



USA LACROSSE

Instructor Notes





Instructor Notes

THE FACEOFF

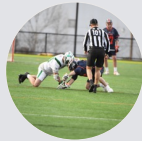
HOW CAN WE HELP OURSELVES AS OFFICIALS?



Define our expectations



It is all about communication



Quick but not fast



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THE FACEOFF

- One of the key and most controversial parts of any game
- YOU set the tone
- Don't underestimate the game effect of a well-done faceoff protocol



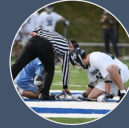
Instructor Notes

DEFINING EXPECTATIONS

PRE-GAME FACEOFF MEETING



You should meet with coaches and faceoff players prior to each game



At a minimum, spend a few minutes at the first faceoff with the players.



Class
Discussion
Questions



PRESENTATION TITLE HERE
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DEFINING EXPECTATIONS

- This is your chance to set the tone BEFORE the game starts
- Relationships with faceoff players should be a PARTNERSHIP

CLASS DISCUSSION

- As a class review what you would talk about with the coaches and face-off players prior to the game in a meeting, or at minimum prior to the game face-off



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PRE-GAME FACEOFF MEETING PROCEDURE

SOLVE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN

- Immediately after the captains have left
 - Invite all faceoff players to the center
 - Invite the coaches as well
 - Know your message
 - Answer questions
 - Check sticks if asked
- Pregame this with your crew

Class
Discussion
Questions



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PRE-GAME FACEOFF MEETING PROCEDURE

- Is this necessary?
- Do you do it always?
- What about late in the season. Does it still matter?



DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FACEOFF PLAYERS

- 1 Be ready for "Down" position
- 2 Stick heads: "Top to Stop"
- 3 Out of Neutral Zone
- 4 Parallel but not touching line
- 5 Hands touching ground & wrapped around stick
- 6 No leaning stick head
- 7 No body parts on the ground



DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FACEOFF PLAYERS

- Be ready when asked to assume the "Down" position
- Line the head of the sticks up from the "Top to Stop"
- Stay out of the neutral zone
- Sticks parallel to the line but not touching the line
- Hands on the ground
- Sticks cannot be leaning
- No body parts on the ground
- The motorcycle grip is no longer allowed
- Players must play the ball
- Hands off the plastic, no tape on the head of the stick
- Contrasting color on the shaft of the stick
- If there is a question regarding the faceoff, ask at the next faceoff. Get out there ASAP!

From these points, select the items you feel need to be addressed for your game



Instructor Notes

NO PREGAME MEETING

YOUTH & TOURNAMENT GAMES

Let's be honest, sometimes we can't have the pregame conference due to time. With youth and tournament games using running time, starting on the hour and ALWAYS behind schedule, we can't always follow all the steps...so what should we do?

- At the first faceoff, have a quick conversation defining your expectations on how you want to conduct the faceoff.
- What do you want from the players?
- What are the main points you want to address for the faceoff to be conducted smoothly.



NO PREGAME MEETING

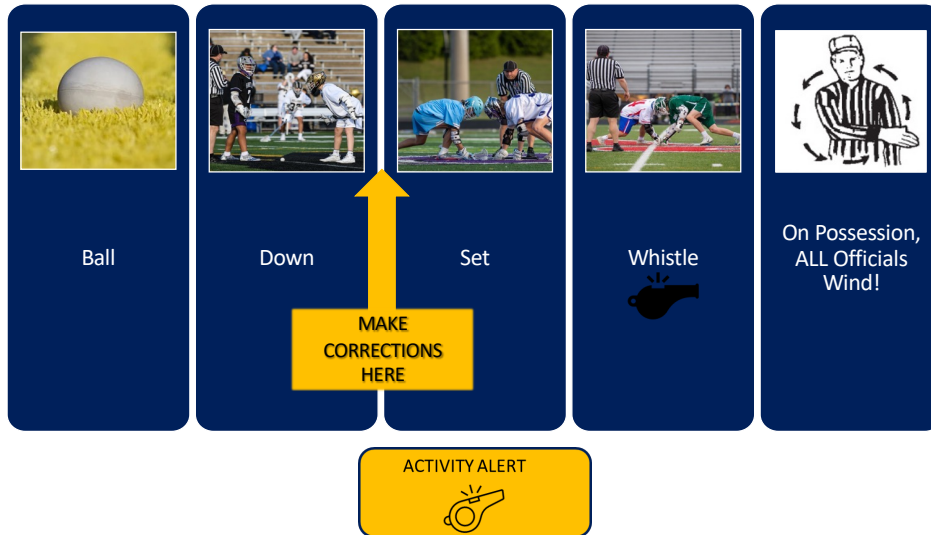
- Some situations just don't allow for a formal meeting
- You should still establish that protocol to minimize violations
- Have a short version
- Introduce yourself
- Consider shaking hands and building consensus for a clean faceoff game



Instructor Notes

CONDUCTING THE FACEOFF

CONSISTENCY IS KEY



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CONDUCT THE FACEOFF

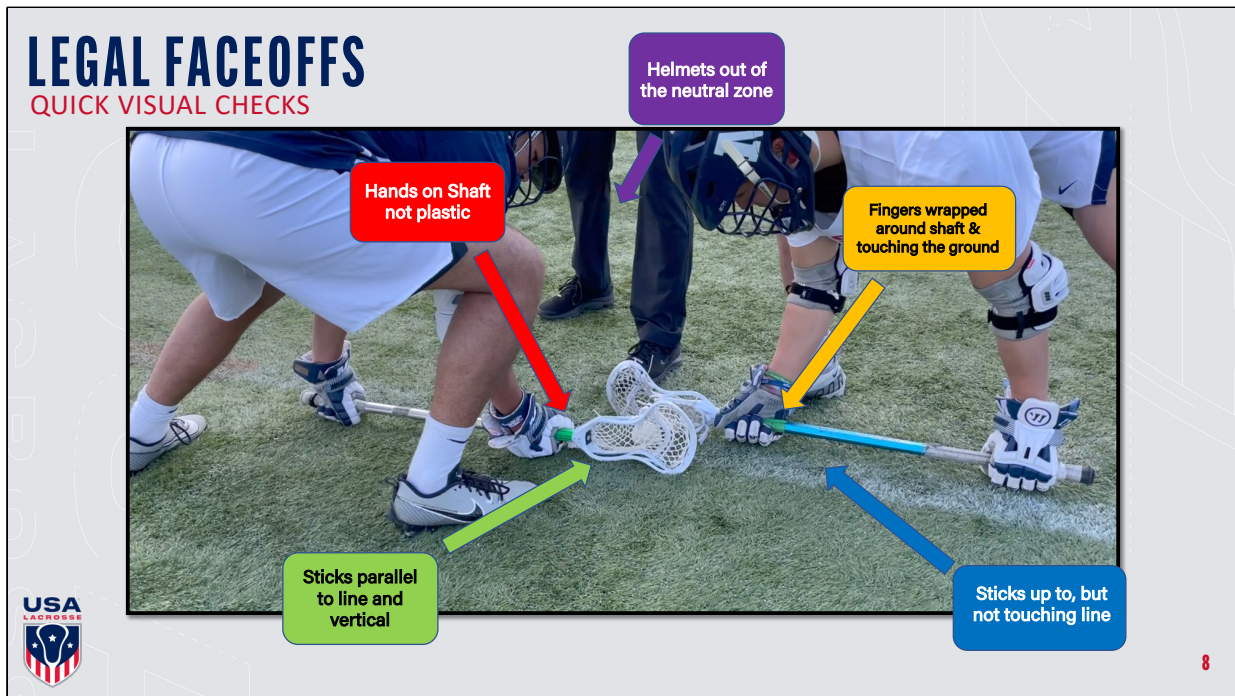
- Place the ball at the point of the faceoff first.
- Down
- May move players if needed
- Say "Set"
- Back away and whistle

It is legal to clamp the ball but must be moved, raked or directed immediately, within one step.

ACTIVITY: have participants work in teams and set up face offs, have each team self-assess their teammates



Instructor Notes



LEGAL FACEOFFS – VISUAL CHECK

- Hands around shaft, not touching the plastic
- All fingers touching the ground
- Hands off the head of the stick
- Stick parallel to the centerline
- Heads of the stick vertical
- No tape on head of stick
- Sticks up to but not touching the line

Note: The ball is placed down first which indicates the faceoff position.

Note: Motorcycle grip is no longer allowed. The hand closer to the head of the stick must be in a palm up position. Contrasting color on the shaft of the stick (via tape or a shaft color. The head and a bare shaft cannot be the same color)



Instructor Notes

CONDUCTING THE FACEOFF

2 Person View Faceoff Official



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CONDUCT THE FACEOFF

- Place the ball at the point of the faceoff first.
- Down
- May move players if needed
- Say "Set"
- Back away
- Whistle

It is legal to clamp the ball but must be moved, raked or directed immediately, within one step.

ACTIVITY: have participants work in teams and set up face offs, have each team self-assess their teammates



Instructor Notes

CONDUCTING THE FACEOFF

2 Person View Faceoff Official



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CONDUCT THE FACEOFF

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- Down
- May move players if needed
- Say "Set"
- Back away and whistle

It is legal to clamp the ball but must be moved, raked or directed immediately, within one step.

This is how long faceoff should take



CONDUCTING THE FACEOFF

3 Person Single Side View



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CONDUCT THE FACEOFF

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CONDUCTING THE FACEOFF

3 Person Lead Left View



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CONDUCT THE FACEOFF

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Instructor Notes

WING PLAYERS

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THEM

- Wing players can only check the faceoff players stick until the faceoff has ended
- If a wing player body checks his opponent while on the ground or while crouched for a face off it's an Illegal Body Check.



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WING PLAYERS

- Don't sleep on these players
- Lots of cheap shots can happen here
- Sometimes a challenge to watch, especially 2-man
- Preventative officiating can solve problems

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- When does the faceoff end?

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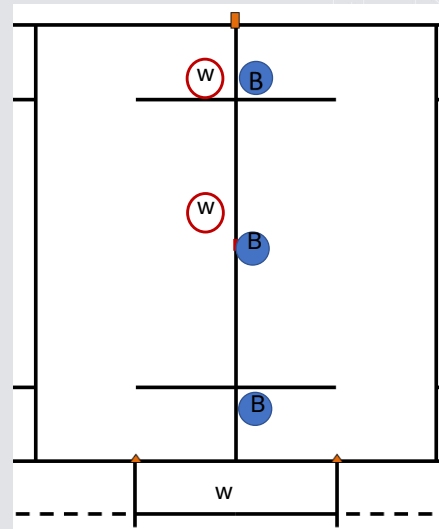
PLAYERS IN PENALTY AREA DURING A FACEOFF

KNOW THE PROTOCOLS FOR RELEASE

- A wing must be left open
- If penalty time has expired and possession has been signaled on the faceoff, player in the box is released.
- If penalty time has expired but no possession has been signaled, the player must remain in the box until the official's signal possession



Class Discussion Questions



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PLAYERS IN PENALTY AREA DURING A FACEOFF

- Make sure EVERYONE know the situation before the faceoff
 - Partners
 - Table staff
 - Coaches

CLASS DISCUSSION

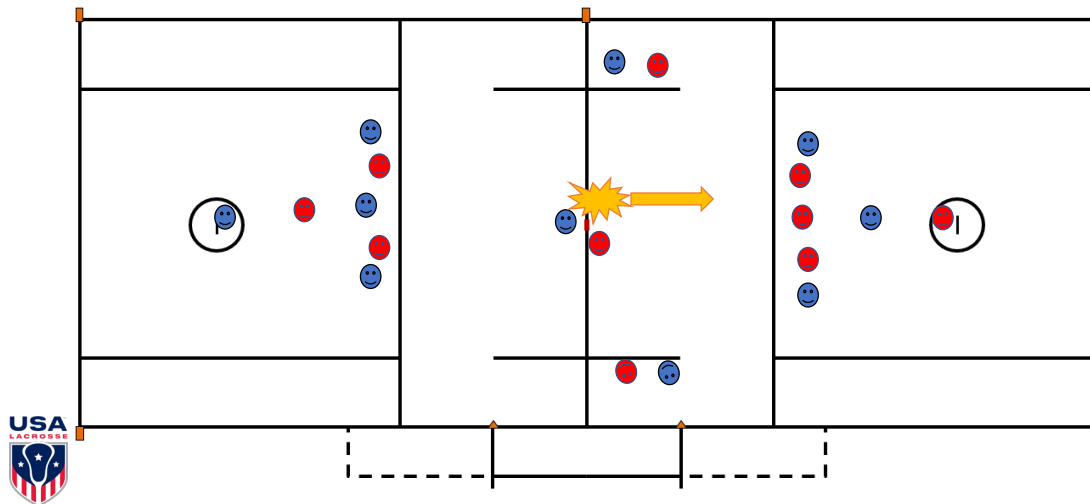
- If the player comes out before possession, what violation is called?
 - How is it adjudicated?
- Does the near wing have to be left open for release?



Instructor Notes

LOOSE BALL, TECHNICAL FOUL DURING A FACEOFF

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE PLAYERS BEHIND THE RESTRAINING LINES?



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LOOSE BALL TECHNICAL FOUL DURING A FACEOFF

- Play will be restarted with the players who were behind the restraining line remaining behind lines.
- Do you hold up play to put them back?
- Do the offensive players have to wait to come out of the box until the whistle?



Instructor Notes

WHEN DO WE SIMPLY START OVER?

WE DON'T ALWAYS GET A CLEAN FACEOFF



Ball goes out of bounds in midfield and officials don't know who last touched the ball



An inadvertent whistle before the ball crosses the restraining line



An injury occurs in the midfield area



Simultaneous fouls of equal duration occur while the ball is loose



Official calls timeout before a team gains possession



If a player loses mandatory equipment while ball is loose and has not crossed restraining line.



WHEN DO WE SIMPLY START OVER?

- Sometimes, too many things happen and we need to start over
- The goal is to make it fair
- Do we put time back on the clock? (No)
- Do we allow subs?



Instructor Notes

FACEOFF AFTER GOALS

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN DONE CORRECTLY

- When a goal is scored and the ball has been retrieved, HUSTLE to the faceoff spot
- Write down the scores and such prior to the faceoff near midfield

Class
Discussion
Questions



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FACEOFF AFTER GOALS

- Video example of a faceoff after a goal
- The faceoff was conducted within 30s of the goal being scored

CLASS DISCUSSION

- What other good habit did you notice from this crew?
- Anything you would do differently?



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Instructor Notes

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
2025 MENS OFFICIAL'S EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT TEAM

TAKE CARE OF YOUR CREW



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