

2026-2027

Field Directorate Disciplinary Rules

The included penalties are automatic suspensions.

“Automatic” means that:

1. **If a player receives a penalty that carries an automatic suspension**, the coach is to sit the player even if they have not been notified by the Commissioner of the suspension prior to their next game.

2. **If a coach receives a penalty that carries an automatic suspension**, the coach is not to continue coaching in any game, even if they have not been notified by the Commissioner of the suspension prior to their next game.

Revised September 2025

FIELD DIRECTORATE OPERATING POLICY REGULATION 12: SUSPENSIONS

12.09 (a) A suspended player may only serve the suspension during games played by the team the player is officially registered with.

(b) **While under suspension, a suspended player cannot be on the players’ side of the field prior to or during the player’s team’s game(s).** The suspended player can watch the game, with the spectators, from the opposite side of the player’s bench.

12.10 (a) A suspended coach may only serve the suspension during games played by the team the coach received the suspension for; however, a coach is suspended from all BCLA Field Lacrosse related activities until such suspension is served.

(b) **While under suspension, a suspended coach cannot be at the game venue prior to or during coach’s team’s game(s).**

BRITISH COLUMBIA LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
FIELD DIRECTORATE DISCIPLINARY RULES
THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES ARE AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS:

1. EXPULSION PENALTY – DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO INJURE

- To deal with personal fouls (physical) that are excessive and beyond normal play.
- May include but is not limited to butt-ending, face masking, fighting, spearing or kicking.

RULE REFERENCE

78.1 The act of deliberately striking or attempting to strike an opponent, a nonplaying member of the opponents' squad, a Coach, a spectator, or anyone controlling the play of the game with the hand, stick, ball or otherwise by a Player, a substitute, a non-playing member of a squad, a Coach or anyone officially connected with a Team may be an expulsion foul.

SUSPENSIONS

1st Offence: three (3) games

2nd Offence: Five (5) games and a Hearing by local Field League

3rd Offence (and all subsequent offences): Five (5) games and an additional hearing by local Field League

2. EXPULSION PENALTY – ENTERING THE FIELD AFTER THE BENCHES HAVE BEEN FROZEN

- To deal with team personnel entering the field after being told by the officials to remain in the bench area

RULE REFERENCE

78.2 Where the Officials have "frozen" the benches, because a fight has occurred on the field of play, or for any other reason, by indicating to the Team personnel who are on the benches that they should remain there, then any Team personnel pushing past an Official to join in a fight, or leaving their designated bench area, **MUST** be expelled from the game. An exception to this shall be a member of a Team's medical staff who leaves their Team's designated bench area to attend to an injured member of their squad.

SUSPENSIONS

1st Offence: three (3) games

2nd Offence: Five (5) games and a Hearing by local Field League

3rd Offence (and all subsequent offences): Five (5) games and an additional hearing by local Field League

3. EXPULSION PENALTY – THIRD PARTICIPANT ENTERING AN ALTERCATION

- To deal with players who join a fight in progress as a third participant

RULE REFERENCE

78.3 Where two Players from competing Teams are fighting and a third participant enters the altercation, then the third participant into the altercation may be expelled from the game.

SUSPENSIONS

1st Offence: one (1) to three (3) games

2nd Offence: Five (5) games and a Hearing by local Field League

3rd Offence (and all subsequent offences): Five (5) games and an additional hearing by local Field League

4. EXPULSION PENALTY - ABUSE BY LANGUAGE OR GESTURE

- To deal with behavior and actions that are non-physical
- May include but not limited to verbal abuse, racial or sexual statements to a player, coach, any person officially associated with a team, or a fan.

RULE REFERENCE

78.4 Refusal to accept the authority of the Officials, or the use of threatening, foul or abusive language or gestures, or flagrant misconduct may be an expulsion foul.

SUSPENSIONS

1st Offence: two (2) to five (5) games

2nd Offence: Five (5) games and a Hearing by local Field League

3rd Offence (and all subsequent offences): Five (5) games and an additional hearing by local Field League

5. EXPULSION PENALTY - DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO INJURE or ABUSE BY LANGUAGE OR GESTURE:

ABUSE OF OFFICIAL

- To deal with any inappropriate behavior, verbal or physical, towards any official
- An official is defined as a referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, or any other designated officials.

RULE REFERENCE

78.4 Refusal to accept the authority of the Officials, or the use of threatening, foul or abusive language or gestures, or flagrant misconduct may be an expulsion foul.

SUSPENSIONS

1st Offence: three (3) to five (5) games to forfeit of eligibility in the BCLA Field Directorate

2nd Offence: Five (5) games and a hearing by local Field League

3rd Offence (and all subsequent offences): Five (5) games and an additional hearing by local Field League

6. EXPULSION PENALTY - DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO INJURE or ABUSE BY LANGUAGE OR GESTURE:

ABUSE OF OFFICIAL BY PARENTS

- To deal with any inappropriate behavior, verbal or physical, towards any official
- An official is defined as a referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper, or any other designated officials.

RULE REFERENCE

78.4 Refusal to accept the authority of the Officials, or the use of threatening, foul or abusive language or gestures, or flagrant misconduct may be an expulsion foul.

22.2 It shall be the Head Coach's duty on, the request of an Official, effectively to control any actions of spectators, which are not in conformity with good sportsmanship

SUSPENSIONS: Parents

1st Offence: Not being in attendance for three (3) games

2nd Offence: Not being in attendance for five (5)

3rd Offence: Not attending games for one (1) year from date of infraction.

SUSPENSIONS: Head Coach

In addition, the following suspensions will be assessed to the head coach connected with the offending parents. The accumulation of offenses does not have to be with the same parent.

1st Offence: A letter of warning and an offer of support from the league/commissioner to help deal with future incidents.

2nd Offence: two (2) games suspension and \$100 fine to the Club

3rd Offence: five (5) games suspension and a \$250 fine to the Club

7. BANISHMENT

- To deal with any team personnel who continues to behave in an unsportsmanlike manner after having been assessed an Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty
- Where a referee ejects a player(s), coach(s), or team personnel from the field for that game where they feel that the individual and not the team should be punished.
- Banishments are to be noted on the game sheet.

RULE REFERENCE

75.2 Where an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty has been inflicted, and the penalized person continues to act in an unsportsmanlike manner, the Officials have the right to banish them from the bench area.

SUSPENSIONS

Any player, coach, or team personnel(s) who accumulates banishments in one season will be assessed as follows:

2nd Banishment in one season: one (1) game suspension.

3rd Banishment in same season: three (3) game suspension

4th Banishment in same season: Five (5) games and a hearing by local Field League

8. DEFAULT OF GAMES

Immediate referral to local Field League for hearing.

9. COACH OR MANAGER PULLING TEAM FROM FIELD

Forfeiture of game and immediate referral to local Field League for hearing.

10. UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Immediate suspension and an automatic referral for hearing by the local Field League.

11. SPITTING AT OPPONENT/OFFICIAL, HEAD BUTTING, HAIR PULLING

- To deal with particularly heinous acts, physical or verbal

1st Offence - Five (5) games and Hearing by local Field League

2nd Offence - (and all subsequent offences): Five (5) games and an additional hearing by local Field League

12. ACCUMULATION OF EXPULSION PENALTIES

Any player who accumulates two expulsion penalties in one season will be assessed the following in addition to any they receive from the result of their actions:

SUSPENSIONS

2nd Expulsion - Additional Three (3) Game suspension and a hearing by local Field League

3rd Expulsion - Five (5) games and a hearing by local Field League

13. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

Any team, which plays an ineligible player, will lose any points earned from the games in which the ineligible player played. In addition, the following suspensions will apply to the Head Coach:

1st offence: two (2) games

2nd offence: automatic referral to the British Columbia Lacrosse Coaches Group for the appropriate disciplinary action.

14. Coaches and/or managers who receive a suspension, will be reported to the BCLA Field Directorate for any suspension under five (5) games that can be imposed by a League Commissioner. Any action by a Coach or a Manager that is the opinion of the local commissioner or BCLA Directorate that warrants further disciplinary action, will be immediately referred to the chairperson of the British Columbia Lacrosse Coaches Group for his/her appropriate action.

15. A suspended player will be removed from all team games, regardless of age division (i.e., cannot play up while suspended) until he/she has served the suspension, this suspension may be served during BCLA sanctioned tournament and league games only. The suspended player cannot participate in exhibition games that occur during the suspended number of games. While under suspension, a suspended player cannot be on the players' side of the field prior to or during the player's team's game(s). The suspended player can watch the game, with the spectators, from the opposite side of the player's bench. (OP 12.09 (b)) They will not participate in any official duties, i.e. - Timekeeping, Coaching, Score Keeping or Officiating (Referee) at any level. The player will be allowed to practice only with his/her team.

16. A suspended coach may only serve the suspension during games played by the team the coach received the suspension for; however, a coach is suspended from all BCLA Field Lacrosse related activities until such suspension is served. While under suspension, a suspended coach cannot be at the game venue prior to or during coach's team's game(s). (OP 12.10 (b))

17. There is a difference between a game expulsion for a severe incident and for accumulating five personal fouls (fouling out). A game report must be given if there are to be any further game suspensions. A suspension must be accompanied by a written referee's report. The referee might eject player(s) from the field, banishment, for that game, and not write a game report as he/she did not feel that the infraction warranted anything more. The banishment must be noted on the game sheet.

18. It is very important that each League Commissioner has all the facts and has done a thorough investigation prior to handing down a suspension. Depending upon the severity of the penalty, additional games may be imposed by the League Chairperson and/or the Field Directorate.

SUMMATION:

These penalties shall be cumulative throughout the entire career of a player/coach in the BCLA Field Directorate and not restricted for one season, with the exception of banishment. Thus, a player or coach, after committing one offence, is deterred from repeating the offence instead of having a clean slate every year.

Any second offence requires the player/coach to appear before the Field Directorate at the first meeting after the offence has taken place. This is to make the player/coach more accountable for their actions.

If a player or coach has gone a considerable amount of time between offences the Commissioner has the option to reduce the penalty for the subsequent offence.