

**Operational Guidelines
Youth Lacrosse of Minnesota
Boys Youth Leagues**

1. Definition of grade levels: grade of player is defined as the grade he was enrolled in as of the close of the current school year.

3rd/4th grade combination – Bantam Division
5th/6th grade combination – Lightning Division (Ojibwa - non-competitive)
5th/6th grade combination - Junior Division (Dakota – competitive)
7th/8th grade combination – Senior Division (Dakota and Ojibwa)

Acceptable variations 4th/5th/6th grade combination
 6th/7th/8th grade combination

The 5th/6th & 7th/8th grade teams shall be separated into two groups: Dakota (competitive) and Ojibwa (non-competitive). Each Association is to determine the composition of these two groups. Keep in mind the spirit of fair play and the advancement of lacrosse in Minnesota. The Dakota & Ojibwa groups will not play against each other unless numbers dictate otherwise.

2. Each Association is responsible for the following at each home game (items in bold print are mandatory the remaining are optional):

- a. **game balls**
- b. two certified referees are required at all levels**
- c. time keeping shall be by an official timekeeper in the table area with game & penalty timer**
- d. scorekeeper shall be by an official scorekeeper in the table area with an official lacrosse scoring book & score board
- e. properly lined and marked fields – see Item 3.c below**
- f. legally sized goals 6 ft X 6ft with net; portable, steel, aluminized steel, PVC, etc are acceptable, it is recommended that lighter goals be anchored to the ground**
- g. sanitation facilities and water – it is recommended that these services are provided in the vicinity of the fields; due to varying resources this is not mandatory.

3. Game format

- a. Junior and Senior Division games will include four 15 minute running time quarters with a 1 minute rest between quarters and a 5 minute halftime. Bantam and Lightning will include two 22 minute running time halves, with a 5 minute halftime break and no overtime.
- b. field dimensions:
 - Standard NFHS rules

- c. rules standards
 - NFHS Lacrosse Rules, including Youth Supplement and YLM modifications.
 - a. all referees are required to be certified
 - b. a minimum of 2 officials are required at all games
 - c. the home team is responsible for providing referees, splitting the cost with the visiting team
- 5. End of season tournament
 - a. Seeded tournament format, double elimination. To be held the first weekend after the regular season
- 6. Special note – game traditions
 - a. coin toss at the beginning of each game
 - b. line up before taking the field
 - c. “YahRah”
 - d. End of game hand shake – remove helmet & right handed glove, hold this equipment in opposite hand & carry with when shaking hands
- 7. Game cancellations – if weather requires the cancellation of a game, it is the home team’s responsibility to reschedule the game.