

Official Guideline on Carding Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Purpose

To provide a general guideline for officials to help determine cardable unsportsmanlike conduct from players, coaches, and spectators to prevent extraordinary situations and to provide a safe playing experience for all.

U.S. Lacrosse's definition of misconduct according to 2016 rules, Rule 6, Section 8, pages 50-51:

Misconduct

Section 8. The following are misconduct fouls and must be carded:

- a. Excessively rough, dangerous, or unsportsmanlike play.
- b. Persistent or flagrant violation of the rules.
- c. Deliberately endangering the safety of an opposing player.
- d. Baiting or taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others.
- e. Excessive dissent or abusive language.
- f. Non-playing team member leaving their team bench area during the game.
- g. Coach leaving her coaching area.
- h. Any type of behavior which in the official's opinion amounts to misconduct.
- i. Illegal reentry of a suspended or ejected player.

Guidelines for Verbal Misconduct Consideration:

- Derogatory remarks intended to bully, make fun, or demean any player, coach, or official participating in the game. This includes staff coaching to their own players or fans to any player on the field.
- Attempts to sway the official's judgement in any situation including continuous pushback on officials' calls from any participating member of the game resulting in the officials' ability to focus on areas of need.
- Using foul or unsportsmanlike language including encouraging violence.
- Distracting or derogatory cheers and noise makers in the stands or in the team bench area.

Guidelines for Physical Misconduct Consideration:

- Any physical advancements or attempts to harm any participating member such as punching, tripping, and pushing.
- Any unnecessary roughness during play while attempting to check or box out an opponent.

Guidelines for Appropriate Verbal Situations:

- Questions from bench area or players on the field regarding a call or relaying calls made across field. If the official has the opportunity to quickly address questions they may do so. If unable to address questions, a coach must call a timeout or address at next break in the game.

- Coaching or encouraging teammates loudly in order for players to hear them across field.

Guidelines for misconduct situations

Note: An official has the ability to elevate to a yellow or red card on the first offense if the official so chooses.

#1: **Verbal** derogatory comments by coaches, players, or fans towards player on the field regardless of opposing or not.

- First offense by fans: verbal warning to administrator. Call an official timeout to discuss with administrator and official partners. Allow the administrator to address with fans and continue the game. U.S. Lacrosse specifically states in the rule book to allow the head coach an opportunity to fix this situation.
- First offense by players or coaching staff: no verbal warning given; call an official timeout and follow procedures for **yellow** carding the specific player or head coach.
- **Second offense by fans: call official timeout. Yellow card the head coach of the offending team or if not determinable card the home team for misconduct. Follow carding procedures.**
- **Third offense by fans, player on the field, and/or coaching staff/bench area: yellow or red card the head coach of the offending team or if not determinable card the home team for misconduct. Follow carding procedures.**
- **Fourth offense by fans, player on the field, and/or coaching staff/bench area: red card.**

#2: **Physical** advancements by coaches, players, or fans towards player on the field regardless of opposing or not or official.

- No verbal warning given. Call a timeout and red card the offending player or if fan, coaching staff member, or bench area red card the head coach of the offending team. If unable to determine the team, the card will go to the home team head coach. Follow carding procedures.

#3: **Verbal** derogatory comments by coaching staff, players, or fans towards an official.
Examples: "Call it both ways ref", "Are you blind?", "You suck ref!", etc.

- First offense
 - o Call an official timeout and address with field administrator if a fan issue.
 - o Verbally warn the player on the field or team bench area in passing. Communicate warning to official team.
- Second offense
 - o Call an official timeout and yellow card the head coach if a fan or team bench area. If offending team cannot be determined, card the home team head coach and follow carding procedures.
- Third offense

- Call an official timeout and yellow or red card the head coach if a fan or team bench area. If offending team cannot be determined, card the home team head coach and follow carding procedures.
 - Red card if the situation is in the official's view escalating from previous situation.
- Fourth offense
 - Call an official timeout and red card the head coach if a fan or team bench area. If offending team cannot be determined, card the home team head coach and follow carding procedures.