

# US LACROSSE MENS DIVISION POST COLLEGIATE CLUB COUNCIL

TO: Officials assigned to MDPCCC Games  
FROM: MDPCCC Rules Committee  
SUBJECT: Uniform mechanics when stalling occurs

The MDPCCC uses NCAA rules with modifications. The 20 second count to clear the ball and the 10 second count to get the ball into the attack goal area, the “box”, are not used. The NCAA rules that the MDPCCC uses with respect to stalling are in Rule 6, Section 11.

The first paragraph of Rule 6 states “It shall be the initial responsibility of the team in possession of the ball to move the ball into its offensive half of the field.”. This means that a clearing team is not permitted to pass the ball back and forth and not attempting to clear the ball while the riding team is **not** playing them closely. In addition, once the ball has been cleared to the offensive half of the field and the ball is **not** being closely played, there is no reason to pass the ball back to the defensive half of the field.

On page 79 of the NCAA Rule Book there is a “Note” under A.R. 47 that states “Officials should be alert to and call stall warnings early in the game if a team is not creating a scoring opportunity.”. This means that once the ball is in the offensive half of the field the team in possession must be trying to attack the goal.

In the absence of the 20 and 10 second counts, our present rules (see the excerpt below from our 2009 Rules Modifications) have two sections dealing with stalling. We have used these for a number of years.

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## US LACROSSE MEN’S DIVISION POST-COLLEGIATE CLUB COUNCIL RECOMMENDED RULES OF PLAY FOR 2009

### RULE 4

**ADVANCING THE BALL(13 & 14):** These rules are not used. But, if a team is not making an attempt to advance the ball out of their defensive half of the field, or into their attack area, they shall be warned to “**clear the ball**” if clearing or “**get it in**” if they have the ball over the center line. Once the ball is in the attack goal area after the “**get it in**” warning, it must stay in as per Section 11 of Rule 6. A team with fewer players than its opponent or being closely played by the defense shall not receive a stall warning.

### RULE 6

**STALLING(11):** If a team is not making any effort to advance the ball out of their defensive half of the field, they shall be warned to “**clear the ball**”, and if the ball is in their offensive half of the field and they not making any attempt to bring the ball in to their attack area they shall be warned to “**get it in**”. Once the ball is in the attack goal area after the “**get it in warning**”, it must stay in as per Section 11 of Rule 6.

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What is lacking are mechanics for the officials to enforce these rules in a **consistent** manner throughout the country. We need something to deal with teams not making any attempt to attack the goal, playing a wide four corners offense without bringing the ball in the attack goal area or using that tactic once the ball is in the attack goal area, not making a realistic attempt to clear the ball, or once the ball is cleared they throw it back to the defensive half of the field even though they are not being closely played.

Within the context of our POCO rules and the NCAA rules we use, the following are the mechanics to deal with stalling.

## STALLING MECHANICS

### General Statements:

1. Except for the last two minutes of the fourth quarter, a team cannot be given a stall warning if they have fewer players on the field than their opponent.
2. Not moving the ball while awaiting substitutions shall not be considered to be stalling, unless it exceeds 20 seconds.

### Section 1 -Defensive Stalling:

It shall be the responsibility of the clearing team to clear the ball. If they are not being closely played and are not making an attempt to clear the ball, this is defensive stalling. This is not meant to discourage a clear that is deliberate, but to stop the clearing team from continually passing the ball backward when they are not being closely played. When defensive stalling is obvious the official nearest the player in possession of the ball shall give a verbal warning of “clear the ball”.

The defensive team must immediately attempt to clear the ball or move it to within 5 yards of the opposing team. If they do not do so, a stalling violation shall be called and the ball shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### Section 2 - Offensive Stalling:

A team in possession of the ball in the offensive half of the field but not in its attack goal area shall be given the stall warning “get it in and keep it in” when it is **obvious** that they are keeping the ball from play and not making any attempt to attack the goal.

When a team has the ball outside its attack goal area and is warned to “get it in and keep it in”, the official nearest the player in possession of the ball will give that player a visual 10 second count.

If at the end of the count and the ball is not being closely played by the defense and the team has not brought the ball into its attack goal area, a stalling violation shall be called and the ball shall be awarded to the opposing team.

After the warning is given and the ball is brought into the attack goal area it must be kept in as per NCAA rules when a team is warned to “keep it in”.

With the ball already in the attack goal area a team that is given a “keep it in” warning must keep it in as per NCAA rules.

**NOTE: If a team has cleared the ball into their offensive half of the field and then without being played closely by the defense, passes or carries the ball back to their defensive half of the field they shall be immediately warned to “Clear the ball” as per the Defensive Stalling mechanic in Section 1.**

**In this situation, once the ball in possession is back in the offensive half of the field, the offensive team shall be given a verbal warning of “get it in and keep it in”. After which the “Offensive Stalling” mechanics in Section 2 shall apply.**