Proposal: Boys & Girls Lacrosse Game-Ending Procedures

Current NFHS Running-Clock Procedures

- **Boys Lacrosse:** NFHS rules implement a running clock when a team establishes a 12-goal lead during the second half. The clock continues to run for the remainder of the game.
- **Girls Lacrosse:** NFHS rules implement modified clock procedures when a team establishes a 10-goal lead at any point. The running-clock provisions are adjusted if the scoring differential falls below 10 goals.

While these procedures help manage games with substantial scoring differentials, they still require teams to complete the remaining regulation playing time, regardless of how lopsided the contest becomes.

Proposed Game-Ending Procedures

Establish an automatic game-ending rule based on the score differential at the **conclusion of the third quarter**:

Sport	Proposed Game-Ending Threshold
Boys Lacrosse	20-goal differential or greater
Girls Lacrosse	18-goal differential or greater

If either threshold is met at or following the conclusion of the third quarter, the game shall immediately end, and the score at that time shall be recorded as the official final score. If the threshold is not met, the game continues under existing NFHS rules and applicable running-clock procedures. The decision would be standard and would not require mutual agreement between coaches.

Historical Score Data (2025 & 2026 seasons)

Attached score data from the past two years demonstrates that games with exceptionally large scoring differentials are not isolated occurrences.

Sport	Games Meeting Proposed Threshold	Largest Differential
Boys Lacrosse (20+)	38	41 goals
Girls Lacrosse (18+)	53	24 goals

Over the past two years, 91 boys and girls high school lacrosse games reached or exceeded the proposed scoring differentials. This data demonstrates a measurable need for an additional game-management procedure.

Recommendation

Adopt an automatic game-ending procedure for high school lacrosse at or following the conclusion of the third quarter when the scoring differential reaches 20 goals in boys lacrosse or 18 goals in girls lacrosse.

The intent is not to diminish competition or limit playing opportunities. Rather, it is to recognize when a contest has reached a point where continuing provides little competitive benefit for either team and ending the game promotes sportsmanship and respect for opponents.

The existing NFHS running-clock rules provide a foundation for managing games with large scoring differentials. This proposal represents a logical next step by establishing a reasonable, consistent, and enforceable stopping point.