

OFFICIAL EDUCATION

2026

Goal Circle Fouls

USA[®]
LACROSSE



RECOGNIZED SPORT
ORGANIZATION

Goal Circle Fouls



The goal circle is a “cylinder.” An attack player cannot step into the GC at any time.

Any ball resting on the goal circle line belongs solely to the goalkeeper or the deputy.

Any other player touching this ball would be committing a goal circle foul.

Attack Goal Circle Fouls

No attack player Can step on or over the goal circle line.



The shooter's crosse may follow-through into the goal circle on a shot, but their feet must not touch the line



goal circle foul signal

Defense Goal Circle Fouls

Field Player

Cannot run through the Goal Circle

Defender directly marking the shooter can only reach into GC to block a shot or check shooter's crosse

Deputy

Can enter to prevent a rolling ball from crossing the goal line

Can only enter when team is in possession of ball

Only one player, either the goalkeeper or her deputy, is permitted in the goal circle at any time



Goalie Play



If the Goalie/Deputy gains possession outside of the Goal Circle the ball may enter the Goal Circle.

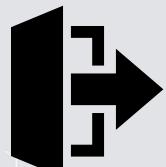
If the Goalie/Deputy gains possession inside the Goal Circle the ball may reenter the Goal Circle after it has been cleared* and played**

Cleared and Played

CLEARED

The ball was possessed inside the Goal Circle and exits the Goal Circle

The ball may be carried out or passed out

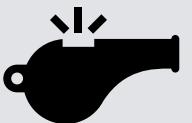


PLAYED

The ball is touched by another player's stick, such as catching a pass or knocking down a pass

The Goalkeeper's stick is checked: a stick to stick check

A foul is committed



Goalie Play

Goalkeeper can reach out the crosse and bring a ball back into the goal circle provided one foot is inside the goal circle***



*** The foot is considered inside the goal circle if any portion remains inside the plane of the goal circle.

If any part of the goalie's foot is on the goal circle line, they are considered IN the circle

Goalie Play



Goalie has both feet in the circle



Goalie has one foot in the circle and one foot outside the circle



Goalie has one foot in the circle and one foot (anywhere) on the GC line



Goalie has both feet (anywhere) on the GC line



Goalie has one foot on the GC line and one foot completely outside the circle



Goalie has BOTH feet outside the plane of the circle (on the ground or in the air)

Goal Circle Play

Once goalie is out of goal circle, goalie or deputy must have at least one foot inside the goal circle to play a ball that is inside the circle.



Goal Circle Foul: 10 Second Count

Goalie (or deputy) has 10 seconds to clear the ball from the goal circle.

Goalie can throw OR carry the ball out of the goal circle.



Penalty Administration

Goal Circle Foul by the Attack

Free position awarded to the Goalie (or her deputy) in the GC

Offender: 4m behind GC

Others: 4m away from GC

Goal Circle Foul by the Defense

Free position awarded at the closest dot

Offender: (except the Goalie) 4m behind the free position

Others: 4m away

Illegal Deputy is penalized as a major foul. FP awarded at the 8m center hash. Goalie may NOT clear back into circle.

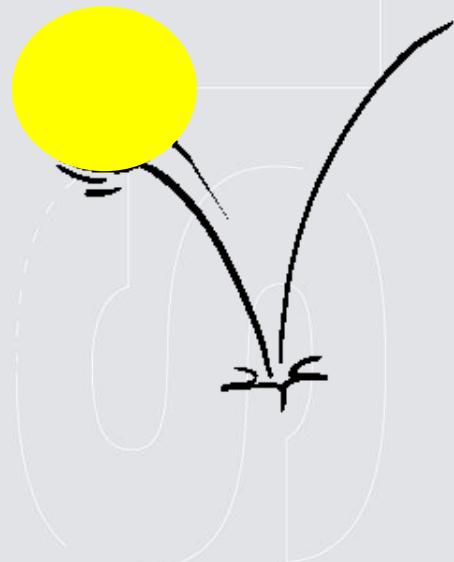


Oh that Goalie!

Quiz
Time!



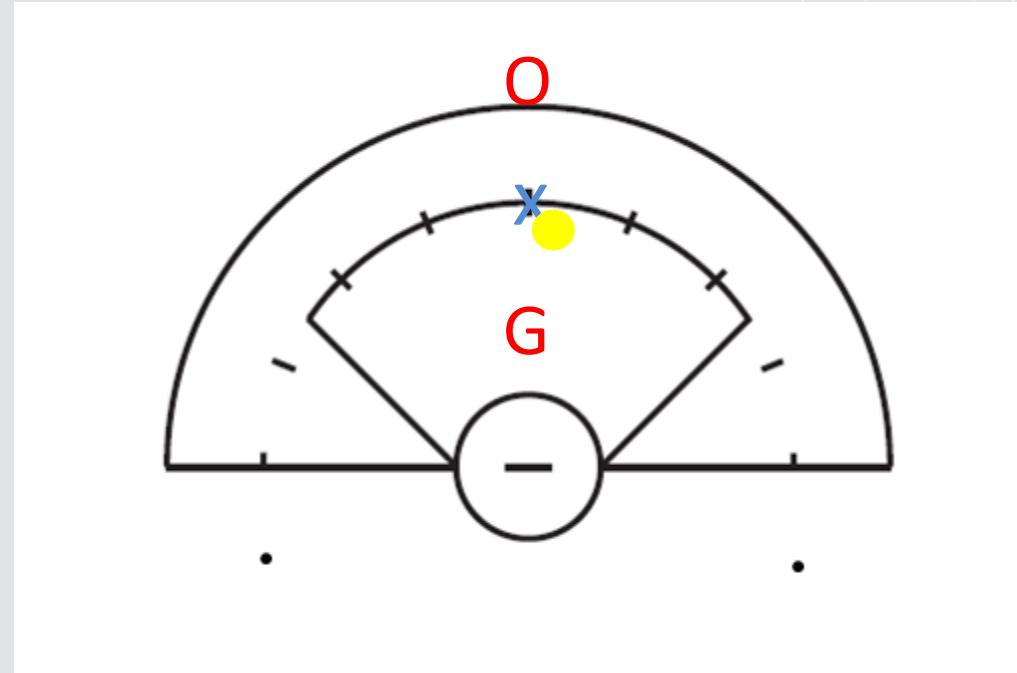
Oh that Goalie #1



- The goalie has come out of her goal circle, in the 8m arc, to challenge an attacker.
- A shot is taken and is bouncing past the goalie towards the goal when a defender places her stick into the goal circle to prevent the goal.
- Is this a **Legal Deputy** or an **Illegal Deputy**?

ILLEGAL

Oh that Goalie #2



The official blows a whistle for an “Illegal Deputy”. A Free Position is awarded to the attack at the center hash. Where does the goalie go? **IN** or **OUT**

OUT



Goalie has both feet in the circle



Oh that Goalie #3

- A goalie gains possession of the ball in her circle and walks out of the circle.
- The goalie then brings the ball back into her circle.
- She has not been played.
- Is this a Goal Circle violation **Yes or No?**

YES

Oh that Goalie #4



The official gives the ball to the attack at the nearest dot for a defensive goal circle violation on the Goalkeeper while she has one foot in the goal circle.

Is the goalie directed to move 4m behind the Free Position or may she stay in her goal circle?

IN or OUT

IN

Oh that Goalie #5



YES

- The goalie fails to clear the ball from her goal circle within the 10-second time frame.
- Is this a Goal Circle violation
Yes or No?

Oh that Goalie #6

A Deputy goes into the goal circle to prevent a ROLLING ball from crossing the goal line, while the Goalkeeper is completely out of the goal circle.

Is this Legal?

YES



Oh that Goalie #7



The goalie carries the ball completely out of her goal circle when she hangs her crosse back into the goal circle to prevent a check by an attack player.

YES

Is this a Goal Circle violation Yes or No?



Oh that Goalie #8



The goalie has come out of her goal circle to defend the shooter and is within a stick's length of the ball carrier.

The shooter fakes high and shoots low.

The goalie, knowing she is beat, deliberately sticks out her foot and deflects the shot away from the goal.

Is this legal **Yes** or **No**?

No

GOAL CIRCLE REVIEW

