



2012 ECAC-SIDA WORKSHOP - PITTSBURGH, PA
TABLE TOPICS
**THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN'S AND
WOMEN'S LACROSSE STATISTICS**
PRESENTED BY:
JILL OLSEN - JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCOTT GUISE - YORK COLLEGE



The game of lacrosse is same for the men and women in name only. The two sports vary greatly in their play, their rules, and for the purpose of this table topic, statistically. The main differences in the statistical approach to men's and women's lacrosse include ground balls, draw controls/face offs, and penalties.

GROUND BALLS

Men's Ground Ball definition: Any ball not in possession of either team that comes into possession of either team should result in a ground ball once a player establishes possession and is immediately able to perform the normal functions of possession (i.e., shoot, pass, cradle), provided the ball was contested by both teams before establishing possession. A ground ball could be awarded even if no opposing player is within considerable distance of the player when he gets possession of the ball.

Women's Ground Ball definition: A ground ball is recorded when a ball changes possession during live-ball play. A shot returned to the field of play is considered a change of possession regardless which team gains possession of the ball. A ground ball shall not be awarded if the ball (pass or shot) is sent out of bounds as the ball is dead before possession is gained. Should a player be fouled in the act of attempting to possess a ball, while said player's stick is in contact with the ball, possession is to be assumed. When a defensive player makes an interception, please credit the player with both a ground ball and caused turnover.

Differences: The main difference is that in the women's game, there has to be a definitive change of possession. In the men's game, if you are on my team and the ball get checked out of my stick and you pick it up, you get a ground ball. In the women's game, you would not get a ground ball because there was no change of possession. Typically, the total ground balls in the women's game is significantly less than the men's game. In 2012, the Division I statistical champion in men's lacrosse averaged 37.2 ground balls per game while the women's champion averaged 21.4 per contest.

FACE OFFS - DRAW CONTROLS

Men's Face Off definition: Since many faceoff men must depend on the statistics of faceoffs to provide an evaluation of their value, statisticians must be consistent in their assessment of faceoffs. Since the standard in faceoff stats is to award to the faceoff man the faceoff, whether he actually obtained possession, care should be taken to credit faceoffs properly. Additionally, ground balls should be credited in faceoff play (there can be more than one) as indicated in Section 5. Every faceoff has to end with players being credited and charged with a faceoff win and loss, unless the quarter ends before possession is established. *Unlike women's lacrosse, the two players who participate in the faceoff are the only players who can be credited and charged with a faceoff win and loss.*

Women's Draw Control definition: A draw control is awarded to the player who controls the ball and/or creates an opportunity to play after the taking of a draw; i.e., gains possession after the draw.

TABLE TOPICS

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE STATISTICS

PENALTY SITUATIONS

Men's Penalties Situations: Anytime a team is playing one or more men short or extra counts as an extra-man opportunity on defense or offense.

An extra-man goal may be credited to the appropriate team if the player from the other team has not made it into the scrimmage area. In such a case, an extra-man goal may be scored a few seconds after the penalty has expired, because the other team's player still had not arrived in the goal area. In the case of non-releasable penalties, it is possible to have more attempts than penalties. Due to concurrent penalties, it is possible to have fewer attempts than time-served penalties assessed.

Women's Cards: Please note this information has changed based on Rule 7 Section 28 in the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules And Interpretations. Record all yellow and red cards to the assigned player or coach. In statistical programs such as Stat Crew, enter the appropriate code for yellow card and assign it the player who was issued the card or to the "team" if issued to a coach. DO NOT enter the infraction as a "penalty" in statistical software nor record a man-up opportunity, as the statistical relevance of man-up and down opportunities for women's lacrosse is currently being examined.

Cards are issued for infractions in women's lacrosse. When a player is issued a yellow card, that player will serve a two-minute releasable penalty in the penalty area. No substitute may take her place during that period, therefore her team will play short-handed until the penalty time has elapsed or the opposing team scores. If the opposing team scores (this includes the free-position goal following the card) during this time the player will be released from the penalty area and may re-enter the game. The goal scorer should be credited with a man-up or man-down score.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

WLAX: A player that takes a charge is credited with caused turnover. The offending player is credited with a foul and a turnover.

WLAX: When two players commit simultaneous fouls and there is a "throw" situation. The statistician only needs to record if there is a change of possession as a result of the throw. Credit a turnover to the player losing the toss while you would give a caused turnover and ground ball to the player winning the toss if it results in a change of possession.

MLAX: Non-releasable penalties generally result in one more extra-man opportunity than the number of goals scored. If no goal is scored, the team's extra man is charged "0 for 1." If one goal is scored, credit the team "1 for 2." If in the statistician's judgment, insufficient time remains after a goal is scored in the non-releasable penalty for the offensive team to gain another legitimate opportunity, an additional extra-man opportunity will not be charged. When scoring the game in stat crew, if there is multiple opportunities, go back in the play-by-play, edit the original penalty and change the "Y" to a "2" or the number of extra-man opportunities.

BOTH: If a team is playing a man-down and attempting to clear, credit the team with a clear, if that clear is successful. If that clear attempt fails, you do not credit the team with a failed clear, just credit the individual turnover.

BOTH: Regarding crediting assists on goals. While there must be some understandable leeway in judgment as to whether an assist should be credited on any given play, statisticians should endeavor to be consistent with both teams and during the season. It cannot be specified as to how many assists there should be in any given game, nor is it possible to extrapolate any average number per game. Some games may have very few assists and some may have many. Types of offenses may determine how many assists there will be per game as much as anything else. Be consistent!