

## 2019 Major Rules Change for Women's Lacrosse

The following rules change was approved by the NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

\*Note – This rules change will not be reflected in the hard copy rules book until the 2020 and 2021 version.

Rule	Page	Rules Change and Rationale
5-39.a	46	<p>To eliminate Rule 5, Section 39.a and permit substitutions when the game clock is stopped, unless otherwise specified in Rule 5, Section 39.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Currently, except during a team timeout, when the game clock is stopped, players may run off the field; however, players may not enter the field from the substitution area until play has commenced on the official's whistle. This proposed change will increase the pace of play, support the game's recent progression to free movement, dissipate concerns relating to congestion and inadvertent physical contact in the substitution area, and allow for better and more consistent administration and enforcement of substitution procedures. As observed during the 2018 season across all three divisions, Rule 5, Section 39.a slowed down the pace of play, caused unnecessary delays and congestion, and could not be enforced consistently absent the presence of a fourth official positioned in the substitution area.</p> <p>Rule 5, Section 39.a was a change implemented during the 2018 season in conjunction with free movement; however, the change to the substitution procedure caused unintended consequences that were not foreseen prior to its implementation.</p>