



February 10, 2012

Dear NCLRA and NCWLUA,

As you are all aware, the NCJLA will be "certifying" coaches this season. Only "NCJLA Certified Coaches" will be allowed on the sidelines during games. The NCJLA is reviewing the requirements for every coach and assistant coach and is issuing laminated "NCJLA Certified Coach" cards that coaches are required to wear on a lanyard around their necks while on the field for games.

Officials are to verify that every coach on the sidelines has their NCJLA Certified Coach card at the beginning of each game. No "NCJLA Certified Coach" card, no standing on sidelines during games. Strict enforcement of this new rule will begin March 10, 2011. While games get underway before that date, the NCJLA board agreed to hold off strict enforcement until March 10, because with any new program it can be challenging to get all in compliance. With 700-800 coaches, we wanted to be sure that all had ample time to complete requirements and have cards issued. From March 10 on, officials are to strictly enforce this requirement. The NCJLA rules sheets contain language explaining the rule, but not the grace period.

Last fall, as we prepared to roll out this new program we met with representatives from both the boys officials organization and the girls umpire associations to present and discuss the plans we have been putting in place, and the specific requirements to coach in the NCJLA. At that time officials organizations' representatives were supportive and ensured us that yes, their organization would cooperate and consistently check for the cards at the start of every game. As we get closer to the start of the season we ask that you send this message out to all your referees and umpires to drive home the reasoning behind and importance of this check.

What is the reasoning behind the creation of the NCJLA Certified Coach requirement?

In past seasons officials were asked to check PCA cards at the start of every game. This happened occasionally, but not consistently. In discussing this issue representatives from the NCJLA member clubs decided that a more meaningful check would be to verify that coaches have had a background check, are current with their US Lacrosse membership, and have been properly trained to be a coach. PCA certification is important, but not sufficient. Therefore these additional requirements were added to the pre-game officials' check. To make it easier on officials, they just have to check one card, which assures that all requirements have been met, PCA as well as the following:

Risk/Insurance: Every coach must be a member of US Lacrosse, which provides insurance coverage through Bollinger Insurance. A coach without valid US Lacrosse membership, thus uninsured, creates a risky situation at games for all involved: players, parents/fans, other coaches, as well as officials.

Background checks: This has always been important, for the safety of all players, to ensure that all coaches have been cleared to work with youth. We were not tracking this per coach, until now.

Skills/knowledge: Every coach needs to understand the rules and basics of how to effectively coach a lacrosse player and a team. The US Lacrosse Level 1 online clinic is the minimum requirement for coaches to coach in the NCJLA.

Agreement: Every coach signs a Coaches Code of Conduct. It is important to put into writing what is acceptable behavior of a coach and what is not, and what the consequences are of not following the Code of Conduct.

Please share this information with your referees and umpires, so that they understand why we are asking to check **every** coaches' card at the start of **every** game, assistant coaches as well as head coaches.

On behalf of the NCJLA's 8,000 players I thank you and your organizations for cooperating with our requirement to enforce the NCJLA Certified Coach card check during the 2012 season. Together we can make this season a safe and positive experience for every player.

I am happy to answer questions.

Sincerely,
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