



HARCO LEAGUE POCKET DIVISION RULES - 2026

- **Game Play** – all games are 7 vs. 7 with lineups consisting of 3 midfielders, 2 attackmen, 2 defensemen, and no goalie. Four 10-minute running clock periods are played with a 5 min half and 2 min break between quarters. Each team is permitted to have 2 coaches on the field at all times.
- **Game Field** – games will be played with 4' by 4' goals and a 12' diameter crease. Games will be played on half of a regulation field with the goals to be positioned sideline to sideline.ⁱ All games are played at Tucker Field (Turf) using the red lines as outer boundaries.
- **REFEREES** – games will be officiated by paid referees. Calls by the referees will not be contested by any coach. The calls of the referees stand no matter how bad they may appear. Remember this is a league for preschoolers and kindergarteners. Having coaches model good sportsmanship is more important than trying to have a call overturned. Coaches, please meet with the referees before the start of each game to remind them of any unique Pee Wee rules and encourage as little game stoppage as possible from the referees. We do not wish for the referees to stop play for offsides, as the on-field coaches will get the players back onside quickly in the event of an offside violation.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP** – good sportsmanship is expected at all times for both coaches, players, and spectators. This includes recognition by the coaches that the Pee Wee league is an instructional league with the goal of developing each player in a fun environment. The goal should not solely be to “win” your games but rather to develop each member of your team according to their unique skills and abilities. Coaches are encouraged to modify the Ground Ball rule to keep games close. The 2 Pass rule can also be modified in the 4th quarter or earlier with the consent of all on field coaches to keep games evenly matched. If your team has the ball on the offense side of the field most of the game, then your defensive players are not getting involved in the game and your midfielders are not getting an opportunity to learn to play defense.
- **OFFSIDE RULE** – the offside rule is modified in the Pee Wee League. Each team must have 2 attackmen, 2 defensemen behind the midfield line, or behind the restraining line at all times. As a result of this rule only the midfielders will be playing the entire field. The rule is designed to eliminate 7 on 7 ground balls! Play will not be stopped for offside violations; however, it is the responsibility of the on-field coaches to quickly remedy offside violations.
- **SUBSTITUTIONS** – are to be done on the fly or after a goal. Since the game consists of four running quarters, stoppage of play for substitution limits that amount of time the players have to actually play the game.
- **GROUND BALL RULE** – if the ball is on the ground for a prolonged period of time and no player is in a position to likely scoop the ball, the referees are encouraged to blow the whistle and award the ball to a team. The award of possessions will alternate evenly between teams (much like the possession arrow in basketball) unless the on-field coaches agree to a different ratio in the interest of sportsmanship. The intent of this rule is to keep the game moving, ensure players develop stick



skills, avoid the pile up of players and promote even possession time even when teams might not be evenly matched.

- **NO CONTACT RULE** – there is no body checking permitted. Light contact, which is not considered dangerous and does not knock a player off his feet, is permitted when the players are attempting to secure a groundball. A legal push that causes a player to fall over is allowed on ground ball play. **WE DO NOT TEACH or PERMIT ANY TYPE OF BODY CHECKS.**
- **2 PASS RULE** – each team is required to attempt two passes without a change in possession before they can shoot. The team that is HOT does not lose the advantage until the defending team clears the ball over midfield. In failed clear situations where the team does not clear passed the midfield line, the offense must make 1 pass before they are “hot” again.
- **PENALTIES** – there are no time serving penalties. Any player who is repeatedly called for a penalty must be replaced in the lineup. When there is a foul the player that is fouled is placed in front of the rest of the players and given an advantage toward the offensive zone. If the foul occurs in the offensive box, the player is given an advantage between the box and the midfield line.
- **3 GOAL RULE** – no player is allowed to score more than 3 goals in a single game.
- **GOALIE RULES** – no goalie, and no player is allowed to enter the crease area to attempt to stop a ball! Defensive players may enter the crease to scoop up a ground ball.
- **FACE OFF RULE** – if the score differential is 3 or greater the trailing team is awarded possession in lieu of a faceoff.
- **POSITION RULE** – each player is required to play an equal amount of time in every contest and each player is required to play at least two positions during the course of every game. Please develop all your players, not just the ones take to the game quickly.
- **GAME DAYS** – the game time listed on the schedule is the start of the game. Please start and end on time. When on Tucker Field it is important to end on time, as other games start immediately. Modify the game time if needed.

ⁱ USA Lacrosse provides a template for a [small-sided field](#), specifying a width of 35-45 yds. Using the red girl’s lacrosse boundaries at Tucker provides a 40 yd wide field with a single boundary line color for consistency. USA Lacrosse does not specify a crease diameter for small-sided play, but they clearly make the crease smaller than a regulation crease in the small-sided field diagram. Using a 12’ diameter crease with the 4’ wide goal matches the ratio of the regulation 6’ wide goal and 18’ crease.