



2026 GWLL Gameplay Discipline Rules

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.

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Disciplinary Guidelines

Procedure

- 1.1. A three-member Discipline Committee led by the Official in Charge will rule upon any activity requiring disciplinary action during the season. Each Member Club will submit one member in good standing as a representative to be called upon during the season to serve on this committee. This representative may not rule on any activity involving their own Member Club. This representative must have at least one (1) year of experience as a player, coach, official or board member in Box Lacrosse.
- 1.2. Each incident will be investigated and ruled on its own merits, and no single incident can be construed to set a precedent or affect any other incident.
- 1.3. The committee will not limit its jurisdictions to incidents occurring on the playing area but will be concerned with the conduct and activities of all personnel involved in any aspect, or any location of any function related to the WBLC games.
- 1.4. The Discipline Committee can convene a discipline hearing upon its own initiative or may convene a discipline hearing upon receipt of a written complaint from any third party including but not limited to a referee, an official of a Member Club (Coach or Club Rep), or an owner operator of a facility used by the WBLC.
- 1.5. Upon receipt of a written complaint or report from a third party, the Official in Charge shall determine if the Discipline Committee will be convened. If a Discipline Committee is to be convened, then the Official in Charge shall notify the clubs involved in the incident and call upon the necessary members to convene. In the case where there is a conflict of interest for the Official in Charge, they shall appoint another capable official to act in their stead.
- 1.6. The discipline hearing must take place as quickly as possible but within a maximum of seven (7) days of the incident. At the discretion of the Discipline Committee, a response may be requested from the affected party/parties. Upon receipt of this request, the affected party/parties have

forty-eight (48) hours to respond, or the Discipline Committee may commence the hearing without such response.

- 1.7. The discipline hearing may occur in person, virtually or by email as decided by the Official in Charge.
- 1.8. For accumulated penalty minutes suspensions, Team Staff from the team of the player suspended will be notified via the RAMP Suspension System.
- 1.9. For automatic suspensions, the Official in Charge will communicate to the WBLC Commissioner and Club President involved in the incident: Name of individual, Team, World Lacrosse or Lacrosse Canada Rule Number or Name and which games the suspension applies for. The Club President is responsible for notifying Team Staff.
- 1.10. For Discipline Committee suspensions, the Official in Charge will communicate to the WBLC Commissioner and Club President involved in the incident: Name of individual, Team, World Lacrosse or Lacrosse Canada Rule Number or Name, which games the suspension applies for, Officials Report, any video evidence utilized, and a summary of the reasoning. The Club President is responsible for notifying Team Staff.
- 1.11. A database of current season suspensions shall be maintained and accessible to the WBLC executive.

Video Review

At the discretion of the Official in Charge, video review may be permitted for the hearing or committee referral only. All calls made on the floor will stand as called by the game officials. Video will not be used for missed calls. Video may be used to determine disciplinary action by the committee.

Video will only be considered if the following conditions are met:

- 2.1. The video has not been posted publicly on any form of digital media, social media, webpages or set for group review.
- 2.2. The video shows half of the floor where the incident happened (i.e. end boards to center dot).

- 2.3. The video shows a minimum fifteen (15) seconds of floor activity prior to the incident and runs in entirety until the incident is resolved.
- 2.4. Off floor incidents may not need to meet II. and III. if they do not involve players on the playing surface when the incident happens.
- 2.5. Video must be presented to the Official in Charge by the Head Coach only, within seven (7) days of the incident. The Official in Charge will then have forty-eight (48) hours to review the video to deem if it meets the criteria. The recorder of the video must be identified upon submission.
- 2.6. The video will not be shared as per I. after the review. If this happens the Head Coach will be referred to discipline.
- 2.7. If discovered by the committee additional disciplinary actions may be imposed to those involved in the incident.
- 2.8. The Discipline Committee reserves the right to collect video at their own behest within seven (7) days of the incident.

Appeals

- 3.1. The WBLC Commissioner must receive appeals to suspensions in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of the initial decision. The appeal must be submitted by the Club President or Head Coach of the team affected.
- 3.2. Any suspension received that follows the minimum guidelines may not be appealed.
- 3.3. Suspensions must be “stand-alone” of a minimum of five (5) games for it to be subject to an appeal. For further clarity, a 4-game suspension given in the last 10 minutes of a game, any time in overtime, or at the conclusion of a game prior to the team entering its dressing room, which automatically comes with an additional game suspension, is not appealable.
- 3.4. An appeal does not operate as a stay of the decision or ruling appealed from, unless the WBLC Commissioner so directs.
- 3.5. The Notice of Appeal shall contain at a minimum the following:

- A. A statement of the decision which is being appealed, including a copy of the written decision, if any.
 - B. Concise statements of the grounds for appeal in numbered paragraphs.
 - C. Concise statements of the facts, in numbered paragraphs, alleged by the Applicant.
 - D. A summary of the evidence which the Appellant intends to produce at the Appeal Hearing.
 - E. Included should be the Appellants desired outcome for the appeal.
 - F. A fee of \$250.00 must accompany the notice of appeal.
- 3.6. The WBLC Commissioner will be the single member to hear the appeal. However, at the discretion of the WBLC Commissioner, an appeal panel composed of three members may be appointed to hear the appeal. In this event, the WBLC Commissioner will appoint one of the panel's members to serve as the chair. These members may not be from the clubs involved in the incident or have been on the Discipline Committee that's decision is being appealed and must follow the requirements set out in 1.1.
- 3.7. The appeal hearing must be held within seven (7) days of receiving the appeal providing all procedures outlined in 3.5 are followed correctly.
- 3.8. The appeal panel shall issue its decision, in writing and with reasons, within seven (7) days after the hearing's conclusion. In making its decision, the appeal panel will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The appeal panel may decide to:
- A. Reject the appeal and confirm the decision being appealed
 - B. Uphold the appeal
 - C. Vary the decision of the Discipline Committee
- 3.9. The decision of the appeal shall be final, and no further appeals will be considered.
- 3.10. The decision of the appeal will be communicated to the Club Presidents involved in the incident and the Official in Charge.
- 3.11. If the decision remains intact, the deposit may be forfeited as determined by the Appeals Committee.

Guidelines (Regular Season, Playoffs and Tournaments)

- 4.1. **Match Penalty or Gross Misconduct** - Players receiving a match penalty or gross misconduct will be suspended for two (2) games. They may return to play if not notified further, however they may be suspended for additional games after the WBLC Discipline Committee reviews the incident and rules on the infraction.
- 4.2. **Bench Clearing** - Players or Team Officials leaving the benches during a fight will result in the Head Coach and other team officials being immediately suspended until the incident has been reviewed and is ruled on by the Discipline Committee.
- 4.3. **Use of Suspended Players or Non-Registered Players** - Use of suspended players or non-registered players will result in forfeiture of the game. The Head Coach and/all listed non-playing personnel on the official game sheet, will be suspended until the incident is reviewed and ruled on by the Discipline Committee.
- 4.4. **Reports** - The Discipline Committee may review Official Game Reports or Coach's Reports, and further suspensions may result from the review.
- 4.5. **Recommended Guidelines for Suspensions** - In addition to this document, the World Lacrosse Box Lacrosse Official Playing Rules will be referred to in addressing all players, fans and non-playing personnel infractions.
- 4.6. **Tournament Play** - If the penalty resulting in the automatic suspension is incurred in a tournament, then the individual shall be suspended from participating in the applicable number of remaining tournament games and those games shall count toward the automatic suspension. The Tournament suspension if not fully served shall carry forward into regular season and/or league playoff games only. The WBLC may investigate WBLC sanctioned tournament incidents and if the OIC agrees with the suspension then the suspension will be utilized towards the automatic minimums.
- 4.7. The WBLC will uphold discipline actions as per the MLA for actions taking place outside of the WBLC. The WBLC will not impose additional disciplinary actions upon return.
- 4.8. **Minimum Suspensions** - The Discipline Committee may not lower the number of games suspended below the minimum guidelines set forth in this document.

Suspended (Player or Team Official)

- 5.1. While a Player or Team Official is serving their suspension, they may not participate in games with that same team in any capacity.
- 5.2. Unless specified otherwise, suspensions resulting from violation of WL/LC/GWLL playing rules, would only suspend the Player or Team Official from participating in the game of lacrosse in the capacity at which he/she received their suspension.
- 5.3. Suspensions may only be served in regular scheduled league games and league playoff games. Suspensions cannot be served in exhibition games or tournaments, and suspended Players or Team Officials cannot participate in exhibition games.
- 5.4. Suspensions for violations of the WL/LC/GWLL rules and regulations must be served in the next game or games the Player or Team Official participates in.
- 5.5. All suspensions not served during the current playing year will be carried over until the next playing season.
- 5.6. A suspended Player or Team Official may only serve their suspension during games played by the team the Player or Team Official received the suspension for; however, a Player or Team Official is suspended from all bench activities until such suspension is served. (i.e. May not play or coach on another team.)
- 5.7. A Player who is suspended shall not be permitted in the arena where his/her team is playing one (1) hour prior, one (1) hour after and for the duration of the game.
- 5.8. A Team Official who is suspended shall not be permitted in the arena where his/her team is playing one (1) hour prior, one (1) hour after and for the duration of the game. If the suspended individual is in attendance without permission, the game points will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- 5.9. Any incident involving an ejected and/or suspended individual will result in immediate indefinite suspension until the appropriate governing body deals with the matter.

Further Rules and Clarifications

- 6.1. The game in which a penalty is assessed shall not be counted within the length of the suspension.
- 6.2. Any Player or Team Official who is ejected from a game must immediately leave the venue or go to the dressing room for the remainder of the game and may only exit to leave the facility. Failure to do so may result in further discipline.
- 6.3. The following are minimum suspensions. Additional suspensions will be imposed wherever conditions and circumstances warrant.

Minimum Suspensions

The following minimum suspensions are to be applied in all Box Lacrosse games sanctioned by GWLL and will be tracked and accumulated on a yearly basis.

The included penalties are automatic suspensions. “Automatic” means that the coaches must sit the player for the automatic suspension or until they are notified of further suspension from the Discipline Committee. Notification is not required.

1) Gross Misconduct Penalties

- a) All Gross Misconduct penalties assessed to a player or team official will be subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee and will be referred to Manitoba Lacrosse for further discipline.
 - i) First Gross Misconduct – Two (2) games.
 - ii) Second Gross Misconduct – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

2) Match Penalties

- a) All Match penalties assessed to a player or team official will be subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee. *These exclude Match for Abusing Officials.*
 - i) First Match penalty – Two (2) games.
 - ii) Second Match penalty – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

3) Major Penalties

- a) Two Majors in one game.
 - i) First Offence – One (1) game.
 - ii) Second Offence – Three (3) games.
 - iii) Third Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

4) Game Misconducts

- a) Any Game Misconduct (does not apply to Game Misconducts assessed under 8.18).
 - i) One (1) game.
- b) Third Game Misconduct in a Season.
 - i) Two (2) games.
- c) Multiple Game Misconducts in one game (does not apply to Game Misconducts assessed under 8.18).
 - i) Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the WBLC Discipline Committee

5) Fighting

- a) Fighting Majors
 - i) First Fighting Major – One (1) game.
 - ii) Second Fighting Major – Two (2) games.
 - iii) Third Fighting Major – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- b) Instigator
 - i) First Instigator – One (1) game.
 - ii) Second Instigator – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- c) Aggressor
 - i) First Aggressor – One (1) game.
 - ii) Second Aggressor – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

6) Third Man In

- i) Third Person in an Altercation – One (1) game.

7) Leaving Players Bench or Penalty Bench:

- a) First or second to leave the players' bench during an altercation.
 - i) First Offence – Two (2) games.
 - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- b) First or second to leave the penalty box during an altercation.
 - i) First Offence – Three (3) games.
 - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- c) Coach of a team whose player is penalized under 7 (a or b).
 - i) First Offence – Two (2) games.
 - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- d) Coach whose player leaves but is not identified as the first or second to leave the players' or penalty bench during an altercation.
 - i) First Offence – One (1) game.
 - ii) Second Offence - Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

8) Accumulated Penalty Minutes

- a) Any player /goalkeeper who receives eighty (80) cumulative penalty minutes in one (1) Regular Season
 - i) Two (2) games.
- b) Any player/goalkeeper who receives one hundred and twenty (120) cumulative penalty minutes in one (1) Regular Season.
 - i) Three (3) games and is subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee.
- c) Any player/goalkeeper who receives forty-five (45) penalty minutes in Playoff play.
 - i) One (1) game.
- d) Any player/goalkeeper who receives sixty (60) penalty minutes in Playoff play.
 - i) Two (2) games.
- e) Any player/goalkeeper who receives seventy-five (75) penalty minutes in Playoff play.
 - i) Three (3) games.

9) Misconduct

- a) Game Misconduct for Unsportsmanlike Conduct: (Assessed under Rule 8.41). (Not involving abuse of an official. i.e., unsportsmanlike conduct between players, or between coaches).
 - i) First Offence – One (1) game.
 - ii) Second Offence – Two (2) games.
 - iii) Third Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.

10) Abuse of an Official (Physical or Verbal Gross Misconduct Penalty – Rule 8.33)

- a) *An official is defined as a referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, or any other designated officials.*
- b) Any player or team official found to have physically or verbally threatened a Referee or other Game Official (Assault of an Official) shall be suspended indefinitely until a hearing by Manitoba Lacrosse as well as the WBLC Discipline Committee suspension of:
 - i) 1st Offence – One Year (12 months) for the date of infraction.
 - ii) 2nd Offence – Three Years (36 Months) from the date of infraction.
 - iii) 3rd Offence – Lifetime ban.
- c) NOTE. These offences do not reset yearly and will carry forward indefinitely.

**11) Obscene/Profane Language/Gestures or Unsportsmanlike Conduct directed at Officials
(Rules 8.40 and 8.41)**

- a) *An official is defined as a referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, or any other designated officials.*
- b) All penalties assessed to a player or team official under these rules will be subject to a hearing with the WBLC Discipline Committee and will be referred to Manitoba Lacrosse for further discipline.
- c) Game Misconduct assessed for violation of 8.40 or 8.41 by a player or coach:
 - i) 1st Offence – Two (2) games.
 - ii) 2nd Offence – Five (5) games.
 - iii) 3rd Offence – Suspended indefinitely until hearing by the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee.
- d) Game Misconduct assessed for violation of 8.40 or 8.41 by non-playing personnel:
 - i) 1st Offence – Immediate indefinite suspension, referral to the Manitoba Lacrosse Discipline Committee. As a minimum, this person will not be allowed back on the bench until they successfully complete the appropriate coaching level.