

Home Team/Host Site Responsibilities

The home team or host site for any level of play is responsible for providing a safe and fair environment. This document explains in detail what is required. A one-page checklist for game-day is provided at the end of this document.

Field of play

The facility must be safe for players, coaches, officials and spectators. Key points include:

No obstructions, metal plates, or other hazards (e.g., broken glass) on the field of play.

No hazards outside the field of play (e.g., unpadded soccer goals, goal posts, fences, or other obstructions on the end line or sideline or within 6 yards of the field of play).

Wherever physically possible, dashed limit lines must be drawn at least 6 yards from the far sideline; all spectators must stay behind this line; have someone move spectators back if they are too close. If there is permanent seating at the game site, all spectators must be in the permanent seating and not at field level.

Seven soft, flexible cones or pylons that are heavy enough to not get blown over by the wind (one at each corner, one at the midfield line on the far side, two marking the sub area).

Physical team benches, if any, at least 10 yards from the sideline.

Proper lining of the field of play, including the coaches' boxes, sub area, and bench area. All lines on the field must be solid (lines off the field of play may be dashed). Avoid the use of red lines due to the frequency of colorblindness among boys.

In all cases, it is better to play on a field that is smaller than the usual dimensions than it is to play on a full-sized field with hazards on or near the sideline. If you have any potential issues, contact the Board well in advance of game day to discuss options. If the game officials determine the field is unsafe and adjustments cannot be made to make it safe, the game will not be played.

Required equipment

The home team or host site must provide:

A table (to be placed at least 6 yards from the sideline) and at least two chairs.

A timing device (possibly as part of an electronic scoreboard) and a backup.

Seven cones or pylons as described above.

A horn (required for all games at all levels).

An official scorebook or score sheets, with player names entered for both teams.

At least 4 game balls on each end line to start each quarter if ball retrievers are not used (for 9/10 and lower games, each team provides balls for the end line on their bench side of the

field). At all levels, balls must be replenished when they run out or the team responsible for that end line risks a delay-of-game violation.

A visible scoreboard (either at the table or an electronic scoreboard)

Net repair material (see “Goals” below).

Failure to provide some of these items may result in an illegal procedure violation being called against the team responsible. In addition, it is highly recommended that the following are provided:

Additional balls for the sidelines to allow a quick restart on a sideline out of bounds ball.

Instruction sheets for the timer and scorekeeper (posted at <http://www.umloa.org/documents/>).

Ground anchors (see “Goals” below).

Goals

Goals must be legal for the level of play being hosted.

The home-team head coach or host site must ensure that there are no holes in the net or gaps between the frame of the goal and the net prior to the arrival of the officials.

The home-team head coach or host site must be prepared to make repairs should holes develop during the game. A supply of repair materials should be kept on hand, especially heavy-gauge string (note that zip ties are too brittle and are not suitable for lasting repair).

Goals must not move or tip over during play. Ground anchors are recommended for use on natural surfaces.

Personnel

For JV and varsity games, the home team must provide the **official timer** and the **official scorer**, even for games at neutral sites. The away team is also entitled to have their own scorer at the scorer’s table, but the home team scorebook is the official record of the game.

For 9/10 and lower games, the home team must provide the **official timer** and the away team must provide the **official scorer**.

The home team or host site must have a **site manager** at the field responsible for dealing with problems arising at the facility (e.g., safety issues with the field, fan behavior). This could be a dedicated site manager or an adult head coach from the home team or host team.

If the home team chooses to provide **ball retrievers** on the end line, the ball retrievers shall: 1) wear a lacrosse helmet, 2) be dressed so their uniform colors do not blend with those of participating teams and 3) not be permitted to stand directly behind the goal. In addition, the home school is required to train, protect, and provide for the safety of the ball retrievers.

For 9/10 and lower games, each team must provide one adult **sideline manager** who is not coaching in the game (typically a parent). Failure to provide a sideline manager may result in a forfeit.

Emergencies

The home team or host site must have a plan to deal with medical emergencies (e.g., site manager prepared to summon emergency medical care, on-site EMT or certified athletic trainer). If any on-site medical personnel are employed, the associated costs are the responsibility of the home team or host site and not the MBSLA.

The home team or host site must have a plan to deal with severe weather (e.g., ability to monitor weather reports from the field for thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings, a plan for thunderstorms—such as getting everyone into a closed vehicle or permanent structure) and for tornadoes (e.g., knowing the closest tornado shelter and having a plan for getting everyone from the field to that shelter).

Suspended games

Any time a game official believes there is an unsafe condition on or near the field, they will have the situation corrected or will not allow the game to be played.

Officials must delay the start of the game or suspend the game if there are visible lightning bolts or audible thunder. This calls for the removal of athletes from the field to vehicles or permanent structures. The game may resume if there are 30 consecutive minutes with no visible lightning bolts or audible thunder.

When there is a site manager, the site manager can suspend the game, the officials can suspend the game, and neither party can overrule the other.

Note that even if it is determined that the remainder of the game will not be played and the score is final, there are no handshakes or team cheers when there is lightning or any other dangerous condition: players, coaches, spectators, and officials must leave the field immediately and get into vehicles or permanent structures.