ball in his possession may not enter the goal crease area.			
49.3 A player who is in his goal crease area may not remain in the goal crease area with the ball in his possession for longer than 5 seconds. This shall be audibly and visually counted by the nearest referee as "1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005".			
If a player tries to circumvent the 5-second rule by deliberately dropping the ball and then picking it up, then he will be assessed a technical foul.			
Justification			
Harmonises the amount of time a goalie is entitled to have possession of the ball within the crease to 5 seconds across all forms of the game			
Men's Subcommittee Recommendation			
The Men's Subcommittee accepts to move the crease count from 4 to 5 seconds and supports the harmonisation of a crease count. A set 5-second count also eliminates any intentional delay by a goalkeeper and speeds up the outlet of the ball.			
The Men's Subcommittee, therefore, recommends this harmonized proposal but is open to a wider discussion on the issue.			

Final Summary

While both Subcommittees agree with the harmonization of the crease count and goal circle principles between the Men's and Women's games, the matter should be tabled until a larger discussion on the issue may take place. The Rules Committee will consult wider across the game and members to determine if the field markings and dimensions should be reviewed and make the appropriate recommendations for consideration by the members at a future General Assembly.

Rule Change Proposal #4	Women's/Men's Field Rule Book		Descriptor
New		Alternate Possession	Remove Faceoffs in other parts of the field (Men's) and Throws (Women's)
This Proposal from the 2019 GA assembly for the women's game and subsequent requirement for consideration by the Men's game was removed by the Technical Director and was not considered by either of the Rule Committees' at this time.			