



2019 SMYLA BY-LAWS

These By-Laws are intended to be general in nature.

The SMYLA Handbook offers detailed rules and interpretations of these By-Laws.

The SMYLA Handbook is updated yearly and is intended as a complement to these By-Laws.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this Association shall be the SMYLA. The Association is incorporated as Southern Maryland Youth Lacrosse Association, Inc.

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the Association is to promote and develop the growth of lacrosse at the youth level.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Founding members of the Association were:

Bowie Lacrosse Club
Calvert Lacrosse Club
Prince Georges County Lacrosse Club
South Bowie Lacrosse Club

ARTICLE IV

Expansion

1. Organizations may apply for entrance into this Association prior to the yearly opening meeting.
2. Criteria for a new organization to enter a team in SMYLA shall include:
 - A solid organizational base, and
 - the ability to field at least one team at the U15, U13, U11, U9 or U7 levels.
 - A two-thirds affirmative vote of approval by SMYLA's voting members

3. Criteria for a new organization to become a voting member in SMYLA shall include
 - A solid organizational base,
 - the ability to field teams in three of the following four levels: U15, U13, U11, U9, U7.
 - A two-thirds affirmative vote of approval by SMYLA's voting members

ARTICLE V League Fees

1. League fees will be assessed to each member on a yearly basis to cover the expenses of the league and league tournament.
2. Referee fees are the full responsibility of the host team and may be billed through the league.
3. League fees are due from each member on March 1 each year (or date set at annual meeting). Any league fees not paid by March 17 (or date set at annual meeting) may be assessed a twenty percent (20%) penalty. Any member with outstanding League fees during season play will forfeit all games played until full payment is made.

ARTICLE VI Team Division

U15 Junior Team - To be eligible to play at the U15 level, a player must be fourteen (14) years old or younger on AUGUST 31 prior to the current season. A ninth grader meeting the age eligibility is not eligible for play at the U15 Junior level if he or she is on any Varsity or Junior Varsity lacrosse team or any other comparable team, including high school club level.

U13 Midget Team - To be eligible to play at the U13 level, a player must be twelve (12) years old or younger on AUGUST 31 prior to the current season.

U11 Pee Wee Team - To be eligible to play at the U11 level, a player must be ten (10) years old or younger on AUGUST 31 prior to the current season.

ARTICLE VII Rosters

1. Each team shall submit to the League Commissioner a complete roster detailing the following information regarding each player:

First and last names
Complete date of birth
Jersey number

2. There is no limit as to the number of players allowed to be included on a roster. However, limits may exist regarding end-of-season awards.

3. A preliminary roster, including each player's name, date of birth, jersey number, and position, shall be received by the League Secretary no later than March 15 unless otherwise noted in the League Handbook. Any team not submitting a preliminary roster by the due date will be ineligible for League play.

4. Final rosters are due to the League Secretary, with copies to League Commissioners, no later than the date set in the League Handbook but no later than a team's first league game – whichever occurs first.

If a final roster is not forthcoming, it will be presumed that no adjustments have been made, and any preliminary roster received will be considered as the final roster. Any program experiencing extraordinary hardship, such as inability to field a team or play games, may petition the Rules and Discipline Committee for an exception to this rule regarding final roster due date. The petitioning team must supply full explanation why they should be permitted to add a player after the deadline. In no event can a player be added after the hardship date outlined in the League Handbook. This rule applies to the hardship of the team, NOT the hardship of an individual player.

5. In submitting rosters to the League Commissioner, the League Representative is declaring responsibility that the information included is accurate.

ARTICLE VIII

League Officers and Duties

Officers of this Association and their duties shall be as follows:

Commissioner - Preside over meetings and receive notice of suspensions.

Secretary - Take appropriate notes at meetings and notify members of upcoming meetings.

Treasurer - Control the money of the League.

Statistician - Receive game results and statistics and make periodic reports of League standings to League Representatives.

League Liaison (optional) - Represent the League as Liaison to US Lacrosse or any post season competitions with other leagues.

Officers will be elected at the first league meeting of the year. Terms shall be one year. Officers may vote only if they are the League Representatives from their particular organization. Their election as officers of this Organization does not give them voting authority.

ARTICLE IX

Meetings and Voting

A full League meeting should be held in January of each year at which time officers for the upcoming season will be elected and rules and guidelines for the upcoming season will be reviewed.

Members holding current, paid membership in the League, shall select one voting representative, referred to as the "League Representative," to vote on their behalf at League meetings. Each voting member team, through its League Representative, is entitled to one vote only. Decisions at meetings will be decided by a poll of the League Representatives with a majority vote carrying the decision.

ARTICLE X Statistics

1. Upon completion of a league game, each team shall report scores to the League Statistician or through the Game Reporting Page of the SMYLA Website as soon as possible.
2. League standings will be determined by the point system. A team will be awarded two points for a win, one point for a tie, and zero points for a loss. Points will be awarded for League games only. At the end of the season, game statistics will be used for tournament seeding.
3. Ties will be broken in the following order using official League games only:
 - a. Head-to-head win/loss record.
 - b. Head-to-head least goals allowed.
 - c. Win/loss record within conference (if multiple conferences during that season).
 - d. Least goals allowed within conference (if multiple conferences during that season).
 - e. Win/loss record within division (if multiple divisions during that season).
 - f. Least goals allowed within division (if multiple divisions during that season).
4. League Championships will be determined by a league tournament.

ARTICLE XI Changes or Amendments to By-Laws

In order to amend these By-Laws, a proposed change must be submitted in writing to all League Representatives at least thirty days prior to a vote on the amendment. A majority vote will pass an amendment.

ARTICLE XII Play of Game

1. The rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations will govern the play of games except as otherwise designated in the SMYLA By-Laws and/or the SMYLA Handbook.
2. U15 Junior, U13 Midget, and U11 PeeWee games shall consist of four quarters stop time as outlined in the League Handbook.
3. There shall be a two-minute break between the first and second quarters and the third and fourth quarters. There shall be a five-minute break between halves.
4. During league play, one five-minute sudden victory overtime period will be played in any game that is tied at the end of four full quarters of play. If the tie is not broken during that time, a second five-minute sudden victory

overtime period will be played. If the tie is not broken after the two overtime periods, the game will be recorded as a tie game and each team will receive one point. During tournament play, overtime sessions will continue until a winner can be declared.

5. If during the game, one team leads the other team by five (5) or more goals – including at the start of a quarter, but not during a penalty infraction against the trailing team – the team with the least number of goals shall be awarded possession of the ball at the midfield line in lieu of a faceoff.

ARTICLE XIII **Game Change or Cancellation**

1. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to notify the Referee's Association and the League of any change or cancellation of games.

2. Efforts will be made to complete a game once it has begun. However, if an official terminates a game during play, it will be considered a complete game if terminated after the referee's whistle beginning play in the third quarter. If a game is terminated prior to the referee's whistle beginning the third quarter, it will be considered an incomplete game and shall be replayed in its entirety.

ARTICLE XIV **Fighting and Ejections**

1. It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure that his team acts in a sportsmanlike manner. Fighting will not be tolerated. The following minimum penalties for fighting will be enforced. Rules & Discipline has the authority to increase sanctions for any violations.

- **First Offense** – Mandatory two-game suspension from play. Rules and Discipline has the authority to increase or suspend a player for balance of the season if the facts warrant.
- **Second Offense** – Mandatory four-game suspension from play. Rules and Discipline has the authority to increase or suspend player for balance of the season if the facts warrant.

Game suspensions are for league games and will carry over into tournament play and/or the following season. Team coaches or League Representatives are responsible to notify the League President and Secretary immediately in the event of an ejection for fighting.

2. Any player ejected for leaving the bench area during an altercation shall be suspended for the season at all levels.

3. Should the entire team leave its bench area during an altercation, that team shall immediately forfeit the game. Rules & Discipline has the authority to add sanctions if needed.

4. Should both teams leave their bench area during an altercation, both teams shall immediately forfeit the game, and no points will be awarded to either team.

5. Should a team's coach (head or assistant) be ejected during a game, the game shall immediately be stopped and that team shall forfeit the game at that point.

ARTICLE XV
Home Team Responsibilities

1. The home team shall be responsible for ensuring that there is no conflict in jersey colors. If there is a conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to make the change in jerseys.
2. The home team shall ensure that the field is properly lined and ready for play. Fields should be prepared for play one-half hour prior to game time. Failure to have a field prepared one-half hour in advance may result in a three-minute non-releasable penalty at the start of game play. This rule is not to be interpreted to imply that a field is necessarily going to be "available" for play one-half hour prior to game time. When multiple games are scheduled, this may not be possible. However, this rule should be interpreted to imply that a field should be "prepared" (i.e. goals strung and in place, field lined, etc.) for play one-half hour prior to the first game of the day.
3. The home team shall ensure that the goal nets are properly secured and without holes and that the goals are of legal size and design. Adhering to "lacrosse etiquette" when hosting games, the visitor's goal shall be the first available.
4. The home team shall provide a scoring area to include a scoring table, a timekeeper, a game clock, a penalty clock, and a horn. The home team shall provide the official scorer. Each team will provide balls on the end line closest to their team bench.

ARTICLE XVI
US Lacrosse

A League Liaison will represent this Association with US Lacrosse.

ARTICLE XVII
Rules and Discipline

1. A Rules and Discipline Committee will be elected at the yearly organizational meeting and will serve a one- year term. This Committee will have the task of maintaining the integrity of the league by investigating protests, handling disputes, and imposing sanctions.
2. Sanctions will be imposed for non-compliance of rules. Sanctions could include, but are not limited to, deduction of League points, revocation of post-season eligibility, and expulsion from the League.
3. In case of a dispute, a written protest should be submitted to the Rules and Discipline Committee. That Committee shall investigate the protest and make a determination.
4. The Rules and Discipline Committee has full authority to request and secure appropriate documents and information to investigate protests.

ARTICLE XVIII
Definitions

League Representative - The one person authorized by an organization to represent and vote at League meetings. Each member organization has one League Representative.

Member - The club or organization holding membership in this League.

Season - The season shall run for the calendar year January through December.