

CONSTITUTION OF THE MARYLAND YOUTH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
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ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Association is the Maryland Youth Lacrosse Association.

MYLA
PO Box 5313
Timonium, MD 21094-5313

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The purpose of the Association is to provide the participants with the fundamental skills required to play lacrosse and to promote the spirit and sportsmanship of the game of lacrosse.

The rules of play that have evolved to govern games sanctioned by the MYLA have been the direct result of input from numerous dedicated individuals over the years. The goal of each of these individuals has been to structure a framework of game regulations that would ensure a safe environment in which to conduct lacrosse games while, at the same time, offer an opportunity for all participants to enjoy the traditional challenges of the sport of lacrosse. We believe that the current rules governing MYLA games do, in fact, satisfy these goals. Of equal importance, are the attitudes, purposes and conduct that we adults

bring to the sport. Our primary job is not only to create an atmosphere of learning, enjoyment, and good sportsmanship for all of the youths who decide to participate in the MYLA, but to complete our obligation by conducting ourselves in a manner that reinforces the high standards that we expect the players to sustain. We believe that the most effective method to achieve our goals is to remember that the opposing coaches and the officials are actually engaged in a partnership which is dedicated to providing the players with a quality experience. Working together, we can easily attain the goals that we often fall short of if we work individually.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Any organized group who meets the requirements of the MYLA may apply for membership. They are:

1. Program must have an organization of its own, with officers and by-laws.
2. Program must have field locations for home games.
3. Program must NOT adversely affect adjoining programs.
4. Programs must conduct open registration. A two-thirds approval by the Board will be required for acceptance.
5. Application for membership is due by November 1st of the upcoming season.

ARTICLE IV - Dues

Membership dues are established by the Board and approved by the Association. Each member shall pay its dues annually, prior to issuing of schedules. Failure to pay its dues will result in the programs NOT receiving the schedule for the current season. Checks are payable to the Maryland Youth Lacrosse Association, and mailed to PO Box 5313 Timonium, MD 21094-5313.

ARTICLE V - Representation

1. Each program shall be permitted one official delegate, who shall be entitled to a single vote on each question. The name of each program's delegate must be submitted to the Association at the Season Opening meeting.
2. A program may be represented by proxy. He/She is the official delegate for the program and their decisions are binding for the program.
3. Without prior notice, any program, not represented in two (2) consecutive meetings is in jeopardy of being dropped from membership in the Association. Such membership may be reinstated by a majority vote of the membership.
4. The programs may be represented by any number of people, but the official delegate will be the only spokesperson in the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

1. The Association shall have a minimum of three business meetings annually. There shall be a Fall organizational meeting. The second meeting shall be a pre-season meeting to be held at the end of February or beginning of March. The primary function of this meeting is for programs to submit their teams and field availability, and to review any new or existing rules. The third meeting shall be held following the last scheduled games. This meeting is to set the schedule for playoff games.

Games results not entered on the MYLA web site by the start of the May meeting will result in a loss for that team. The only exception is if the game has not been played, which must be noted to the Board. All games should be played prior to the playoff meeting.

2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or the Board of Directors.

3. Notice of all meetings shall be given to all programs at least 14 days before each meeting. An agenda will be issued at the meeting. It is the responsibility of the members to contact the President with agenda items prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VII - Duties of Officers

The officers shall perform such duties as are consistent with their office according to usual parliamentary rules as described in "Roberts Rules of Order." The President shall perform the administrative duties of the MYLA. The Treasurer shall keep all financial records of the MYLA. The Board of Directors shall appoint other officers as they deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII- Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of two sub-boards, one representing the Girls Program, and one representing the Boys Program. They shall function as one Board representing the MYLA. In matters pertinent to only one program (girls or boys) only that Board (girls or boys) shall vote.

Each Sub-Board shall be comprised of five members, four to be elected and the referee liaison.

The referee liaisons will serve at the discretion of the Combined Board of Directors. They shall not have voting privileges. The replacement shall be voted on by a majority of the sub-board.

The President along with the Board has the right to replace a Board member should they not fulfill their obligation.

The elected Board Members will serve a two year term, or until a replacement can be found.

ARTICLE IX - Elections

1. A nominating Committee will be appointed by the President to develop a slate of candidates. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor prior to the elections or selected by the board when a replacement is necessary. All program directors are encouraged to volunteer to serve on the board.
2. All elected Board Members shall be voted on at the Fall meeting.

ARTICLE X - Functions of the Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors of the MYLA shall be entrusted with the duty of carrying on the work of the Association. Seven members must be present to constitute a quorum. The Board is empowered to transact such business of the Association as it may deem wise and imperative. The President shall advise the Association of the agenda for upcoming meetings. A written agenda will be issued at the meeting.
2. It is the duty of the Board of Directors to act as a court and to render decisions by majority vote, in all issues and controversies arising out of the interpretations of any of the articles of this constitution, or its by-laws; or the interpretation or application of any rules and regulations governing league play, such as may be found in our own rules, or those in the Federation or US Lacrosse Women's Rules, or committee rulings.
3. The President and or the Board of Directors may postpone, cancel or forfeit any or all contests in cases where the safety and welfare of people are concerned or in the best interest of the Association. This may be done after consultation with the program or programs involved.
4. The Board of Directors shall elect a President from within their own body.
5. The Board of Directors shall select and appoint an executive Director to administer the Association activities. The Executive Director shall not be a member of the Board of Directors but shall attend all meetings of the Board and serve at their discretion. The Executive Director shall also act as the Secretary for both Boards.

ARTICLE XI - Executive Director Remuneration

Remuneration for the Executive Director shall be established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII - Standing Committees

The President with advice and consent of the Board of Directors, may appoint the following committees: Nominating, Officials and Rules, Finance, Executive Director, and other committees the Board feels advisable. Each committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least two other members.

ARTICLE XIII - Duties of Standing Committees

1. Nominating: to nominate a slate of potential board members and conduct the election of same.
2. Official and Rules: To consult with and aid the Commissioner of Officials; to review and interpret Federation Rules and US Lacrosse Women's Lacrosse Rules and their applicability to our association; to publish any modifications to the boys or girls' rules for the level of play in our various leagues as deemed appropriate.
3. Finance: To oversee the financial viability of the Association, to audit the treasure financial report.

ARTICLE XIV - Eligibility Rules

The purpose of the following eligibility rules is to insure to every person in a program which is a member of the MYLA, the privileges and benefits of participation in lacrosse and to protect that person from unfair competition therein. To be eligible to play on any team representing a program which is a member of the Association a player must fall within the limits of all the following rules:

1. Meet the age requirements for the league in which the player has registered to play.
2. May not be a player on a high school lacrosse team (freshmen, sophomore, junior varsity, or varsity) on or after April 1, of the current year. A player may participate in tryouts for a high school team, and if not selected, they may play MYLA if age eligible.
3. May not have been recruited from another program. Once a player has registered with one Recreation Program in our Association, they may NOT participate on any other team during that same season. A player may participate on another lacrosse team, provided that team is not a member of our league.
4. Should a player wish to transfer from one MYLA program to another MYLA program they must obtain a release from the former program and present the release to the new program with a copy to the President. This release must state that the player has not been recruited by any member program. A verbal release to the President and/or Board members is acceptable.
- 5.) Once a player has signed up for one program, they are prohibited from signing up with another program. If such an infraction occurs, the player in question must sit out three (3) games (from the date of the knowledge of the infraction). Once a player has been evaluated by a program, they may not leave for another program for any reason. If a player is placed on a team within a program and that player is dissatisfied with their placement, they may not leave for another program. Doing any of the aforementioned, results in sitting out the first 3 games of knowledge of the infraction.

ARTICLE XV - League Status Changes

If a player participated in a scheduled league game of an older age group, they must remain a member of the older league for the remainder of the season. There are few exceptions for his rule, and they must be approved by the President.

ARTICLE XVI - Forfeiture/Default of Contest

1. A member team may not forfeit a scheduled contest without contacting the President first. Violation of this rule will make the team and coach ineligible for any play-off games and also may result in one year's suspension. Repeat violations by the same program will result in expulsion. A program may also be expelled if the coach fails to notify the other team and officials if they are unable to make a scheduled game. If a program forfeits without notifying the opposing team or referees, they are responsible for all referee fees.
2. If a coach or player is ejected from a sanctioned game, they may appoint a representative to replace them. If a representative is not available, the contest may be declared a default and result in a loss for the team. The referee has the power to suspend from a game, or send from the field a player, coach, or fan found guilty of flagrant or repeated misconduct and/or found using abusive language. The player must sit out the next sanctioned game. Any coach that is dismissed from a game must meet with the Board and be cleared before he/she can coach again.
3. The President or Board of Directors can declare a default shall they deem necessary due to the rule infractions by an offending team.

ARTICLE XVII - Observance of Eligibility Rules

1. No program may waive any rule in favor of another, and a mutual violation of any or all of these rules shall result in the contest in question being cast out altogether and replayed subject to the rules as specified.
2. The deliberate or continued violation of the Association rules shall be sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion.
3. Suspension and/or expulsion shall take place upon a three-fourths vote of the Board members present.
4. The provisions of the eligibility rules shall be complied within all contests between members of the MYLA.

ARTICLE XVIII - Penalties

The advertent or inadvertent violations of any or all of the eligibility rules or any other rules shall be sufficient cause for the suspension of the player or coaches found guilty for a period of twelve months from the date such violations were brought to the attention of the chairperson of the rules committee. A second violation by the same player or coach shall be cause for suspension for a period of two years. The forfeiture of all contests participated in by the violator to the opponents of the program guilty of the violation.

A violation must be brought to the attention of the Association for any infraction of the Association Constitution, By-laws, or other regulations, at or before, the next regular meeting following the infraction.

ARTICLE XIX - Administration of Eligibility Rules

The interpretation and the applications of these rules rest with the Board of Directors. The decisions of any Executive Officer, or of the Board or Rules Committee may be appealed at a regular meeting to the Association sitting as Court of Review, and may by majority vote, be approved or reversed. The appeal must be presented in writing to the President prior to the next scheduled Board meeting.

- A) Any protest that involves the constitution should be referred to the Board of Directors
- B) Any other type of protest should be referred to the Chairperson of committee involved. In cases of disagreement, an appeal may be made to the Board of Directors.
- C) Under no circumstance shall a decision rendered by a referee, umpire, or any other official in charge of the playing of a contest be the basis of a protest.

Should the eligibility of a player be in question, the President shall contact the School Administration where the player attends. The initiative in matters of suspension or expulsion of a program rests with the President, but any member may propose such measures to the Association. The proposal must be in writing.

ARTICLE XX - Minimum Play Rule

All players should participate to the fullest extent possible and must participate at least the equivalent of one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the game. It is the responsibility of the coach on each team to see that this is carried out. The ONLY exceptions shall be in the event of disciplinary action toward a player or an injury to the player during the game. Note: the disciplined player may wear their uniform and stand with the team, without equipment. The opposing coach MUST be told of this prior to the beginning of game. Failure to comply with this rule results in a forfeit.

ARTICLE XXI - Certification of Players

The program chairperson of each program is responsible for the eligibility certification of their registered players. Birth certificates are the standard from of age verification in the Association.

ARTICLE XXII - Recruitment of Players

It is the intent of the Association for the individual programs to utilize players from within their own neighborhood recreation council boundaries and not to recruit players residing elsewhere. No player, coach or program representative (parent, or designate) shall request a player to move to another program. Failure to comply results in a one year suspension of the coach upon meeting with the Board.

ARTICLE XXIII - Financial Report of Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible to submit to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XXIV- Amendments

The Constitutions or By-laws of the Association may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Any proposed amendments should be submitted in writing to the President at least three weeks before the next scheduled official Board of Directors meeting.