

IOU Officiating Certification

Optional Module: Suggesting Rule Changes

IOU Criteria for considering rules changes

- Does the change improve some aspect of the quality of gameplay?
 - Spectacle
 - Tactical depth
 - Safety
- Does the change improve some aspect of the quality of the rulebook?
 - Readability
 - Intuitiveness
- Does the change improve some aspect of accessibility?
 - Geographic
 - Wealth
 - Cultural
 - Biological

Spectacle

- The IOU wants the sport of oarball to be fun to watch
- Building up tension in play
- Exciting skills and creative decisions from players
- Intense physical contests of strength or speed
- Good “flow”
- Minimal stoppage

Tactical Depth

- IOU wants there to be a wide variety of viable strategies to win oarball games
- Balance of offense vs defense
- Balance of transition vs possession
- Options for different viable strategies
- Ability for different teams to have an “identity” through their tactics

Safety

- IOU wants a sport which minimizes safety risks without compromising on other aspects of the sport
- Discourage dangerous play
- Encourage sportsmanship
- Minimize chances of accidental injury
- Build a safe culture

Rulebook Readability

- Rules should be understandable and clear, with no unnecessary obfuscation or undue vagueness
- The rulebook should be kept as trim as possible, making it a more effective reference tool and faster to pick up on

Rulebook Intuitiveness

- Rules should make sense in the context of the sport
- Readers should be able to discern what a rule hopes to achieve on the field, why it was included, and see its impact on the field
- Rules should be able to be understood by watching the sport without even reading the rulebook

Geographic Accessibility

- People should be able to play oarball no matter where they live
- IOU wants to improve access for people in areas that may not be able to play if at all possible
 - Limited space
 - Environmental factors
 - Distance between potential players

Wealth Accessibility

- Affordability is vital for the sport's survival
- Changes should not add undue costs for players or clubs
- Changes should not provide advantages to players or clubs with more financial capital
- Changes should not create a culture of elitism that drives away lower-income players

Cultural Accessibility

- Various barriers can exist to prevent players from joining the sport
- Language
 - Being able to speak to officials, read rules, and learn about the sport in different languages is important
- Religion
 - Different religions have various requirements for attire, for fasting, etc. that can become barriers if not carefully considered
- Cultural Practices
 - Various cultural practices can create barriers to entry in unexpected ways, and these must be considered

Biological Accessibility

- Players of every shape and size should be able to find a niche in the sport
- Players with various disabilities should not be prevented from playing

Designing a proposal

- Your proposal must include a thorough explanation of what rule you would like to change, add, or remove
- Must include an explanation of what you hope this rule change would achieve
- The IOU will consider it based on its merits and its possible impacts based on the aforementioned criteria