C. Three Person System - Specifics

When officiating the three person system, the officials will be designated as "A", "B" and "C". The A and B Officials will be on the same side of the field while the C Official will be on the opposite side of the field. The three officials must work to maintain a triangular positioning on the field, and in most instances keeping the ball within the triangle.

1. The A Official will be responsible for the goal area to her right side and be the Lead Official when the ball is coming toward her.

2. The B Official will be responsible for the goal area to her left side and be the Lead Official when the ball is coming toward her.

3. The C Official will both act as Trail Official and as a "second Lead" at each end of the field.

4. The A and B Officials will be the Trail Official when the ball is moving away from them.

Pre-game communication with your partners will help to ensure that all officials will be able to carry out their responsibilities.

LEAD OFFICIAL (A OR B)

As with the two person system, the Lead Official is responsible for the goal circle area at her end of the field. When the ball starts to move towards her, the Lead Official must pull wide toward the sideline, then angle back into the field as she approaches the goal area. She must always be ahead of play as the ball moves towards her. Because the A and B Officials are on the same side of the field, they share responsibility for making the sideline out of bounds calls. If the A Official makes the call and the ball is coming towards her, generally she moves ahead of play and allows the B Official to move up and restart the play. The exception is when the out of bounds call is made down near the critical scoring area when it is more practical for the Lead Official to restart play.

Once the ball is in her goal circle area, the Lead Official is primarily responsible for on-ball fouls, goal circle calls, and out of bounds calls over her end line. She must also be aware of obstruction of the free space to goal. Since she has two officials - C and Trail - also watching for this, her focus is on the low obstruction of the free space to goal call where the Trail Official would have a difficult time getting into position to make the call. If the ball enters the goal circle and is stopped by the goalie, the Lead Official must remain in close proximity to the goalie circle as the goalie prepares to clear the ball, especially if the other team is challenging the goalie clear. Should the goalie be unchallenged and choose to start walking the ball up field, the Lead Official always remains close by. This will allow her see possible fouls against the goalie and also to be in position to again become the Lead Official should the other team quickly gain possession of the ball.

TRAIL OFFICIAL (A OR B)

The Trail Official follows the play down field, assisting the Lead Official with making sideline out of bounds calls. As the ball approaches the goal area, the Trail Official takes a position near the restraining line, counts players while looking forward and checking back when possible, and is responsible for signaling offside violations. She will shift laterally with the play in order to see obstruction of the free space to goal, off-ball fouls, dangerous follow through, and three-second violations. She is also responsible for all decisions on her sideline. The Trail Official and the C Official share responsibilities for the middle of the field. When C must move wide towards the sideline, the Trail Official must move toward the center of the field even with the second inside hash mark, and when C must move toward the center of the field even with the second inside hash mark, the Trail Official must move wide toward the sideline. The Trail Official must respond to the C Official's adjustments. Neither official moves into the center of the field even with the center hash mark on the 8m arc as this would put either official at a disadvantage should there be a quick transition.

TRAIL OFFICIAL (C)

The C Official has Trail Official responsibilities for the entire game and therefore never has to be ahead of the play. She is responsible for out of bounds calls for her entire sideline boundary and can assist the Lead Official in making calls in the deep corner on the end line. As the play begins to transition from one end of the field to the other, the C Official is able to stay wide of the play yet follow the play closely from end to end acting to escort the ball up or down the field. As a general rule, the C Official is slightly ahead or somewhat behind the ball in transition, maintaining the best position to see between players. The C Official also helps with counting players ahead of play for possible offside violations in transition.

When possible, the C Umpire must assist her partners' transitions by assuming coverage of the restraining line. When the goalie is ready to clear the ball or when players are bringing the ball up-field out of the C Umpire's area of the arc, it is helpful for the C Umpire to check the number of players above the restraining line and signal to the former Trail Umpire. Once this partner receives the communication, she is free to transition further up-field in preparation for becoming the new Lead Umpire.

When the former defensive team is bringing the ball up-field toward the C Umpire's side, she must stay on ball. If the C Umpire calls a foul, the A and B Umpires must have an awareness of restraining line coverage.

When the ball enters the critical scoring area, the C Umpire must be in a position well below the restraining line and as near to the 12m fan as play will allow. Depending on the position of the ball, the C Umpire will move laterally toward the second inside hash mark on the 8m arc. She will be looking for obstruction of the free space to goal on her half of the field, as well as off-ball fouls, dangerous follow-through, and three second violations. She may also assist in calling goal circle violations on the Lead Umpire's side where quick transitions prohibit the Lead Umpire from getting to the tangent. When the ball moves into her half of the field, she must assist the Lead Umpire in making on-ball foul calls, including blocking and charging and goal circle violations away from the Lead Umpire's side of the goal circle.
The Draw

The C official will administer all draws and will be responsible for calling any illegal draws involving the two centers. The A and B officials must put themselves in good position to watch for fouls around the center circle and the restraining line when the draw is taken, including either team stepping on or over the center circle before the draw or either team stepping over the restraining line before possession is gained.

In addition, A and B Officials make the determination that each team has not exceeded the legal number of players allowed between the restraining lines for the draw and has the proper number of players on the field.

Rotating Positions

Three person official teams exchange positions (rotate) after every other goal is scored. With the three person system, the positions rotate clockwise, A moves to B, B moves to C, and C moves to A.

The diagrams and examples on the next few pages will help you to understand the positioning of the Lead and the Trail Officials.

THREE PERSON SYSTEM DIAGRAMS

Starting Positions

To start the game, the A and B officials are positioned on the score table side of the field while the C official positions herself on the opposite side of the field. With the use of the restraining line and substitution on the fly, it's important for the A and B Officials, monitoring the restraining line, to have a good view of the team substitution and bench areas.
Diagram 1: Field Coverage

= shared midfield by the A, B, and C Officials; be certain to discuss all shared areas with your partner(s) prior to each game.

Diagram 2: Positioning Changes - The Umpiring Triangle

- 97 -
The official triangle is defined as the relative position of the officials --- A, B, and C --- that enables the team to best see all play in the CSA (critical scoring area). Note that the ball will not always be surrounded by the triangle. The Lead Official adjusts, moving with purpose in quadrants 1 and 2, in order to be in the best position relative to the position of the ball and on tangent. The C Official, the "second Lead", also adjusts, moving with purpose laterally in quadrant 3 between the sideline and the second inside hash to be in the best position to see both on-ball and off-ball play that is not the focus of the Lead Official. The Trail Official adjusts in opposition to the C Official --- if the C Official moves wide, the Trail Official moves toward the middle and if the C Official moves toward the middle, the Trail Official moves wide toward the sideline. The Trail Official is focusing on off-ball play. The three officials moving in concert appears to be a "triangle dance".

Diagram 3: Change of Possession

![Diagram 3: Change of Possession]

Diagram 4: The Draw

![Diagram 4: The Draw]

Note: The C Official's positioning, in relation to the center line, will vary depending on player positioning. However, the C Official's exit will always be in a route in line with the center line to facilitate observation of the crosses in the vertical plane.
OFFICIATING THE GOAL CIRCLE

Officiating the Goal Circle requires purposeful movement. The Lead Official is constantly repositioning within a Quadrant in order to anticipate play and to clearly see the space between the defense and the attack. One of the most important responsibilities of the Lead Official is to ultimately be “on tangent”. It takes time and practice to move freely around the goal area in Quadrants 1 and 2, always striving to be “on tangent” to the shooter. Being in the correct Quadrant and “on tangent” places the Lead Official in the correct position for seeing possible fouls committed by the shooter or the defense and for seeing goal circle violations by either the attack or the defense.

QUADRANTS

There are 4 Quadrants in the Critical Scoring Area (CSA) that are defined by a vertical axis that splits the goal circle in half and is perpendicular to the goal line and by a horizontal axis that runs parallel to the goal line and intersects the goal circle at the top and is perpendicular to the vertical axis. The Lead Official is constantly repositioning in quadrants 1 and 2. The horizontal axis serves as the “home base” from which the Lead Official makes adjustments according to the developing offensive play and the position of the ball.
See Figure 1 - "A" Lead Official and Figure 2 - "B" Lead Official.

HOME BASE

Figure 1
"A" Lead Official
Home Base

Figure 2
"B" Lead Official
Home Base

Official Movement

When the ball is in Quadrant 2 the Lead Official is in Quadrant 1 and "on tangent".
When the ball is in Quadrant 3 the Lead Official is in Quadrant 2 and "on tangent".
See Figure 3 - "A" Lead Official and Figure 4 - "B" Lead Official.
OFFICIAL ANTICIPATION
When the ball is in Quadrant 4 or Quadrant 1 below the goal line extended the Lead Official is in Quadrant 1 observing the developing play — what will the ball carrier do with the ball — pass or roll? [Note: It is not possible for the ball carrier to shoot from below the goal line extended.]

The Lead Official makes adjustments in Quadrant 1 to be "on tangent" as the ball carrier rolls from Quadrant 1 toward Quadrant 2.

See Figure 5 – “A” Lead Official and Figure 6 – “B” Lead Official.

![Figure 5](image)
![Figure 6](image)

Figure 5
“A” Lead Official
Anticipation and Movement

Figure 6
“B” Lead Official
Anticipation and Movement

Official Movement
The Lead Official makes adjustments from Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 2 to be "on tangent" when the ball carrier rolls in Quadrant 4 toward Quadrant 3.

See Figure 7 – “A” Lead Official and Figure 8 – “B” Lead Official.

![Figure 7](image)
![Figure 8](image)
TANGENT

Being "on tangent" requires understanding a mathematical principle — the tangent is a straight line that touches the outer edge of a curve (i.e., the goal circle) at only one point and is at right angle to or perpendicular to the approaching line of the ball carrier/shooter. The Lead Official that achieves being "on tangent" is in the best position to call fouls and violations associated with the ball carrier approaching the goal to shoot.

KEY:

- Path of the shooter and/or shot on goal
- Lead Official on tangent

A Shot From The Left

A Shot From The Right

- 102 -
The Table Official

Overview

For most college and many high school tournaments, our team of (hopefuly) three officials is expanded by one. The table official oversees the mechanics of the contest, monitors much of the activity that occurs at the scorer/timer’s table, facilitates the protest procedure if it were to arise, and is available to step into the field officials role if one is incapacitated. Some leagues officially use the table official as the liaison for team time-outs, but all are likely to approach a table official when there is a protest. Thus the table official can be a crucial player in maintaining a match’s flow and continuity. Because the situations that use table officials are the games with the most at stake, understanding the role of the table official as well as the tasks of her field partners is worth some advance consideration.

Responsibilities

The table official is expected to abide by all expectations of the field officials, arrive 30-60 minutes prior to the game, participate in the pre-game meetings and any subsequent discussions or meetings that occur, walk the field, and be properly dressed (the table official may have additional layers). In some championships, the table official has the ability to cast the heave personnel. These procedures should be reviewed by the “team” before the game starts. Any conversations held by the officials about the tenor of the game, players being monitored for physical play, consistency objectives, etc. should include the entire officiating team as this will maximize consistency should an official exchange be necessary. After time has expired, the officiating crew should leave as a team and the table official should be part of the game review.

Primary Duties of the Table Official

- Perform field duties of an official in the event of an injury to a field official prior or during the game
- Attend all meetings with field officials including captains meeting and stick check of teams
- Review duties with Scorer and Timer (including overtime procedures if necessary)
- 10 minutes prior to game time, check scoreboard to see that names and numbers on rosters and lineup match and are complete
- Monitor clock operations during game (after goals, injury timeouts, cards assessed, official expels timeout, less 90 minutes)
PART EIGHT

APPENDIX

- Bring water to officials at timeouts if necessary; confer with field officials about repair of game.
- Monitor substitutions during game.
- Keep record of administered cards.
- Monitor timed suspensions.
- During game play signal the granting of a possession timeout by sounding her whistle when the requestors team is in clear possession of the ball.
- Inform the field officials when a yellow and/or red card has been administered to the team personnel on the sidelines so that the field official can administer the card at the next stoppage of play.
Overtime Procedures

Varsity Only

Sudden Victory

5 minute rest period (put it on the clock and count the time down) and coin-toss for choice of ends, visiting team captain calls coin-toss. AP continues from game.

Two 3 minute periods with stop clock on every whistle (advise timer to stop the clock on every whistle).

Start OT with a draw. First goal wins.

If no team scores in the first 3 minute period teams change ends – no coaching and no substitutes allowed during the change of ends.

Start with a draw.

If no score after 2nd OT period, 3 minute rest and change ends, substitutes are allowed now.

Continue as above until first goal is scored.

Coach request for stick check in OT is legal. You must get the player’s number for the stick check request (do NOT suggest to the coach who the shooter was, and yes you or your partner had better know who the shooter was).