



2025 IWLCA DIVISION I, II, III and NAIA PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME PROTOCOLS

The intent of the following protocols is to create a consistent and uniform system for functioning on game day. These protocols are designed to ensure equitable pre-game warm-up conditions for both the home and away institutions; to ensure a professional looking start and finish to games; and to demonstrate respect for the opponent and the game. These protocols do not cover the NCAA rules that already govern such time periods (ex. Pregame Protocol Timing Sheet Appendix A of rule book).

Pre-Game Protocols

Equipment:

Visiting Team Balls for Warm-up

1. The “home” team must provide a minimum of 30 yellow balls for the “visiting” team to use during pre-game warm-up.
2. The “home” team must provide a minimum of 30 yellow balls for the “visiting” team to use during any scheduled practices and/or walk-throughs.
3. In the case of a neutral site competition the team designated as the “home” team for the competition will take on the “home” team responsibilities.
4. All balls should be returned to the “home” team at the conclusion of the pre-game, practice, and/or walk-through.

**Please note that visiting teams are not required to use balls from the home team and may certainly use their own.*

Goals

1. The “home” team will provide the “visiting” team with the SAME NUMBER OF GOALS for pre-game as the “home” team will be using. The recommended number of goals is TWO per team. However, it has been acknowledged that financial and/or logistical problems may exist that would prevent teams from providing two goals per team. In all cases, the protocol is that each team will have access to the same number of goals during warm-up.

Warm-up Space

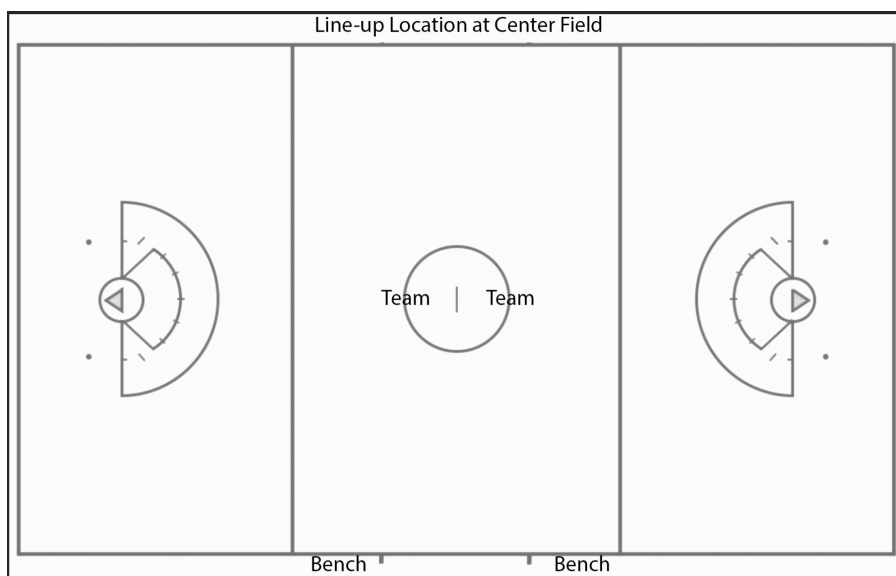
1. The warm-up space during pre-game for each team is defined as the team’s bench side of the 50yd line. Please note that warm-up laps should be confined to this same half of the field.
2. During half time and before overtime periods, each team may use the goal area that they are defending to warm-up goalkeepers.
3. Post-game cool downs must still be confined to each team’s half of the field.

NCAA Pre-Game Timing Protocol

With the elimination of the pre-game stick check, it may not be necessary to clear the field as early as 10 minutes left before opening draw, but teams need to be cleared from the field and ready for line-ups and national anthem so as not to delay the start of the game. The protocol in the book is still a good guideline. Also, it is important to note that due to TV/Broadcasting/Streaming start times, games may not be scheduled to start on the hour. The home team is responsible for letting the visiting team know the timing parameters for pre-game (start time, line-up/national anthem time, and any other event/ceremonies).

Line-ups

1. The starting line-up should be announced in numerical order. This is a change to previous years when captains, and or goalkeepers were announced last.
2. To ensure a professional look to the line-up and for the national anthem, a standard place to line-up on the field has been established (see diagram below).
 - As players get introduced, they will proceed out to the center of the field on their bench side of the draw line and then fill in the direction of their bench side goal.



Pre-Game Ceremonies/Events

It is important that all pregame ceremonies (including senior days) are conducted with respect to allowing for effective pre-game warm-ups for both teams. At this time, there are not any set policies for conducting such events, but it is important to consider the following:

1. Pre-game ceremonies should be designed to minimize the disruption to the team pre-game preparation process. This should include providing full warm-up time for the visiting team and being respectful of the length of such ceremonies.

2. Any changes to the normal pre-game timing should be provided to the visiting team prior to game day. Such events/ceremonies should not prevent the visiting team from having the complete pre-game warm-up time as provided under the NCAA rules.
3. There has been discussion that senior day ceremonies have become more and more elaborate and at times are creating challenges for visiting teams. Some possible alternate formats for you to consider include:
 - a. Conducting ceremony at the conclusion of the game
 - b. Conducting ceremony prior to pre-game warm-up

Post-Game Protocols

In an effort to complete all games in a professional and respectful manner the following protocols are in place (assuming there is no need to return to Covid-19 Modifications):

1. The handshake line (to take place along/near the bench sideline) should be set up promptly following the conclusion of the game. Any post-game team discussion or coaching should take place after the handshake. While a brief celebration may occur at the final horn, both teams should try to begin the post-game handshake in a “timely manner.”
2. Once lined up, with coaches at the back of the line, teams should move together at midfield to complete the handshake.