



April 29, 2026

NFHS Girls Lacrosse Weekly Rule Interpretations

Misconduct

Misconduct violations can occur by field players, goalkeepers, bench personnel and coaches. Penalty administration involves either a yellow (warning) or red (ejection) card. Any issuance of a card should be considered a warning for all players and coaches. Misconduct cards should be recorded and tallied.

2026 NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rules Book Misconduct Penalty Clarifications:

1. If a team receives its fourth card, it will play short for the remainder of the game and for each subsequent card, the team will play short by an additional player.
2. If a player receives multiple cards during the same play/stoppage of play, the head coach shall remove an additional player from the field to serve the second card in the penalty area, and no substitute may take their place.
3. If a coach receives multiple cards during the same play/stoppage of play, they must designate two players to leave the field and enter the penalty area to serve the entire two/four minutes of elapsed playing time.

SITUATION 1A: Blue No. 21 receives No. 21's first yellow card. The official scorer informs the officials that this is the Blue team's fourth card. Blue No. 21 leaves the field and no substitute takes No. 21's place. After serving a two-minute penalty, Blue No. 21 re-enters the game as a substitute, replacing a player on the field. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Blue No. 21 may return to the game since No. 21 has received only one yellow card. Blue No. 21 may only return if another player leaves the field because the Blue team has received its fourth card and must play short for the remainder of the game and any overtime periods. (12-3-4, 12-8 MISCONDUCT PENALTIES 3e)

SITUATION 1B: Later in the same game Blue No. 7 receives the team's fifth card, a red card, and is ejected. No. 7 leaves the game and may not re-enter. The Blue team will play with up to 10 players on the field. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The Blue team has received a fifth card and will now play with up to 10 players on the field for the remainder of the game and any

overtime periods. If it receives a sixth card, it will play with up to nine players for the remainder of the game and any overtime period. Any subsequent cards will result in additional players being removed. (12-3-2, 12-8 MISCONDUCT PENALTIES 3e)

SITUATION 2: A1 receives a yellow card for a slash (mandatory card). During the card administration, A1 uses derogatory language toward the official. A1 is issued a second card (red card). **RULING:** A1 is removed (Card 1) and the head coach must remove another player from the field (Card 2). **COMMENT:** The team shall play short two players for two minutes of elapsed playing time. The team shall play short one player for an additional two minutes for the red card. Both players shall remain in the penalty area until each player's penalty is served. The player removed from the playing field to serve the penalty may substitute back onto the field following the two minutes of elapsed playing time. A1 will remain in the penalty area for four minutes. A1 ejected from the game and may not return to the game and will serve a next game suspension for the red card. (12-6-1, 12-6-2, 12-8 MISCONDUCT PENALTIES 3e)

SITUATION 3: With 5:45 remaining in the third quarter, a contested call awards possession to Team A. The head coach of Team B verbally abuses the official from the coaching area. The official issues a yellow card for misconduct. As the official begins administering the penalty, the coach enters the field in an aggressive manner. The official issues a second yellow card for misconduct. **RULING:** The coach shall designate two players to leave the field and enter the penalty area to each serve a two-minute penalty. Since the head coach was suspended (two yellow cards), the coach must leave the area, including the spectator area, of the game, and an interim head coach must be specifically designated prior to resuming play. (12-7-1, 12-8 COACH MISCONDUCT PENALTIES)