

# Strategic Recommendations: Syracuse Men’s Lacrosse (Post-2024 Audit)

## Executive Summary: Maximum Impact, Minimum Drama!

Sir/Madam, the 2024 season—a solid 12–6 record and that superb **+67 Goal Differential**—shows our offense is **absolutely spot on**. However, we were so *close* to converting those marginal losses into a deep championship run, no? The numbers clearly indicate that the time for **marginal gains** in defense is over; we must focus the next season’s budget and training on the **highest-leverage activity: Possession Control**.

Our recommendation is sharp and singular: **Invest everything** in Faceoff Efficiency. This is the **most statistically rewarding action** we can take for the 2025 season.

Tier	Focus Area	Action Recommendation (Please do the needful!)	Risk Level	The Statistical Jugaad (Rationale)
Operational	Team Clearing	Implement a <b>high-tempo, zero-tolerance clearing scheme</b> (Target: 0.900). This is non-negotiable, yaar!	Low	The gap is small (costs only possessions/game), but it’s an <b>easy win</b> we must secure immediately.
Investigatory	Possession Specialist	<b>Full-time, dedicated resources</b> for Mason Kohn and the FO	Medium	Pushing FO% from to gives us extra possessions/game. <b>That is 3X</b>

		unit. Treat him like a <i>superstar</i> asset.		<b>the return!</b>
High-Stakes	Defensive Structure	A rigorous, film-based structural audit focused <i>only</i> on the moments we concede after a failed clear. This is where the panic happens!	High	Requires significant coaching bandwidth and the mental effort to dissect those painful moments on film.

## Background: The Decision Context

We had a great run, but the ultimate goal was missed by those crucial two high-stakes wins. The question for the Athletic Director and the Coaching Staff is: *Where do we put our limited energy to ensure we turn a 12-6 season into a 14-4 championship caliber season?*

The decision must be **data-driven**, focusing on maximizing our chances in those tight, high-pressure playoff games. We must stop the small losses that become large failures.

## Data & Findings: The 3X Faceoff Leverage

Our analysis compared the statistical leverage of two key possession metrics: Clearing Efficiency ( ) and Faceoff Efficiency ( ). The results are clear, sir.

Metric	SU Value	Opponent Value	Season Impact (Possessions)	Effect Size
Goal Differential		N/A	N/A	<b>High</b> (Offense is not the issue)
Clearing Efficiency			Lost (game)	<b>Low</b> (Small, marginal leak)
Faceoff	Unknown	N/A	Gained (game)	<b>Medium-High</b>

Efficiency			- Hypothetical	(The game changer!)
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### Uncertainty Statement (We must be honest!)

Look, the difference of is a small statistical *niggle*. It is a priority, yes, but fixing it alone won't move the needle for the championship. **The true statistical leverage is Faceoffs.** Improving Mason Kohn's by just 5% is modelled to give us the return in possessions per game! This is the core focus that will give us the **competitive edge**.

## 4. Detailed Action Plan (Tiered)

### Operational (Low Risk - Immediate Start)

1. **Immediate Clear Drill Integration:** Starting tomorrow, dedicate 10 minutes of **every single non-game practice** to high-intensity, no-fail clearing. We want efficiency in practice, without question.
2. **Defensive Communication Standard:** Standardize and simplify the language for our ride and clear. No confusion, no fancy words—only clear, crisp instructions to eliminate those marginal, sloppy turnovers.

### Investigatory (Medium Risk - Resource Allocation)

1. **Possession Specialist Investment (Mason Kohn):** Mason Kohn is a potential **game-winner**. We must invest in him like he is a superstar signing! Allocate funds for high-speed camera analysis and specialized, one-on-one training sessions focused on technical biomechanics.
2. **Opponent Clearing Deep Dive:** We need to *steal* the best tactics. Analyze every clip of the 2024 opponents who cleared at or above . Identify their structure and replicate it.

### High-Stakes (High Risk - Personnel & Strategy)

1. **Personnel Review (Faceoff):** This is a critical audit. By the end of the Fall season, we must determine if Mason Kohn is demonstrably on track for that target. If the numbers are not there, the High-Stakes action for 2026 must be **resource reallocation towards recruiting a proven, elite FO specialist**. We cannot afford to wait.

## 5. Ethical / Legal Concerns: Handling the Pressure

This is *extremely* important, sir. When we target one player for such high-stakes improvement, it creates **undue pressure** on Mason Kohn. We must manage this with care and support.

- **The Risk:** If he doesn't hit the target, the potential replacement recruitment (High-Stakes action) could destroy his morale and be seen as a **punishment**.
- **The Mitigation:** The conversation must be framed as a **massive investment in his**

**champion skill set**, not a fault assessment. This must be delivered **privately**, with clear, supportive performance benchmarks, and **must include dedicated sports psychology support**. The data drives support, not punishment—that is the ethical way forward.

## 6. Next Steps & Validation Plan

1. **Action Initiation:** Operational tasks start immediately. Resource planning for the Investigatory tasks begins now.
2. **Validation Check:** We will track and practice throughout the Fall. If our practice does not exceed by November, we must escalate the Operational task to a High-Stakes coaching structure review.
3. **Audit:** The entire process is auditable using the metrics captured by the Athletics Analytics Department. We will review this report at the quarterly meeting.