



Door Personnel

The Door Personnel module and test is for anyone involved in Novice lacrosse and below. In the competitive divisions (Midget, Bantam and PeeWee), all bench personnel should, at minimum, have Community Development coach certification. Ref. BCLA Coaches policy #7.03

Introduction

In today's fast paced game of lacrosse coaches are implementing various types of line changes. Door Personnel are more than those that open and close doors; they are an integral part of the team.

When volunteers enter the benches to run a door they are generally given little or no training. Quite often the players get stuck waiting by the door to get in or go out as the Door Person gets caught watching the game instead of taking care of this important volunteer role.

This module is an overview for the Door Person to ensure they are better prepared to make a positive contribution to the great game of lacrosse. In this module the "do's & don'ts" which come with this position will be identified.

"We are here for the players" is the mantra that all Door Personnel must remember. The goal with this module is to give our Door Personnel the tools to perform their duties and to ensure that all players leave every lacrosse session with a safe and positive experience.

At the end of this module, Door Personnel will have a clear understanding of what their role on the player's bench includes and does not include. It is hoped that after becoming trained Door Personnel, the volunteers will aspire to become trained coaches and take on the responsibilities of that role in the team dynamics.

Technical

The most important task for the Door Person is to open and close the doors at the appropriate time. This is accomplished as follows:

- Be alert and ready on the bench
- Be focused in the role and not game watching
- Ensure that the next line of players are ready to go on to the playing floor and be prepared for the players coming off the floor
- Keep the door area clear of players so that players coming off the floor can easily enter the bench
- Communicate with the other Door Person as to how many players are entering or exiting the bench
- Understand when a player can enter and exit the player's bench

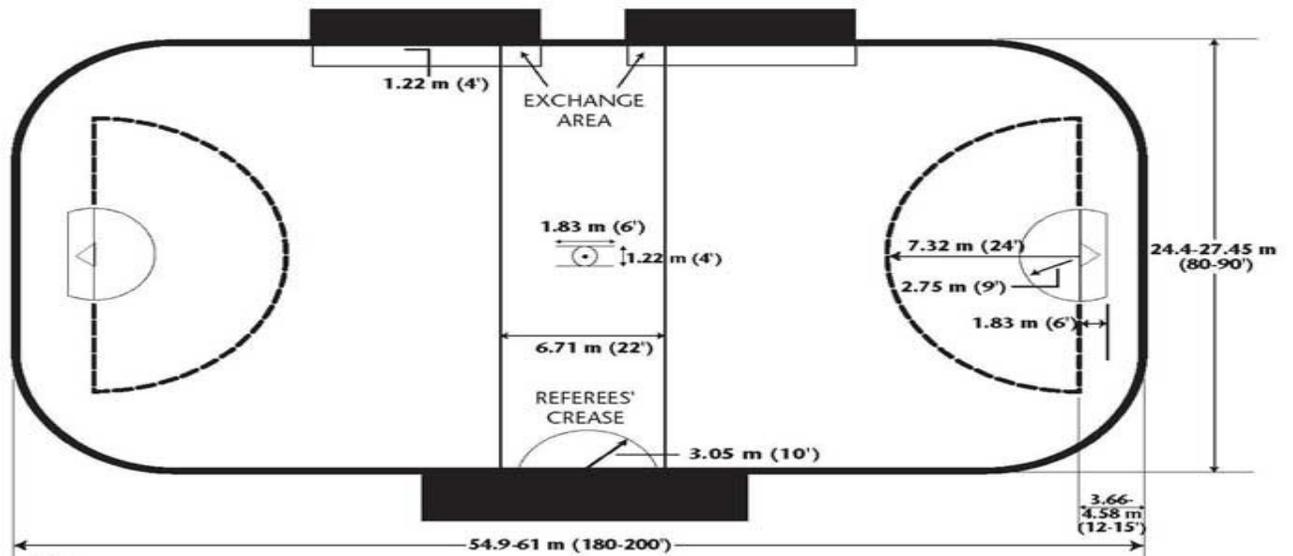
As you can see, the Door Person is indeed an integral part of the game. To accomplish this role in a proficient manner it is important that the Door Personnel attend and play an active part in practice.

It is at practice that the Door Personnel will get a clear understanding of what line change system the Coach is implementing for the team. As some of these changes such as the 3-2 or 2-3 models seem complicated on the surface, working on them in practice will ensure a smooth line change of players in game situations.

Quite often the line changes are confusing for the players because the Door Personnel do not have a clear understanding as to what is going on! This is also true with man-up and man-down situations. So just like the players, practice is required!

Also critical to the line change is understanding when a player can enter and exit the floor. The rule is - the exiting player cannot touch the floor until the entering player has at least one foot in the exchange area. The floor diagram on the next page shows the exchange area box.

Floor Diagram and Line Markings for CLA Play



Teamwork and quick changes require practice. A team that has clean line changes can often gain an advantage on their opponent as fast breaking situations present themselves.

Part of the clean line change is making sure the players are ready for the next change. At the “out” door, the Door Person ensures that the next line of players is properly equipped to enter the floor. At the “in” door, the Door Person has the players shuffle down the bench toward the “out” door to ensure there is room on the bench for the next line of players which will enter.

A good Door Person needs to work on maintaining focus on their task even when the intensity of the game is at its highest. When “game watching” the result can be an incorrect number of players on the floor and a subsequent penalty.

A clean line change requires good communication between the Door Personnel at both ends of the bench. Quite often this is accomplished verbally by clearly calling out the numbers (1 through 5) as the players enter and exit the player’s bench. In rare instances the arena may be so loud that visual signaling by using an up stretched hand is required. In this instance the player count is indicated by using fingers on the up stretched hand as players enter and exit the bench.

Although the Door Personnel require clear communication with each other, players on the bench and coaching staff regarding line changes that is where the communication ends.

At no time should you be coaching players on the bench (or on the floor) regarding the playing of the game, that responsibility belongs to the coach. At no time should you be communicating with the officials on the floor. The communication with the officials is done by the captains of the team. Refrain from entering into negative discussion with the spectators. The technical aspect of the Door Person's role is to ensure that the players are ready for the line changes and that you are prepared to open the door.

Who can be a door person? At the Mini-Tyke to Novice level, it is anyone who has completed and passed, the door personnel test. Any qualified Coaches can also run the gates and well as any player associated with the team, provided they are wearing a helmet.

Safety & Risk Management

While being focused on their role in the game, Door Personnel have a safety standard to uphold. As the door is the primary tool for the Door Personnel they must consider the safety of players on the floor by keeping the door closed and locked unless there is a line change. This cannot be compromised.

To be prepared for water hazards on the bench, the Door Personnel must have a supply of dry rags to mop any spills which may occur. Ensuring that water bottles have their tops secured and in an "out of the way" position will go a long way toward keeping the bench area dry. If a spill does occur it needs to be wiped up promptly to avert any potential injury to the players from slipping. By adhering to due diligence and wiping up any spills from the previous game, the Door Personnel ensure that their team's players participate in a safe environment.

If there is water on the playing floor, the coach of the team should be advised promptly. It is the coach's responsibility to advise the officials of safety issues. The Door Personnel are only allowed on to the playing floor when asked to do so by an official. Wiping up a spill is only time during the course of the game where the Door Personnel are allowed on the floor.

The Door Personnel are not to attend to injured players unless they are certified trainers. If one of the Door Personnel is a certified trainer this must be noted on the game sheet. If the Door Personnel is not a certified trainer as indicated on the scoresheet, it is the Coaches responsibility to enter the playing area when requested

to do so by an official. The Coaches training through the NCCP program enables him/her to better deal with the injury situation from a risk management standpoint.

Door Personnel need to keep the doors shut at all times, except when players are entering or exiting the bench area. Failure to do so, will result in a warning from the official. The same situation when the goaltender is pulled for an extra attacker. The door must remain closed. If the goalie is standing in the open doorway, then the team is issued a warning and possession if given to the opposing team.

Lastly, the Door Personnel need to stay within the outlined tasks of the role and have some fun! When the Door Personnel are enjoying themselves it becomes infectious for the players. **“We are here for the players”** is the mantra that all participants in sport should continually remind themselves of.

Conduct Codes

Fair Play Codes for Athletes

1. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules, and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper – fighting and mouthing off can spoil the activity for everyone.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything – having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good players/performances – those of my team and of my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

Fair Play Codes for Coaches

1. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
2. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
3. I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and playing time.
4. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.

5. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
6. I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
7. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills. Fair

Play Codes for Parents

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that my child plays sport for his/her enjoyment, not for mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good players/performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the officials' judgment or honesty in public.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.

FAIR PLAY: An Administrator's Role

Everyone involved in sport, from parents and spectators to athletes, officials and coaches, can and should play a part in promoting fair play. The easiest way to do this is to lead by example; to always respect the written and unwritten rules of the game. It is also essential to learn how to constructively manage stress so that fair play skills and instincts will not be lost in the heat of competition. Here are some examples of how you can incorporate fair play into your sport or recreation activity.

As a sport administrator, league or club official, you set the tone for fair and ethical competition. You can:

- Make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of sound judgment and good technical skills. Encourage them to become certified.
- Do your best to ensure that all children are given the same chance to participate, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic background or race.
- Work toward ensuring that recreation department staff, parents, coaches and participants understand their role and their responsibility for promoting fair play in sports.
- Distribute Fair Play Codes to spectators, coaches, players, officials, parents and news media.

That completes the Module for Door Personnel.

A reminder that the Door Personnel qualification can only be used for a maximum of two (2) consecutive seasons. After the second season, the individual must take the appropriate coaching requirements to continue on the bench.