

OLOA Memo

April 21, 2025



8 V 8 Differences

OHSLA has introduced an 8v8 format that allows teams with fewer players to play more games. These are JV games, so JV rule modifications defined in Section 10 of the OHSLA SOPs apply ([https://ohsla.net/forms.asp#OHSLA SOPs](https://ohsla.net/forms.asp#OHSLA_SOPs)).

With the 8v8 format, the NFHS rules pertaining to the number of players, positioning of players, number of long poles, off-sides, and stacking penalties necessitate modification. Here is a summary of the rule differences from the current NFHS rulebook:

1. Teams consist of 8 players: 1 goalie, 2 defensemen, 3 midfielders, and 2 attackmen.
2. The game may not continue if a team, due to injuries or penalties has less than 5 on-field players.
3. A team may have no more than 3 long poles (not including the goalie) on the field.
4. A team is off-sides if
 - a. They have more than 5 players in their offensive half of the field, including players serving penalties.
 - b. They have more than 6 players in their defensive half of the field, including players serving penalties.
5. When positioning players for a faceoff, a team must have:
 - a. Their goalie plus 2 more players behind their defensive restraining line.
 - b. Two players behind their opponent's defensive restraining line.
 - c. One player behind each wing line when at full strength. If a team has one player serving a penalty, one wing is left open. With two players serving penalties, both wings are open.
 - d. One player at the faceoff X.
6. A maximum of 2 players from the same team can be in the penalty area serving penalties at the same time. The penalty time of any additional player(s) waiting to serve is stacked.