

Boys Youth Lacrosse of Washington Rules and Regulations

MISSION STATEMENT:

Boys Youth Lacrosse of Washington intends to promote and develop the game of lacrosse and to provide a safe and fun opportunity for children in grades 3rd -8th who register with us to play team lacrosse. We will emphasize the development of self-esteem, good sportsmanship, respect for oneself and others, fitness, achievement, teamwork and skill through the playing of the game of lacrosse.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BYLW:

The responsibilities of the Boys Youth Lacrosse of Washington hereinafter will be referred to as BYLW shall be to organize, develop and promote boys youth lacrosse in Washington. It shall further be the responsibility of the BYLW to supervise and administer boy's youth lacrosse in Washington

Definitions

Conference- A collection of programs and teams grouped generally by regional location or other criteria to facilitate scheduling and overall league program.

Program- An independent system that fields at least one team within BYLW. It must have a President, Secretary, and Treasurer (or equivalent title). Each program in BYLW will operate and maintain their teams and be responsible for their own sign-up registrations, insurance, equipment, fields, and coaches. BYLW programs will operate their own boards, fundraisers, and maintain their own separate finances. Each program of the BYLW will abide by all decisions voted on by the majority or otherwise stated. Each member program receives one vote.

Team- A single squad of players within a program.

Members- Any individual in good standing that belongs to an program recognized by BYLW.

SECTION I

BOYS YOUTH LACROSSE OF WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION

- 1) BYLW will be comprised of programs that are independent with their own board of directors and financial resources to fund their own program. The board of directors must include at least a president, secretary and treasurer. (or equivalent title)
- 2) A representative from each BYLW program must sign the "**Directors Acknowledgement**" which certifies that all coaches and staff have read and understand these rules, and agree to abide by them. Failure to sign this agreement will result in the exclusion of the program from BYLW.
- 3) The name Boys Youth Lacrosse of Washington refers to the league as a whole. **Programs operate under their own name with their own identity.** BYLW allows programs to share in the planning and decision making while playing under the same rules and regulations.
- 4) BYLW has a policy that we DO NOT share the coach's or players contact lists with **anyone**. This is a matter of privacy and people who give their email addresses to BYLW have an expectation that it will not be passed on to for-profit programs or companies.

SECTION II

TEAM COSTS

- 1) The BYLW Board of Directors will determine League dues and fees. Every program in BYLW will pay these dues and fees to the League Treasurer on the date announced by the BYLW Board of Directors. Failure to pay regular fees or dues in a timely manner shall cause a program's games not to be scheduled.
- 2) Each BYLW program will pay their share for officials based on the number of teams they field for the current year. Official's fees may vary depending on Division. Every BYLW program will pay these fees on the date announced by the BYLW Board of Directors. Failure to pay official's fees in a timely manner shall result in a programs's games not to be scheduled.

3) All home field scheduling and home field use costs are the responsibilities of each program.

SECTION III PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

1) BYLW will be comprised of independent programs playing together as a league. Any program that wishes to play in BYLW will be welcome to join as a member program if agreed upon by a majority vote of the current BYLW Board.

2) Any vote on a new program admitted to the league will be taken after a current season ends but before a new season begins. A simple majority vote is needed to accept a new program into BYLW.

3) Each new member program will be on a one-year probationary term. At the end of the probationary term the BYLW Board will then take a vote at the pre-season meeting. A majority vote will be required to give the new member program permanent status.

4) No program may be expelled from BYLW without a majority vote by the BYLW Board of Directors. This vote will take place at the last meeting of the year.

5) A vote to expel an program can be called only after these conditions are met:

- a. An program shows a repeated disrespect for the by-laws, rules and codes set forth by the BYLW Board. This can be quantified by an unusually high number of grievances brought against an program and formally submitted to the BYLW Board.
- b. Repeated attempts are made by the BYLW Board of Directors to get the offending program into compliance and the offending program refuses to correct the problems.
- c. At the end of season meeting with the BYLW Board of Directors and the program in question in attendance, the issue will be debated and discussed. An agreement can be reached to correct the problems or the BYLW Board of Directors call for a silent majority vote if no agreement can be reached. The result of the vote will be final.

6) If an program is expelled, a letter from the BYLW Board of Directors will be sent to the expelled program president detailing the reasons. An expelled program can re-apply for membership after a one-year period.

7) It is mandatory that all BYLW programs have team liability/medical insurance. If a team or program is found not to have liability insurance they will be immediately suspended from all league functions.

SECTION IV PLAYER DIVISIONS, PLAYER ELIGIBILITY, ROSTERS, COACHES ELIGIBILITY

1) Boys Youth Lacrosse of Washington will be based on the following three (3) divisions primarily based on grade, with age limitations as noted. The player's age on March 1 of the spring season shall be the player's league age for the current season. No player who is fifteen years old prior to March 1 of the current season or who is enrolled in school in the ninth grade or above shall be allowed to play in BYLW. A valid birth certificate will determine the player's age and division of play. The age limitations are intended to protect the safety of the children. A player who does not meet the age restrictions for their grade may petition the Board for an exception by contacting the President.

3/4 Division – 3rd and 4th grade players

Ages 7-10 (all players must be under 11 years of age on March 1st of the lacrosse season)
To play lightning children must be a minimum of seven (7) years old.

5/6 Division – 5th and 6th grade players

Ages 10-12 (all players must be under 13 years of age on March 1st of the lacrosse season)

7/8 Division – 7th and 8th grade players

Ages 12-14 (all players must be under 15 years of age on March 1st of the lacrosse season)

- 2) A valid copy of each participant's birth certificate will be verified with each BYLW member program to ensure the correct division of play as well to settle any disputes that may occur as to a player's eligibility. If the participant is uncomfortable leaving the birth certificate on file, a member of the program must verify and record the player's birthday. If that participant's age comes into question a valid birth certificate must be produced within 72 hours.
- 3) A player can play in only one division (in his/her age/grade division), on one team per season.
- 4) All official rosters will be set by Friday of week two (2) in the regular season. A signed copy must be on file with the League Secretary by that date. Head coaches must have their team's official roster with player's name, grade, age and game jersey number available on game day to verify player's eligibility if needed. Only the opposing head coach can challenge a player's status. The head coach must then follow the procedures relating to grievances included within these rules.
- 5) **All coaches must submit to a Washington State background check with host program before having contact with players.** It is required that one coach from each team must be certified in CPR and First Aid and hold a valid current card. Each team will have a properly stocked first aid kit and a cell phone on the sidelines of all BYLW league games and practices. For purposes of contacting emergency vehicles, each team will have the property address of the playing field available at all times.

SECTION V BOUNDARIES

- 1) Boys Youth Lacrosse of Washington member programs will have no boundaries. Any player can play with any program where his registration is approved. BYLW does not dictate to parents where it is best for their child to play; however, if a player attends a school that has a lacrosse program for his age group, the player must play for that program. BYLW encourages players to play on the team where they will be attending high school. A player that has never played before may be recruited by any member program. A player may only play for one team in any given season. Any coach can coach for any program he signs up with. A coach may only coach one team in any given season.
- 2) If a player chooses to change to another program from one year to the next, both program presidents must be informed that this has happened. In some cases a player and or parent has been expelled (Examples: Owing fees, holding equipment, rules violations) from individual programs or BYLW and might be attempting to play or coach while under expulsion. This will protect member programs from these situations. A member program can recruit a player that has participated in BYLW only if that player has not played in BYLW for a period of one year.
- 3) Although BYLW has no boundaries, it is understood that upon entering High School and WHSBLA, all players will be required to play for the team stipulated within the applicable WHSBLA rules.

SECTION VI GAME & PRACTICE REGULATIONS / OFFICIALS

- 1) Each program will provide their own home field and will be responsible for field markings and field supervision. It's also required of all home fields to have access to toilet facilities for all participants.
- 2) BYLW shall secure official association referees for the season. The BYLW Referee Coordinator and Treasurer will work with the official's association representative to ensure all fees are paid, all schedules agreed to, and all requirements are met.
- 3) Each program that doesn't have an operating scoreboard must furnish a regulation clock as well as a penalty clock and horn with an adult to run them.
- 4) The home team is responsible to make sure that they do not have the same colored jerseys as the away team. Each team must indicate their colors for home and away at the start of the season. In the interest of cost, it's desirable to use one color for home and away.

5) Each program will operate their home field as the host and may elect to have concessions. It is not a requirement that a program have concessions. All teams must make sure that their sidelines are cleaned up after each game.

SECTION VII PLAYING RULES

Playing rules will be National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules, as modified by the US Lacrosse Youth Council, with the exceptions noted below:

- 1) Age Definition: The Youth Council Age Definition section is replaced in its entirety by Section IV of these Rules and Regulations.
 - a. NFHS references to the Senior Division shall apply to BYLW's 7/8 Division
 - b. NFHS references to the Junior Division shall apply to BYLW's 5/6 Division
 - c. NFHS references to the Lightning Division shall apply to BYLW's 3/4 Division
- 2) Rule 1, Section 6 (Equipment): The length of the crosse may be 37 – 42 inches for offensive and defensive players in the 3/4 Division. No long crosses are permitted in the 3/4 Division.
- 3) Rule 2, Section 5 (Game Officials): In the 3/4 Division, there will be one official association referee per game.
- 4) Rule 3, Section 1 (Length of Game):
 - a. In the 7/8 and 5/6 Divisions, a running-time clock may be used, by mutual consent of the coaches. Article 2 of the NFHS rules, specifying a running-time clock in the second half of any game with a 12-goal score differential, shall be enforced, except by mutual consent of the coaches.
 - b. In the 5/6 Division, a coach may stop play with possession in the open to instruct his own players on a point of rule (not coach strategy).
 - c. The Youth Council rule for the Lightning and Bantam Divisions (Rule 3-1b) is replaced in its entirety by the following:
 - i. Two 20-minute running-time halves.
 - ii. In the event of a tie, one 4-minute sudden-victory overtime period will be played. If after the overtime period the score is a tie, the game will end as a tie.
 - iii. Each team is permitted one 2-minute timeout per half, and one timeout in overtime.
- 5) Rule 5, Section 3 (Body Checking): In the 3/4 Division, only two players from each team may play for a ground ball; all other players must keep a 5-yard distance. Referees will give the players an opportunity to recognize the situation and correct before making the call to award the ball.
- 6) Rule 5, Section 6 (Slashing): The Youth Council rule defining one-handed checks or any stick check other than to the gloved hand holding the stick as slashing in the Bantam Division shall apply to all BYLW Divisions.
- 7) Rule 5, Section 11 (Ejection): The following modifications supplement the NFHS rules:
 - a. Physical or verbal altercations before, during or after a game by players, coaches, officials or spectators will result in the ejection of that player, parent, coach or spectator from the field location by the Field Manager.
 - b. Ejection of players, coaches, or spectators by officials for any reason will result in the automatic suspension from participating in all BYLW functions, including practices, for a period to include the next scheduled game.**
 - c. The BYLW Board of Directors will review the incident with the players, parents, coaches or spectators during the suspension period. At that time a silent vote will be taken to allow or disallow the individual to continue participation in league activities. The BYLW Board of Directors can take action up to and including banning the individual from BYLW.
 - d. If the individual is allowed to continue participation and is involved in a second offense, that person will be automatically suspended from league play or participation for the remainder of the current season.

SECTION VIII SCHEDULES

- 1) The game schedules for each Conference shall be the responsibility of the designated scheduler for each Conference. The schedules shall be created with the goal of each team having at least (3) games against teams outside of their home conference. All scheduling matters shall be addressed through the designated scheduler. The designated schedulers for each Conference will collaborate to schedule the inter-conference games.
- 2) Exhibition or non-league games are scheduled at the discretion of the coach, but must be reported to the Conference Executive. Any change to a scheduled game must be agreed upon between coaches of both teams 72 hours prior to the originally scheduled date and time. Changes to a scheduled game must also be reported to the referee scheduler 72 hours prior to the originally scheduled date and time. It is the responsibility of the coach requesting the change to contact the designated scheduler for the conference and the referee scheduler.
- 3) No program or team will be allowed to be a member of BYLW who refuses to play a scheduled conference or inter-conference game with another BYLW team. Any BYLW team refusing to play another BYLW team shall be subject to sanctions as determined by the BYLW Board.
- 4) Each program will have a home field if possible. This will encourage community involvement in the league. Programs may choose to share a home field if they desire. The Monday after each Saturday or Sunday game, a representative from the home team will record the referee attendance per league instructions.
- 5) YEAR END TOURNAMENTS AND JAMBOREES:
 - a. Individual player awards or trophies will be the responsibility of each program.
 - b. The last Saturday of the season is reserved for Conference tournaments and jamborees. Each Conference shall be responsible for coordinating and scheduling its own event. Teams may play at tournaments in Conferences other than their home conference. Each team shall be provided with an opportunity to play within their home conference. Teams may elect to play in another Conference provided there is sufficient capacity for the additional team. The designated schedulers for each conference shall coordinate the final schedules for year end tournaments and jamborees, and shall endeavor to create a positive year-end experience for all teams.
- 6) This section will be reviewed every year and revised and/or confirmed by majority vote of the general membership.

SECTION IX CONDUCT, RULES

- 1) Each program will be responsible for the conduct of their coaches, players and spectators. Any player, coach or spectator who is ejected from a game must follow all BYLW rules regarding ejection from a game.
- 2) Each team may choose their own nicknames (providing name is appropriate, as determined by BYLW board), colors (as long as it's not already in use), team size, number of teams, home field but must conduct themselves under the spirit of the rules of BYLW.
- 3) Each program should provide a field manager for their assigned home games. The field manager has the right to remove any spectator who is disruptive regardless of which team the spectator is cheering for.
- 4) Every parent, player and coach in each team will receive a "Code of Conduct Form". It explains what's expected as to their behavior at any and all BYLW functions. A Code of Conduct Form will be signed by the coach, parent, and player and filed with the player's registration forms with each member program.

5) Grievances shall be addressed first to the Conference Executive representing the party filing the grievance, within 48 hours of the incident. The Conference Executive shall attempt to resolve the issue directly with the parties. If the issue cannot be resolved, the matter shall be referred to the BYLW Grievance Committee, in writing and in a timely manner. If the issue involves two or more conferences, an effort shall be made by the applicable Conference Executives to reach a resolution. If the issue cannot be resolved, it shall be referred to the BYLW Grievance Committee in writing and in a timely manner.

- a. The Grievance Committee will be made up of the current year BYLW Board members. A minimum of three (3) BYLW Board members must be in attendance for a hearing to occur. If a Board member is a direct party to the dispute, that Board member will not sit on the Grievance Committee for that instance. The BYLW President will chair the Committee but will not have a vote. All parties involved will be present and state their case before a silent vote can be taken to determine the outcome. If the vote results in a tie then the BYLW President will cast the determining vote. When a silent vote is taken the results are final and all programs agree to abide by the decision of the Grievance Committee.

6) Physical or verbal altercations before, during or after a game by players, coaches, officials or spectators will result in the ejection of that player, parent, coach, or spectator from the field location by the Field Manager. Ejection of players, coaches, or spectators by officials will result in the automatic suspension from participating in all BYLW functions, including all practices, for a period to include the next scheduled game. The BYLW Board of Directors will review the incident with the players, parents, coaches, or spectators during the suspension period. At that time a silent vote will be taken to allow or disallow the individual to continue participation in league activities. The BYLW Board of Directors can take action up to and including banning the individual from BYLW League. If the individual is allowed to continue participation and is involved in a second offense, it will result in the automatic suspension from league play or participation for the remainder of the current year.

7) Altercations between parents, players, coaches, officials, or any other spectators will not be tolerated. Teams must police themselves and make it clear to their program that bad behavior will not be tolerated.

SECTION X ETHICS

1) In any document one can find loopholes or ways to get around a rule. It's up to the individual programs to police themselves so as not to break the spirit of the codes and rules. An program is only as good as the people in it who are willing to play above board in an honest and trusting manner. The BYLW League was created to bring together strong independent youth Lacrosse programs that are willing to work within an environment of mutual cooperation in which the advancement of Lacrosse and not just the individual program are the main priority. The dynamics of youth lacrosse demands that a youth lacrosse league be operated in this manner. This allows the community, in which the program resides to better serve that area, grow with the area and have a sense of ownership with the community.

2) Member programs are expected to induce a spirit of high ideals in their teams. Member programs are to practice the highest standards of sportsmanship and coaching ethics.

3) Member programs will be responsible for providing proof that all their coaches have submitted to the Washington State background and that at least one coach from each team is first aid/CPR certified before taking the field. The Board strongly encourages all coaches to attend league and Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse sponsored coaching/training clinics.

4) The highest degree of ethical conduct is expected of all that participate in the league. This includes strict adherence to both the letter and the spirit of the rules and regulations. The use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, and the use of profanity during practice or games are prohibited.

5) Violent conduct, holding / touching the facemask, or verbal abuse towards any player, coach, official or parent will not be tolerated and is prohibited.

**SECTION XI
CHANGES**

1) The BYLW Board of Directors will meet from time to time in the off-season to review these rules. If a rule is to be changed it will take a two-thirds majority vote by the member programs (each member program receives one vote).