

Statement of the ČSML Referees' Commission regarding the initiative of the team captains of Lakros Zbraslav and LCC Radotín (NBLL Game No. 38)

The ČSML Referees' Commission (KR) has received and discussed in detail your joint initiative regarding NBLL Game No. 38 between Lakros Zbraslav and LCC Radotín, which took place on May 27, 2026.

We highly appreciate the civilized manner in which you formulated your grievances, as well as your declared interest in the development and standard of our domestic league competition.

KR issues the following position on the individual points of your letter and the resulting situation:

1. Inviolability of the Official Game Sheet

Any retroactive alteration of the official game sheet is entirely unacceptable. The final game record and the penalties recorded therein correspond to the factual decisions made by the officials on the floor. From KR perspective, these records cannot be retroactively deleted, modified, or adjusted based on post-game agreements between team captains.

2. Personnel Status and Game Assignments

The personnel status of referees within the ČSML has long been critical and deplorable. KR has repeatedly and long-term drawn attention to this fact. In our current reality, the delegation of referees to games takes place primarily on the basis of their availability and only secondarily based on their performance quality.

In the case of Game No. 38, the assignment was assembled with regard to these personnel limitations and also took into account the first mutual game between these opponents in this year's season, which was entirely straightforward, trouble-free, and featured a below-average number of penalties.

KR fully accepts systemic responsibility for the fact that a trio of referees was assigned to this game for whom, according to the joint statement of the opponents, the style of play and emotions of the game proved to be too demanding.

3. Protection of Referees and Responsibility for the Course of the Game

On the other hand, KR stands behind its referees. We are convinced that the assigned officials did their utmost within the limits of their current knowledge, abilities, and experience to bring the game to a proper conclusion.

At the same time, it must be emphasized that the responsibility for the development of the game, player safety, and emotions on the floor never rests solely on the referees. It is, first and foremost, the players, coaches, and captains themselves who directly shape the game through their behavior, level of aggressiveness, and respect for the opponent. If a game results in such a significant number of penalties, it is evident that self-control was primarily lacking on the part of the participants on the floor. Referees are those who react to rule violations, not those who primarily commit the fouls.

4. Requests for Personnel Restrictions on Assignments (Veto)

KR completely rejects the requests regarding referee assignments.

In competitions under the auspices of the ČSML, there is no established mechanism of a "veto," nor any option for teams to have a say in assignments, restrict a referee's license, or dictate the composition of assigned officiating crews.

Assignments are fully and exclusively within the competence of KR, which is elected to this mandate by the General Assembly of the ČSML. Any precedent where clubs dictate which referees are and are not allowed to officiate their games is procedurally unacceptable.

Conclusion

We fully share your view that the situation in the league competition needs to move forward. However, if there is to be genuine improvement and higher quality of officiating, it cannot happen without the active involvement of the entire lacrosse community.

KR ČSML therefore officially welcomes and calls for any effort, assistance, or initiative from clubs, individuals, retiring players, or coaches who would be willing to participate in stabilizing and expanding the referee workforce. We will gladly provide maximum cooperation in their training and onboarding.

We trust that despite the aforementioned disagreement with your requests, we will focus together on a constructive solution to this long-term problem.

Martin Bartuška
Předseda Komise rozhodčích ČSML
V Praze dne 31. 5. 2026