

2007 CLA Operations Manual – Section 17: Box Sector made Nov 17/07
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Stopping the Practice of Using Offence/Defence Tactics in Minor Lacrosse Games

Coaches who play the o/d system are clearly interested in not only winning games rather than the development and enjoyment of the players, but are getting very close to the win-at-all-cost philosophy of coaching. This philosophy and the act of sacrificing the opportunity for players to develop all their skills for the sake of a win is counter to the aims and goals of the CLA and goes against the spirit of Lacrosse upon which the coaching development program is predicated.

The CLA membership and the CLA coaching committee have unanimously indicated the practice of playing an offence/defence system in minor box lacrosse is unethical. This has been verified at the recent CLA AGM & the 2007 Coaching Committee meeting. The Coaching Committee was tasked with coming up with a rule to curb this practice. After discussions it was recommended that it was not in the best interest of the game to establish a rule that would have to be policed by the game officials. The approach recommended was to be through a policy change to the operating policy under the Box Sector.

Existing policy: Nothing currently in place
Accepted change with amendment
Add to section 17:

- 1.3.1 In all minor box lacrosse (midget & below) it is deemed un-ethical to use an offence/defence tactic while at even strength and any such action can result in Suspensions. Offence/defence is simply defined as one, or more players, playing only one end of the floor as a strategic tactic. Replacing the goaltender with another player is not considered a form of offence/defence. Special teams on face-offs are not considered a form of offence/defence.
- 1.3.2 It is the direct responsibility of all MA's and AMA's to advise all coaches that the practice of playing the offence/defence system when even strength is prohibited in minor lacrosse in accordance with current CLA operating policy and such action can result in suspensions.
- 1.3.3 All MA's and AMA's are responsible to put in place the mechanism for detecting this tactic and setting the length of suspensions as they deem appropriate for the offence. Notwithstanding the suspension guidelines of each Member Association, the minimum shall not be less than the following:
 - First infraction the offending coach will be issued a warning and the infraction recorded by the MA or AMA.
 - Second offence by the same coach will result in a two game suspension and the infraction recorded.
 - Third offence by the same coach will result in a five game suspension and a hearing by the appropriate forum set by the MA or AMA for possible further Discipline action.
- 1.3.4 If, in any minor box lacrosse national event, offence/defence is found to be utilized by a participating coach, they will be issued a verbal warning from the event committee. If they persist in the practice, in either that game, or subsequent games, the game shall be stopped, the coach removed from the bench and subsequently suspended for the remainder of the event and their name forwarded to the CLA for further action.
- 1.3.5 It is the direct responsibility of the MA, AMA or their designated authority to ensure that a complete up-to-date record of such infractions is kept.