

# PCFLL – U9 ‘Division Specific Rules’

(Note: The PCFLL reserves the right to change these rules at any time if health / safety or fair game play are deemed an issue.)

Rev 6 2023/10/26

## General Rules of Play:

- 8 Players per team (1G, 2D, 3M, 2A) on the field at a time, eighth Player can only be a goalie not a floater.
- Note that U9 is a developmental division meaning that teams should try to avoid cancelling games unless one or both teams are significantly undermanned (i.e., try 6 V 6 play, or providing players to the other team is permitted etc.). Where it is necessary to cancel a game, an attempt should be made to re-schedule it, but it is not mandatory for U9. There are no posted standings (i.e., points awarded) or game results, focus should be on introducing structured game play. Game cancellation notice by a team is required 96 hrs prior to the scheduled game time, fines and costs can be assessed against the cancelling team by the PCFLL if insufficient notice is provided.
- Stick lengths 34” to 42” (attack and midfielders) and regular length poles (Big Sticks) are permitted for defense players.
- When a team does not have a Player to fill the goalie position or chooses not to field a Player at the goalie position the ***shooter tutor can be used*** by the team in lieu of a goalie (Note that it is not mandatory for teams to have a goalie, only if they want to, so 7 V 7 play is also permitted).
  - When the ball hits the shooter tutor, the play is blown dead
  - Dead ball is awarded to the defensive team 20 yards from the goal
  - No goal is scored if the ball hits the shooter tutor and then enters the goal
- ***All games are to be played under the BCLA “Fair Play Code of Conduct”, meaning that all Players should get equal playing time.***
- ***No Player may play the attack or defense position for more than half the game***
- ***Once any Player has scored four (4) goals, the Scorekeeper will notify both Coaches and both Officials. Further goals from that Player will not be registered and will be considered a “no goal”. The ball is awarded to the defensive team 20 yards from the goal.***

## Field Size:

U9 is Played on a Reduced Field Size (See Field Dimension Drawing Page 5)

(Field size changed starting the 2023-24 season)

- Bring end lines in 20 yds from a regular lax field
  - Field boundaries should be lined with 12 cones
- Bring nets in 10 yds in from end lines - use portable creases
  - Restraining lines would be approximately 15 yds from the nets
- Face off restraining lines are 10 Yds from the center line
- Wing and side lines stay the same
- *Note that if a smaller field than the U9 field size has been assigned to a game then the field configuration should be altered accordingly to fit the smaller field size.*

### Game Format:

- 4 x 12 minute quarters
  - 2 minutes between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters
  - 2 minutes between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters
  - 5 minutes at half time
  - *2 minute stop time in the last 2 minutes of the game (i.e., for constancy with other age divisions)*
  - Every quarter shall begin with a face off. Exception is Rule 34 for Man Up Situation.

### Scoring:

- The actual game score will be posted until such a point where the goal differential between the teams is greater than 5, at that point the posted score will only show a 5 goal differential between teams. Once the goal differential is 5 or less the actual score will again be posted.
- **5 goal differential rule:**
  - *Scorekeeper should let the Officials know when a 5 goal spread is in effect.*
  - *If the leading team scores, the losing team will be awarded the ball at center. In this circumstance, all Players are released from wing and restraining lines when the losing team takes possession at center. All Players must be 5 yards away from the ball carrier and on their side of the field.*
  - *If the losing team scores and the 5 goal spread is still in effect, then a face off ensues*
  - *If the losing team scores and the gap is less than 5 goals, then a face off ensues.*

### Body Contact:

- *Some Body Contact is permitted between Players but is limited primarily to the ball carrier. Player contact within 9 feet of the ball carrier should be mostly incidental in nature (See "Body Contact Rules on Page 4).*
- *At the U9 level a Player who accumulates more than 3 "Unnecessary Roughness" penalties will be removed from play for the remainder of the game by the game Officials. The Player's name and jersey number will be recorded in the game notes section of the scoresheet, the Player can return to play at the team's next scheduled game providing an "expulsion" penalty has not been issued against the Player.*

### Coaches / Team Officials:

- A maximum of 4 League qualified Coaches are permitted in the "Coaches Walk" area of each team.
- Only Team Officials (i.e., manager, head coach and assistant coaches, players, scorekeeper and timekeeper) are permitted to be on the team bench side of the field during the game, all spectators (i.e., parents, relatives etc.) that are not Team Officials are to be located on the side of field opposite of the team benches.
- Officials may stop play at anytime and request that a spectator(s) move to the other side of the field, in such cases play will not resume until the Officials are satisfied that the request has been complied with.

## **Penalties:**

- Both Personnel and Technical Fouls are called at the U9 level
  - Personal Fouls are “time served” penalties
  - Technical Fouls can be “change of possession” or “time served” penalties depending upon the status of the ball
- All “time served” penalties assessed by the Officials, are to be recorded on the gamesheet by the Scorekeeper, indicating the offending player, jersey number and the time served.
- Officials can immediately expel a Player from the game for the following:
  - Verbal or physical abuse of another Player, Team Official or game Officials
  - Fighting
  - Actions deemed as a deliberate intent to injure another Player
- Officials can immediately expel a Team Official from the game for the following:
  - Verbal or physical abuse of a Player, Team Official, game Officials or spectator
  - Fighting
  - Any other actions deemed disruptive by the game Officials to gameplay
- Player Game Expulsion penalties require that the offending Player be immediately removed from game play and are permitted to sit on the bench under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Head Coach for the remainder of the game.
- Team Official Game Expulsion penalties require that the offending Team Official immediately leave the field area, in such circumstances play will not resume until the Officials are satisfied that this action has been complied with.
- Game Expulsion penalties require that the gamesheet Game Report check box be checked “Yes” and that the Officials, before signing the gamesheet, fill out in the game notes section a description of the incident and the Player(s) / Team Official(s) involved. A suspension of a Player or Team Official by the League may result when a “game expulsion” penalty had been assessed by the Officials.

## **Exception to 8 v 8 play:**

- **10 on 10 Player Game Allowance**
  - *A team must have a minimum of 13 Players (including the goalie) to play a 10 on 10 game. If one team has 12 or less Players, the game must be played as an 8 on 8 player game. Coaches cannot mutually decide to play a 10 on 10 Player game if one team has less than the minimum number of Players stated above. If a team that has more than the minimum required number of Players does not consent to 10 on 10 play, then the game will be played 8 on 8.*
  - *If both Head Coaches agree to a 10 on 10 Player game, they will inform the Officials who will do a physical head count of each Player bench to confirm that the minimum Player requirements have been met by both teams. The Officials will indicate on the gamesheet, under the “Game Notes” header “10 on 10 Player Game”, this will be considered confirmation of Player numbers.*
  - *All 10 on 10 Player games will be played on the U9 field dimensions. Coaches cannot mutually decide to change the field to a larger size.*

# PCFLL – U9 ‘Body Contact Rules’

Rev 5 2023/10/26

The following document describes the amount of contact permitted at the U9 age group level.

***Note that body contact at the U9 level is only permitted on the “Ball Carrier” and should primarily be incidental in nature. Contact among the players “Off the Ball Carrier”, within 9’ of the ball, should be incidental in nature only. Any body contact within this zone shall be reasonable with ball retrieval for themselves or a teammate being the primary intention, any contact deemed excessive (i.e., trying to lay a player out etc.) will be subject to a personal foul. There should be no contact between players outside the 9’ zone.***

***Note that the Head Coaches have responsibility to make sure their players are following the contact guidelines outlined, it is not only the responsibility of the game Officials.***

The following actions will be considered excessive and subject to at minimum an “Unnecessary Roughness” penalty:

- A player is not permitted to take a “run” at the ball carrier or any other player within 9’ of the ball (i.e., reasonable incidental body contact is permitted within this zone).
- A player cannot “run” at a ball recovery “scrum” with the intent of “wiping it out”.
- A player cannot deliberately hit another player with excessive force or intent to injure.

Players and Coaches of Teams which display a repetitive pattern of “excessive contact” behaviour may be subject to disciplinary action (i.e., suspensions etc.) by the PCFLL. ***A Player who accumulates more than 3 “Unnecessary Roughness” penalties will be removed from play for the remainder of the game by the game Officials. The Player’s name and jersey number will be recorded in the game notes section of the scoresheet, the Player can return to play at the team’s next scheduled game providing an “expulsion” penalty has not been issued against the Player. If the game Officials feel that the Player’s actions were a deliberate intent to injure another Player then an “expulsion” penalty will be assessed and the Player formally expelled from the game.***

Please note that while contact is permitted it should be reasonable and with the intention of trying to obtain the ball or getting an opposing player off the ball, these rules are in place to protect the players from any excessive contact which may result in injury. Coaches should remember that for many of these players it will be their first exposure to body contact, so in addition to instructing them on when and how to properly initiate body contact they should also instruct them on being prepared for body contact when they are the ball carrier or are within 9 feet of the ball. Coaches should ensure that their Players are wearing full and approved protective lacrosse equipment, the use of Lacrosse Kidney Pads is strongly recommended.

As U9 is a developmental age group for Coaches, Players and Officials, the contact rules shall be continually evaluated as the season progresses, feedback from Team Officials, Association Representatives, and game Officials would be greatly appreciated. If at any time the League feels this level of contact is too high for this age group, then a revised set of Contact Rules will be issued and come into effect immediately upon their issuance.

If a Head Coach feels that the defined level of contact per these rules is not being enforced on a consistent basis during a game, they may bring these concerns to the attention of the game Officials and / or the other team’s Head Coach during the game. However, any discussions with the game Officials or the other team’s Head Coach should be done in a respectful manner and at a time when the game Officials are not otherwise focussed on game play. At no time should a Team Official, Player or Spectator criticize the game Officials; the Officials at this level can be young and inexperienced and still learning how to apply the rules, all interaction with Officials should be handled with that in mind. Team Officials should let League representatives (i.e., U9 Commissioner, Association Head Official etc.) know if they believe that an Official may not be consistently interpreting the field lacrosse contact or game play rules for this age division properly, in this manner it can be properly addressed by the appropriate personnel. The League and most Associations have a Mentorship program in place for this purpose.