

DFW YOUTH LACROSSE PROGRAM ADMIN HANDBOOK



Version 8.0 (as of January 6, 2026)

www.dfwlacrosse.com

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Revision History

| Revision | Changes | Member Approved Date | Author |
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| 1.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initial Version: Templated from THSLL with exceptions for DFWL | 12.16.13 | Mike Cook |
| 2.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removed/Revised Information Pertaining Strictly and Solely to THSLL and Unrelated to DFWL including: ● District and Division Summary ● Game Types related to Varsity and Junior Varsity games ● District Playoffs and State Finals related to THSLL ● All State Championship Information related to THSLL, including host, venue and timing ● Medical Emergency Plan ● Player Honors related to All-State and All-District Honors ● Person of the Year, Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year ● All-American Honors was revised to fit DFWL ● Appendix A (Rules) was revised and formatted into the rulebook for DFWL and youth play ● Appendix B (Proxy Form) was revised to for DFLW and moved to Appendix A ● Appendix C (Sideline Policy and Background Check) was revised, sideline policy was moved into rulebook and background recommendation was removed. ● Appendix D, G, M and N (Tournament Standards and Rules) and Appendix E (Emergency Plan) was removed ● Appendix F (Coaches Code of Conduct) was revised and moved to Appendix B ● Appendix H and O (Playoff Structure was removed) ● Appendix I (Tiebreaker Policy) moved to rulebook ● Appendix J (Timetable) and Appendix K and L (Requirements for Awards) removed ● Added Pages Numbers, Removed Header and Footer, Added Introductory Paragraph, Revised and Updated Level Description (D1, D2, D3), Updated Definition of Terms, Update Game Types, Revised Playoff Information, Added All-Star Information, Removed Lightning Policy Suggestion, Copied Exceptions from December 2013 Vote Related to League Play, Eligibility, Equipment, Play of Game ● Split Overall Rulebook into an administrative and organizational rulebook and a play of game rulebook | 10.3.17 | David Higbee, Randy Stewart, Tracey Perry |
| 3.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revised and clarified all eligibility rules. Inserted existing section regarding Dallas Deuces eligibility. Further clarified rules pertaining to hardships and transfers. ● Further defined youth team as a minimum of 12 players (Motion Approved 11.11.17) ● Further defined that a program with a D1 High School team must have a 7th/8th grade D1 team. (Motion Approved 11.11.17) | 11.28.18 | Macy Jagers, David Higbee |

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| 4.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised the numbering within eligibility Rule to correct a formatting error that occurred when the rule change was integrated. This correction is consistent with the language of the motion that was passed by membership vote in 2018. Updated Rule 9bii to have playoffs only for DI and DII and a round robin for DIII. Updated Rule 9B to show only playoffs for DI and DII | 12.19.19 | Desireé Gildea |
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| 5.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Eligibility Rule 13ciii to reflect only the lacrosse program's high school as the next closest determination. | 12.21.2020 | Desireé Gildea |
| 6.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated/Added 5th/6th Grade language to further define how this age group/district will be handled based on how many teams are entered in 5th/6th D1. (Rule #5e- iv added) Bold Faced Rule's Titles so that they are easier to find and read. | 11.14.2023 | Desireé Gildea |
| 7.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Rule 9 b iii- playing a team twice; must be in writing prior to which counts. If not in writing, the 2nd game played will be the counter. Updated Rule 9 Seeding to add: Seeding is based off of the following structure: Record/H2H/GA/Coin Flip. Updated Rule 7 to include when a game is considered a full game given special circumstances such as weather and determined by the officials. Updated Rule 18 d to define the number of swing players allowed. Updated Rule 19 b to include incomplete rosters before the first game yields a forfeit of EOY tourney/playoffs. | 1.28.2025 | Desireé Gildea |
| 8.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Rule 5d i and Rule 8b- Addition of 5th/6th and 7th/8th D1 divisions to align with THSLL East/West Structure. Updated Rule 13c v. Added Wesley Prep as a feeder school for Dallas Deuces program. Updated Table of Contents numbering | 1.6.2026 | Desireé Gildea |

SECTION I | LEAGUE INFORMATION

1. **Introduction:** This document determines the rules for the Dallas Fort Worth Youth Lacrosse League (DFWL) and is under strict control of the DFWL Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board is comprised of volunteers throughout the North Texas area and a paid program administrator.
 - a. The DFWL was established in 2013 was designed to provide bantam and youth players the best possible lacrosse experience by simplifying and streamlining the lacrosse season while providing community based programs additional opportunities during the year. The DFWL is committed to community based/school based programs. Our commitment to all programs extends beyond simple participation. We are a member driven league and offer a vote on all game related issues no matter how large or small a program is. This vote is extremely important because it creates DFWL ownership within all its members. We encourage all member programs to be actively involved at the league level with a single goal in mind and that is to grow the game of lacrosse in North Texas in a responsible way that benefits the families and players that participate.

2. **Overview:** The Dallas Fort Worth Youth Lacrosse League (DFWL) (the “League”) is the governing body and membership association for boys’ lacrosse (DFWL Member School Programs) at the youth level in Texas. The youth level is defined as grades K through eighth.

3. **DFWL Guiding Principles:**
 - a. Creating a structured environment in which student athletes, coaches, administrators, and parents benefit from membership in an organization that facilitates the growth and rewards of playing lacrosse.
 - b. Promoting and protecting the health of participating student athletes by establishing uniform rules of play and cultivating the ideals of good sportsmanship, loyalty, and fair play.
 - c. Working in harmony with the interscholastic governing bodies of DFWL Member School Programs, and other concerned Texas constituencies.
 - d. Establishing and maintaining a process for continuous improvement of the League, by working with DFWL Member School Programs, and other concerned Texas constituencies.
 - e. Building school based boy’s lacrosse Teams in Texas (all players on a Team attend the same source youth, and ideally lacrosse is recognized as a school sport by the athletic director, and if a public youth recognized as a school sport by the independent school district.)

4. **DFWL Membership:** Member programs, that comprise the league, are either single school or community-based organizations, voted into membership by the members of the DFWL. All member organizations submit and maintain information pertinent to both the membership and the board and the league.

5. **Definition of Terms:**
 - a. **Program or Association:** single school or community-based organization with membership in the DFWL who pay dues and abide by the by-laws and rules of the DFWL
 - b. **Team:** a single group of boys of similar age/grade range playing together within a DFWL member program or association
 - i. For youth, team size is a minimum of 12 rostered players
 - c. **League:** Includes all males Kindergarten through 8th grade within the North Texas or DFW area. The league is divided into districts and divisions based upon the geography and the skill level of individual teams within each member program
 - d. **District:** a grouping of member programs based upon geography, wherein member programs play to determine playoff seeding
 - i. 5/6 and 7/8 D1 divisions adopt the same East/West divisional structure currently used by the THSLL, with the Tollway serving as the divider. If the pools become lopsided, the league administrator will have final discretion to determine the final pool alignment.
 - e. **Division:** a grouping of teams based upon skill level, divisions include DI, DII and DIII
 - i. DI: the most competitive and skilled level of players
 1. Programs with a D1 High School team must field a 7th/8th grade D1 team.
 - ii. DII: a mix of skill level with players having some experience playing
 - iii. DIII: primarily made up of first year and inexperienced players
 - iv. **5th/6th Grade Only-** With a minimum of eight teams registered for 5/6 D1. Retain D1, D2, and D3 divisions.
 - D1 championship with all teams registered in D1.
 - D2 championship with all teams registered in D2.
 - D3 division with no championship.
 If fewer than eight teams register for D1, D1 and D2 will combine, and two championships will be created.
 - “A A “ for the top 12 teams.
 - “A” for all remaining teams.
 Seeding will be determined per DFWL rules. Programs may choose which division their team(s) are registered in.

Pods will be created and organized per DFWL rules.
All existing rostering rules for multi-team programs remain in place.
All existing eligibility rules remain in place.

SECTION II | GENERAL LEAGUE OVERVIEW

6. General League Rules:

- a. **Member Programs:** The DFWL shall be composed of Member School Programs made up of one or more Member Teams. Member School Programs shall include those organizations paying annual League dues to DFWL. All such Member School Programs, in good standing (having paid League dues for the current DFWL season), will be entitled to vote at any Member School Program meeting.
- b. **New Member Programs:** New member applications shall be made through the Commissioner, and shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting, a special meeting, or at a members meeting. The application shall consist of a letter to the Commissioner that details the new Member Program's startup plan and intentions. Only Member Schools Programs in the Division or District for which the DFWL Board nomination is being submitted will vote to approve or deny membership to the DFWL Board nominee. New Member Teams must be prepared to be in compliance with DFWL rules immediately upon being voted into the DFWL.
- c. **League Play:** During the DFWL Spring season(s) through and including the date(s) of end of season Championship, and league games, no DFWL Member Team shall play, including scrimmages, a non-DFWL team without the prior written consent of the DFWL Board. Violators of this rule may be subject to sanctions, to include, but not limited to, game forfeiture, ineligibility for Playoffs and Championships, and coach and/or Team probation or suspension.
 - i. Exceptions to this policy include:
 1. DFWL teams may play teams from out of town (greater than 75 miles from home field) by either hosting, or traveling to these teams.
 2. DFWL teams that are associated with SPC/Parochial schools, may play other teams that are associated with SPC/Parochial schools (examples include ESD, St. Mark's, Greenhill, Prestonwood Christian, Parish, and common Jesuit feeder schools that make up the Deuces)
 3. Games that take place with non-DFWL members would not count as part of the DFWL season games
 4. All DFWL member teams must play a minimum number of games against DFWL teams in order to be considered for post season play (Playoffs/Championship, or Bantam Jamboree).

7. Game Types: All DFWL games will be one of the following types. If the game (counter or non counter) goes past half time and is canceled due to weather via the officials and/or the weather sensor/detector will not stop going off, it is final and counts as a full game.

- a. **Counter games:** Games that count within a DFWL District, are games that count towards determination of division record and playoff seeding.
- b. **Non-Counter games:** Games that may count toward overall record but not to district or playoff seeding. These games include tournaments, out-of-league games and games outside both division and district.
- c. **Playoffs:** Games determined by district standings played in a single elimination format within every division.

8. Divisions and Districts: The League shall be divided into Divisions and Districts governed by all General Rules outlined herein.

- a. **Divisions:** Divisions within the DFWL were created to accommodate the variety of skill level and experience, to alleviate scheduling issues, and to create a tier of competition appropriate for such Programs. Member programs are responsible for determining the appropriate division for their teams

- b. **Districts:** Each Division shall be divided into Districts. The Board, with member approval, will assign districts each season based upon geography and available teams within each division.
 - i. 5/6 and 7/8 D1 divisions adopt the same East/West divisional structure currently used by the THSLL, with the Tollway serving as the divider. If the pools become lopsided, the league administrator will have final discretion to determine the final pool alignment.
9. **Playoffs:** The League will host and operate the end-of-season playoff format for all eligible programs and teams
- a. **Eligibility:** The league hosts playoffs for youth teams (5th-8th) grade only. There are no playoffs for bantam. Based on the ability to find a host; a Bantam Play Day will be planned each spring season.
 - b. **Seeding:** Playoff seeds for each Division and District, DI and DII, shall be determined by the records of each team within their district, their count games. Seeding is based off of the following structure: Record/H2H/GA/Coin Flip.
 - c.
 - i. **Number of Teams:** Playoff size will be determined based upon the total number of teams in each division. The league will work to determine the number of teams in each playoff season
 - ii. **Play:** Playoffs will operate on a single weekend in a single elimination process
 - iii. **Counter game opponent played twice:** If you play a team twice, the league has to know prior to the season which game is the counter of the two games, in writing and via email with both team's program schedulers/admin on copy. If this doesn't happen prior to the season starting, the 2nd game will be used as the counter.
 - d. **Tie Breaker:** For Playoff purposes, tiebreaker rules shall be followed if required
 - i. In the event of a multi-way tie the following process will be used to determine all tie breakers:
 1. The tied Teams will be placed in a sub group
 2. The highest seeds are determined by District wins against Teams within the sub group.
 3. If a tie remains after step (b), Teams will be ranked by Head-to-Head competition within the sub group.
 4. In the event of a Three-way tie within any sub group; the selection will also be based on a head-to-head comparison. If all of the Teams have one win over the other Teams in the tie (Team A has defeated Team B, Team B has defeated Team C, and Team C has defeated Team A) then the selection shall be based on the difference in scores between those three games.
 5. The winner will receive a plus for each goal above the goals by the other Team, and the loser will receive a minus for each goal below the goals for the other Team. EX: If Team A defeated Team B by the score of 8 to 5, Team A would receive a plus 3 and Team B would receive a minus 3.
 6. The difference in goals for the remaining two games (B Vs C and C Vs A) would be likewise calculated, and the Team with the largest plus value would be selected.
 7. Should (d) not break the three-way tie, there will be a coin flip. All 3 head coaches meet, and coins will be flipped. They flip and odd side out wins. The remaining two go back to step (a).

10. Member Meetings:

- a. **Annual Meetings:** The League will host two member meetings each year. In the fall with the purpose of reviewing all business related to the oversight and management of the league and league play. And in the early winter to host a scheduling meeting.
- b. **Special Meetings:** Special Meetings of the Member School Programs may be held at such time and place, by electronic or other means as may be determined by the Commissioner. No business other than that specified in the notice of the meeting will be transacted at any such meeting.
- c. **Notice:** Notice of the Annual Meeting or special meetings of Member School Programs shall be provided by the Board of Directors to each Member School Program not less than fifteen (15) nor more than fifty

(50) days prior to such meeting. Such notice shall state the purpose for which the meeting is called and the time and place where it is to be held, and the proposed agenda.

- d. **Quorum:** The presence of 51% of the active, annual fee paying Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Member School Programs related to League play, League preseason and postseason events, and directly related activities of the League, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules. Voting matters related to these topics will require a 51% majority vote of all Member School Programs. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.
- e. **Proxy Representation at Meetings:** A Member School Program may designate another Member School Program to vote on their behalf at any meeting. Proxy authorizations must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner or Board President prior to the start of any meeting.

11. **Rule Making:** The General Rules of the League shall define the structure of the League, shall define and govern League play, shall define and govern League preseason and postseason events, and shall define and govern any and all directly related activities of the League. The General Rules related to League play, League preseason and postseason events, and any and all directly related activities of the League may be revised or amended at any meeting of the Member School programs with a 51% majority vote of all of the active, annual fee paying DFWL Member School Programs, in person or by proxy.

- a. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter. DFWL Member School Programs submitting General Rule change proposals related to League play to be considered at the DFWL State Meeting are required to provide a detailed proposal

12. **Dues & Information:** Each Member Team must submit annual dues payments to the Treasurer. Failure to pay dues as per the determined timetable will result in penalties or exclusion from the league. The dues amount shall be established at the Annual Meeting of the Member School Programs. Required Information: Member Teams are required to provide final valid Team Rosters, Mission Statement, Defined Attendance and Feeder Zones, By-Laws and Organizational Status, Strategic Plan (if one), and Team Contacts.

13. Eligibility

- a. **Mission:** It is DFWL's goal to create a funnel-up program in which a player plays for the DFWL program that keeps him within the same system that he will play for within THSLL. Therefore, the DFWL eligibility rules will mirror the THSLL eligibility rules as closely as possible.
- b. **Who Can Play:** All male students enrolled in kindergarten through 8th grades in public or private schools or home school programs are eligible to play on a DFWL Member Program Team.
- c. **Where to Play:** The DFWL Member Program that a player plays for is determined based on DFWL priority order, which is 1) school enrolled in full-time, 2) home school district, and 3) closest member program. A player may only play for one member program each season. This sequence, along with specific exceptions, is further defined below.
 - i. **First Priority:** A player shall play for the public or private school in which he is enrolled full-time if that school has a lacrosse program.
 - ii. **Second Priority:** If the player's school does not have a lacrosse program, the player shall play for the member program in whose school district he resides. No member program is required to accept a player who does not meet their own published eligibility requirements.
 - iii. **Third Priority:** If the school the player attends does not have a program and the player's home school district does not have a program, the player shall play for the member program that is geographically closest to his residence as measured by the program's high school address.
 - iv. **Home School Exception:** A player enrolled in a home school program shall play for the Home School Athletic Association (HSAA) lacrosse program if such program exists. If HSAA does not have a program, a home school player shall follow Rules 3(b) and 3(c) above to determine which program he will play for.

- v. **Dallas Deuces Exception:** Players who attend St. John’s Episcopal School, Cistercian School, Good Shepherd Episcopal School, Wesley Prep or any Dallas Parochial School may choose to play for Deuces or may follow Rules 3(a-c) above to determine which member program they will play for.
 - 1. Siblings of current Deuces players may also choose to play for Deuces or may follow Rules 3(a-c) above to determine which member program they will play for.
 - 2. Siblings of current Jesuit College Preparatory School students may also choose to play for Deuces or may follow Rules 3(a-c) above to determine which member program they will play for.

d. **Hardship Waivers and Transfers**

- i. When registration closes at the beginning of each season, a program’s roster is final and the players on that roster may not transfer programs within that season.
- ii. If a player changes schools, moves to a new residence, or falls within an enumerated exception in Rule 3, that player may transfer programs between seasons following the priority guidelines stated in Rule 3. However, that player may also choose to remain with the program he played for in the season immediately prior if the player still meets that program’s own published eligibility requirements.
- iii. A player wishing to play for a member program other than one dictated by Rule 3 must request a hardship waiver. A hardship waiver request must be submitted to the Board in the form of a written statement explaining the reason for the request and must be accompanied by a written response from *both* the program that the player would play for under Rule 3 *and* the program that the player desires to play for. Hardship waivers will be considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis and must be voted on by all Board members before they are approved.
- iv. When a new member program is created, players who fall into this program under the guidelines set out in Paragraph 3 above may choose to join that new program or may choose to remain with the program they played for in the season immediately prior if the player still meets that program’s own published eligibility requirements.

14. **Coaches:** All Member Teams must have a designated full time coach. All DFWL coaches are required to be active members of U.S. Lacrosse and comply with the DFWL Code of Conduct (See Appendices). All Member Team (home Team) coaches are to submit game reports including the official game score via the DFWL website within 48 hours of the end of the game.

15. **Insurance:** All Member Teams must carry comprehensive liability insurance. USA Lacrosse membership is mandatory for any and all participants. Member programs and their participants will not be allowed to participate in DFWL activities without US Lacrosse membership and proof of insurance.

SECTION III | HONOR THE GAME DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

16. **Enforcement:** In the event, it becomes reasonable for any discipline or sanctions to be enforced by the DFWL Board or the DFWL Honor the Game Committee, they may act as they determine is appropriate, in their sole judgment. The DFWL and its Member Associations adopt the following Code of Conduct and mandate that all Member Association representatives, players, coaches, and parents confirm their agreement to be bound by the Code of Conduct terms when they become associated with and/or register with their respective Member Association and/or the DFWL.

- a. **In the event it becomes reasonable for any discipline or sanctions to be enforced by the DFWL Board or the DFWL Honor the Game Committee, they may act as they determine is appropriate, in their sole judgment. The DFWL and its Member Associations adopt the following Code of Conduct and mandate that all Member Association representatives, players, coaches, and parents confirm their agreement to be bound by the Code of Conduct terms when they become associated with and/or register with their respective Member Association and/or the DFWL.**

- b. **Improper Behavior:** Egregious behavior (abusive, profane, or violent) by DFWL administrators, representatives, coaches, players, or fans that is not in keeping with the League's safety and/or sportsmanship principles and code of conduct may result in such administrator, representative, coach, player or fan being suspended or expelled from the League and/or prohibited from attending League functions.
 - i. This includes behavior and/or actions not in conformance with the Purpose of the Dallas Fort Worth Youth Lacrosse League.
 - ii. A player who is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will serve a one game suspension.
 - iii. The game served will be the next scheduled game on the DFWL website at the time of the ejection.
 - iv. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the DFWL season, or postseason, the player will serve the suspension in the first scheduled District game the following DFWL season. An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, and must be supervised by the Member Team program.
 - v. An ejected individual, who is serving his one game suspension, cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline. or anywhere in the spectator area.
 - vi. Punishments shall be decided by the Board, and may include sanctions, penalties, suspensions or expulsions of individuals, Teams, or Programs from the League or any combination of any of the foregoing.

17. Team Management:

- a. **Team officials** (coaches, assistant coaches and managers) shall be responsible for their conduct and that of their players at all times. They must endeavor to prevent disorderly conduct before, during or after the game, on or off the field and any place in and around the activity area.
- b. All team officials are expected to take the initiative to be knowledgeable of and ensure that the DFWL Rules and Regulations, Code of Conduct, and DFWL Pledge are adhered to.

18. Player/Team Registration:

- a. No player shall participate in any game under the jurisdiction of or sponsorship the DFWL before the player has registered with his/her Member Association and the DFWL and is properly rostered according to the DFWL.
- b. Member Associations shall be held responsible for ensuring that their players are the correct age and reside within the proper boundaries defined for their Member Association and the DFWL. To the extent that there is any difference between the boundaries defined by the Member Association and the DFWL, the boundary guidelines of the DFWL shall supersede and be controlling. Players not properly registered with the DFWL will be deemed to be ineligible players until such time as they are properly registered.
- c. Registration will be completed by each Member Association in detail according to the information required by the DFWL and submitted to the DFWL no later than the registration deadline established by the DFWL for each season. The DFWL alone, acting through its Board, shall be permitted to open registration past the registration deadline.
- d. Number of swing players defined as 6 field; 1 goalie can swing up and laterally but never down. Rosters are locked for playoffs, no swing players allowed. Exception, if you need a goalie to swing in playoffs, you will need approval from the DFWL Board.

19. Ineligible Players:

- a. A player shall be ineligible if:
 - i. He/she is not properly registered and/or rostered with the DFWL in strict compliance with DFWL rules and guidelines.

- ii. He/she is under suspension.
- b. All games played using an ineligible player will be forfeited. Incomplete Rosters by first counter game equals forfeit of EOY/playoffs for all teams that qualify.
- c. If a Member Association suspects an ineligible player has been played, the Member Association may address its concerns in writing to the DFWL President and/or the DFWL Honor the Game Committee for verification of eligibility.

20. Suspensions:

- a. A suspended player shall not be allowed within fifty feet of any of his/her team's player's bench between 1 hour before and 1 hour after his/her team's game.
- b. A player cannot participate in any exhibition games while under suspension and exhibition games do not count as games served for any suspension.
- c. A coach, team official or spectator who is suspended for any reason shall not be permitted within 250 feet of any of his/her team's player's bench between 1 hour before and 1 hour after his/her team's game and any place in and around the activity area, except for parking lots so that a parent or guardian can pick up and drop off their child player if necessary. If the suspended individual is in attendance without permission, then the team with whom the suspended person is associated shall be deemed to have forfeited the game and the game points will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- d. Suspensions may be assessed for inappropriate activity before, during or after any games
- e. Suspensions will carry over into the next season's play.
- f. When a player, team official or spectator has received a penalty or ejection that carries an automatic suspension, the Head Coach, or his/her designate, and the respective Member Association are responsible to automatically abide by the Minimum Suspension Guidelines

21. Player Ineligibility Protests:

- a. Protests, and all the evidence in support thereof, must be submitted in writing and signed by the Head Coach and DFWL designated Member Association Representative of the protesting team, and delivered to the DFWL President within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game for which the protest is being made.
- b. A copy of the protest must also be delivered to the team protested against within the same time limit as stated in (1) above.
- c. Suspensions cannot be the subject of a protest.
- d. The DFWL Honor the Game Committee will hear the protest and make a decision relating to the same within 48 hours of hearing the protest.

22. Appeals of Releases, Suspensions or Protests:

- a. The DFWL President must receive appeals to releases, suspensions or protests in writing within two (2) days of the initial decision of the DFWL Honor the Game Committee. The DFWL President and two members of the DFWL Board of Directors who are not from either of the effected Member Associations will hear the appeal only. The decision of the appeal shall be final and no further appeals will be considered.

23. Disciplinary Guideline – Procedure:

- a. The DFWL Honor the Game Committee will rule upon any complaint of possible violations of the Code of Conduct, the DFWL Pledge, or other activity possibly requiring disciplinary action during the season. It is strongly recommended that each Member Association submit one of its members, in good standing, as a representative to be called upon during the season to serve on the Honor the Game Committee, this representative may not rule on any activity involving their own Member Association.
- b. All complaints of possible violations of the Code of Conduct, the DFWL Pledge, or other activity possibly requiring disciplinary action during the season of the act/event giving rise to the complaint, **must be**

submitted to the DFWL Honor the Game Committee within seven (7) days of the occurrence of the act/event giving rise to the complaint or it will be automatically barred by the passage of time, i.e. "statute of limitations".

- c. Each incident will be investigated and ruled on its own merits, and no single incident can be construed to set a precedent or affect any other incident.
- d. The DFWL Honor the Game Committee will not limit its jurisdictions to incidents occurring on the playing area but will be concerned with the conduct and activities of ALL PERSONNEL involved in any aspect, or any location of any function related to the DFWL lacrosse league and its sponsored events
- e. The DFWL Honor the Game Committee can convene a Discipline Committee hearing upon its own initiative or may convene a discipline hearing upon receipt of a written complaint from any third party including, but not limited to, a referee, an official of a Member Association, a coach, a parent, a player or an owner operator of a facility used by DFWL.
- f. Upon receipt of a written complaint by the DFWL Honor the Game Committee from a third party, the DFWL Honor the Game Committee, through its Chairperson, shall determine whether or not to will convene a discipline hearing and shall notify such third party of the decision. The decision of the DFWL Honor the Game Committee not to convene a discipline hearing may be appealed to the DFWL President. If the DFWL Board determines that a discipline hearing shall convene, then the DFWL Honor the Game Committee shall convene a hearing. The DFWL Honor the Game Committee shall conduct the discipline hearing in accordance with its usual procedure. The discipline hearing must take place as quickly as possible, but within a maximum of ten (10) days of the incident or receipt of the complaint from a third party. The DFWL Honor the Game Committee shall provide each affected party copies of the original written complaint and such affected parties shall provide their written response within 48 hours of receiving same. Upon receipt of the response a copy shall be provided as soon as practical to the party who filed the original complaint.
- g. The Chairperson of the DFWL Honor the Game Committee will communicate the decision of the Discipline Committee to all interested parties.

24. Disciplinary Guidelines (Regular Season, Playoffs and Tournaments)

- a. **Match Penalty** - Players receiving a match penalty will be suspended for 2 games automatically. They may return to play if not notified by DFWL Honor the Game Committee, however they may be suspended for additional games after the DFWL Honor the Game Committee reviews the incident and rules on the infraction.
- b. **Bench Clearing** - Team members leaving the benches will be immediately suspended until the incident has been reviewed and is ruled on by the DFWL Honor the Game Committee.
- c. **Use of Suspended Players or Non-Registered Players or Improperly Rostered Players** - Use of suspended players or non-registered players or improperly rostered players will result in forfeiture of the game. Said player will be suspended until the incident is reviewed, ruled on by the Discipline Committee or changed to one of in compliance.
- d. **Reports** - The Discipline Committee may review official referee reports or coach's reports and further suspensions may result from the review.
- e. **Recommended Guidelines for Suspensions** - In addition to this document, the DFWL Rules and Regulations, Code of Conduct, and the DFWL Pledge may and will be referred to in addressing all Member Associations, coaches, players, fans and non-playing personnel infractions.

25. Minimum Suspension Guidelines:

- a. The following are the minimum suspension guidelines for all infractions, which may be brought before the DFWL Honor the Game Committee ("HTG").
- b. **Match** - 2 games in addition to the game in which the infraction occurred. May return to play if not notified by the DFWL HTGC. May be suspended after the DFWL HTGC meets even if the player or team official has returned to play

| Infraction | DFWL Position |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 3 personal fouls in a half | Player out remainder of game |
| 5 personal fouls in 1 game | Remainder of game |
| Fighting | Major penalty, out remainder of game, suspension for next game |
| Game misconduct | Player out remainder of game |
| Game misconduct - last 10-min of game | Player out remainder of game plus next game |
| 2nd game misconduct - same game | Match - Refer to DFWL HTGC |
| Attempt to injure | Match - Refer to DFWL HTGC |

26. DFWL Penalty Matrix

- a. DFWL Dues January 15th or stated last day:
 - i. \$25 per team, if still not paid Feb 7, games will not be assigned
- b. Initial Roster January 30 or stated due date:
 - i. \$100 per Team
- c. Valid / Up-To-Date Roster First District Game
 - i. Game Forfeit
- d. Any District game played without a Valid / Up-To-Date Roster will be
 - i. Forfeited and \$50 per program.
- e. Coaches US Lacrosse # January 20 Required for participation
 - i. Forfeited and \$50 per program.

DFW YOUTH LACROSSE PROGRAM ADMIN HANDBOOK



Appendices

Appendix A -DALLAS FORT WORTH YOUTH LACROSSE LEAGUE -Proxy Vote Form

please print your name and sign, no electronic signatures will be accepted

By way of this proxy, please allow

_____ (Name/Organization),

A Member in good standing of the Dallas Fort Worth Youth Lacrosse

League, to vote on my behalf at the DFWL Annual League Meeting.

Note: In the event the member whom I give my proxy is not in attendance, I authorize my proxy be given to the acting Secretary or President (DFWL BOD).

Print name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

EMAIL PROXY FORM TO DFWL LEAGUE DIRECTOR.

PROXY MUST BE IN SUBMITTED NLT COMMUNICATED DEADLINE IN ORDER FOR YOUR PROXY TO BE VALID.

Appendix B -DFWL Coaches Code of Conduct

Objective

All DFWL Coaches are in positions of leadership that present opportunities to leave lasting impressions on their players; therefore it is in the best interest of DFWL that there be a uniform code of conduct that our coaches are required to follow while participating in and/or attending any DFWL sanctioned event and/or game.

The Role of a Coach

Coaches are entrusted with a great responsibility every time a contest begins. Our professional and moral responsibility is to provide DFWL participants quality coaching and a sense of safety and fair play at every DFWL contest.

Sensible, organized competition under proper control provides benefits for DFWL participants. Anything other than that only dramatizes coaches and distracts from the focus and purpose of youth athletics.

All DFWL coaches must keep in mind at all times that they are representing themselves, their Teams, and their Member School Programs. A coach's words and actions come under close scrutiny from students, parents, faculty and the community, and will reflect positively or negatively on the Member School Program.

Structure

There are two documents that outline the expectations of lacrosse coaches. These include:

- 1) NCAA current rulebook or as further modified by the NCAA;
- 2) Current DFWL Rulebook

NCAA Rulebook

Rule 2-4/Game Personnel/Coaches

One of a team's coaches shall be designated the head coach. The head coach shall be responsible for making all decisions for that team not delegated specifically to the team's game captain. Additionally, it shall be the head coach's responsibility to see that players and substitutes are properly equipped to play.

The head coach shall act in a courteous manner and shall endeavor in every way to achieve the same from his players.

The head coach shall be in control of and responsible for all actions of all non-playing members of his squad, and any and all persons officially connected with his institution.

Coaches shall assist the officials in keeping the game under control. It shall be their duty, upon the request of an official, to control effectively actions of spectators not in conformity with standards of proper conduct.

Only the head coach will communicate with the officials. Officials shall address questions from the head coach during half time. A representative from each team may be present while these questions are discussed. Officials should never entertain any questions until a representative of the other team is given the opportunity to be present.

DFWL Coaching Expectations

Coaches are expected to win or lose with dignity and humility.

Coaches must refrain from the use of profanity and insist their players do likewise.

Coaches must be positive role models in terms of sportsmanship and fair play and set a positive example regarding the use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.

Coaches must be fair and unprejudiced with players, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments and aptitudes.

Coaches are expected to maintain self-control at all times, accept adverse decisions calmly, and to treat officials professionally.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct and care of the team from throughout the entire game. This includes the job of making sure that bench areas and dressing rooms are left in good condition and all trash is picked up.

Reportable & Punishable Events

Any discourteous behavior, use of obscene gestures, or profanity directed towards officials.

Any discourteous behavior, use of obscene gestures, or profanity directed at the opposing team, coach, or spectators.

Any coach who is ejected from a contest.

A coach who receives one or more behavior related unsportsmanlike conduct penalties during one game. Coaches are responsible not only for their own actions, but ultimately those of their players. Game officials are expected to inform coaches of their players' actions and the coach must take corrective action. If there are repeated incidences over the course of a game or a series of games, the coach is subject to punishment for not taking corrective action. Other types of reportable incidents include, but are not limited to: verbal abuse or other unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, Member School Program administrators or fans, fans that are removed from facilities for abuse of officials, fights between teams that result in the termination of the contest and physical contact of officials by coaches, Member School Program administrators or fans. Reportable incidents can occur during, before, or after the contest.

Reporting Procedures

Every DFWL unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, incident, or ejection report shall be in writing and sent to the District Coordinator by the local SWLOA Assignor/Head Official after the particular game. The District Coordinator will forward the report to the appropriate members of the DFWL Board of Directors or its designee, and the respective offending Program President/Athletic Director.

To report the incident, give brief but concise information. The incident report should be brief and concise including date, time, place and individuals involved. Events leading up to the incidents as well as the actual incident and any follow-up actions are essential. This report should be detailed enough to give someone who was not present a clear picture of the incident.

League Actions

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

Receives 1 in one game: will be reported to the Coordinator and be subject to a potential reprimand from DFWL after a report is made to the DFWL Board of Directors or its designee.

Receives 2 in one game: The coach and Member School Program President/Athletic Director will meet with the Coordinator. The Coach may miss the next scheduled DFWL game defined as a game on the DFWL schedule at the time the incident occurred, and the game cannot be scheduled after the incident.

Any coach that has an accumulation of 4 USCs in DFWL games, will serve a one game suspension for the next scheduled DFWL game as defined as a game on the DFWL schedule at the time of the fourth USC. USCs reset after the game suspension. A coach who is ejected from a game may be suspended pending an expedient review by the District Coordinator

An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, and must be supervised by the Member Team program. An ejected individual, who is serving his one game suspension, cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline. or anywhere in the spectator area.

A coach will receive a reprimand, if he does not control his team. Upon a second notification, a coach may receive a game suspension. Lack of control can include, but is not limited to, a fight, a bench-clearing brawl, or repeated occurrences of excessive penalties. The explanation of such events by the following will be considered by the DFWL Board of Directors or its designee:

The game officials;

The coach; and

His Member School Program President/Athletic Director.

The above in no way limits the ability of the DFWL Board of Directors to act in what it perceives to be in the best interests of the League.

Other Responsibilities

NCAA Rulebook Rule 2-5/Game Personnel/Home Coach's Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the home coach to see that the playing field is in proper condition for play; that a time-keeper and scorer are on hand with working equipment required; that balls and ball retrievers (or balls on the end

line) are provided; and that the assigning authority has received timely, accurate and adequate information so that officials will be on hand for the game.

When a contest is played at a neutral site, one team must be designated as the home team. This shall be done in writing, before the day of the game. The designated team and its coach assume all the responsibilities of the home team as outlined in the rules.

- a) Only approved Team sideline personnel in compliance with the DFWL rules and policies will be allowed on the field; all others are considered fans, are subject to admission, and not allowed on the field before, during, or after games.
- b) No more than one Team photographer and/or videographer, designated by each Club/A.D., and identified to the Host, one-week in advance to receive proper credentials.
- c) Host has the opportunity to employ an event photographer for all games and presentation ceremonies

Team I Players Names and Jersey Numbers involved in the incident (Specifically also identify players as Complaint Target with a "CT" by their Jersey Number where applicable):

Team II Players Names and Jersey Numbers involved in the incident (Specifically also identify players as Complaint Target with a "CT" by their Jersey Number where applicable):

Please include any other names and their contact information for all other persons whom you believe can add credible supporting information and provided a brief summary, for each such person, of their knowledge:

Appendix D – DFWL Code of Conduct

CODE OF CONDUCT

Players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and fans are to conduct themselves in a manner that “Honors the Game” and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators, and fans. In being or becoming a Member Association of the DFWL community; registering you or your child with DFWL; and/or participating in DFWL sponsored events, you agree to uphold, be bound by, submit to, and be controlled by certain obligations and responsibilities to the game of lacrosse and its participants. The essential elements in this “Code of Conduct” are HONESTY and INTEGRITY. Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these elements will bring credit to the sport of lacrosse, themselves, their team and their association. It is only through such conduct that our sport can continue to earn and maintain a positive image and make its full contribution to amateur sports in the United States and around the world. USL and DFWL support the following behaviors for those participating or involved in any way with USL and DFWL in general. The following essential elements of the “Code of Conduct” must be adhered to:

- Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game and must be taught at all levels and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games.
- The value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, or and the skills of the game should always be placed above winning.
- The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.
- Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as adults.
- Coaches should always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforcement toward players, parents, officials and spectators alike. Players should be specifically encouraged and positively reinforced by coaches to demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators.
- Players should always demonstrate positive behaviors and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents, spectators, and fans alike.
- Coaches, players, parents, spectators, and fans are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials and reinforce that respect in his/her players. Coaches are also expected to educate their players as to the important role of the lacrosse official and to reinforce the ideal of respect for the official by his/her players.
- Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play in view of spectators or participants.
- Officials are professionals and are therefore expected to conduct themselves as such and in a manner that demonstrates total impartiality, courtesy and fairness to all parties.
- Spectators involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass, or threaten an official, coach, player or opponent.
- Coaches must be able to demonstrate a solid knowledge of the rules of lacrosse, and should adhere to the rules in both the letter and the spirit of the game. Coaches should encourage and help to educate the players and spectators surrounding his/her program to develop a basic knowledge of the rules. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct, is considered unacceptable conduct.
- Eligibility requirements, at all levels of the game, must be followed. Rules and requirements such as age, previous level of participation, team transfers, etc., have been established to encourage and maximize participation, fair play and to promote safety.
- Coaches, players, parents, spectators, and Association Members shall always cooperate to the fullest extent with all DFWL and DFWL Honor The Game Committee requests for information in investigating complaints of Code Of Conduct violations.
- Coaches, players, parents, spectators, and Association Members shall be bound by, enforce, and uphold, to the fullest extent possible, the recommendations, decisions, penalties, fines, assessments, and punishments imposed by the DFWL and/or the DFWL Honor The Game Committee in response to upholding and enforcing the Code Of Conduct in response to any submitted complaints.

Appendix E – DFWL Pledge

DFWL PLEDGE

Any player, parent or coach wishing to participate in or be present at DFWL sponsored functions or activities must agree to the following:

I pledge to:

- Learn the rules of lacrosse so that I may be a better player, coach, and fan.
- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating only positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every event.
- Support the drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free environment that is important for all youth sporting events.
- Make only supportive comments to all players, coaches, and officials.
- Remember the field is a classroom and everyone is learning.
- Focus on the fun and the participation.

I also pledge NOT to:

- Possess or consume alcohol or drugs at any DFWL game, including the fields, spectator areas, and parking areas.
- Criticize the coaches, players, or officials.
- Touch an opposing player, coach, or game official in a threatening or unwanted manner.

Appendix F – Petition to Play at Different Grade Level

DFWL Petition to Play at Different Grade Level Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity DFW Youth Lacrosse League Petition to Play at Different Grade Level and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement

Name of Participant: _____

Name of Each Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

US Lacrosse Number of Participant: _____

Program: _____

Current Grade Level: _____

Requested Grade Level: _____

Activity (specify one season, tournament or other activity): _____

Petition to Play At Different Grade Level, Assumption of Risk, Release of Liability and Indemnity

1. We, the named participant (“Participant”) and his parents or legal guardians, request that the Dallas Fort Worth Lacrosse League (the "League") allow the Participant play lacrosse at the requested grade level rather than his current grade level in the specified activity (“Activity”).

2. In requesting that the League allow the Participant to play at a grade level different from his current grade level, we represent that he is capable of playing lacrosse at the requested grade level and will not be assuming an unreasonable risk of injury to himself, and that allowing him to play at the requested grade level will not increase the risk of injury to others playing at the requested grade level.

3. We acknowledge that we have been advised that, when playing up a level, the participant will be playing lacrosse with boys who will be older, more mature, physically larger and faster, and have better skills and more experience, and that he could be put at a greater risk of being injured than if he played at his current grade level.

4. We are willing to assume this greater risk and, in consideration of being allowed to play at the requested grade level, we agree to the following release, waiver, assumption of risk and indemnity. (a) WE KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PLAYING AT THE REQUESTED GRADE LEVEL, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF DFW LACROSSE, INC., THE LEAGUE, PROGRAMS AND TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE LEAGUE, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, COACHES, EMPLOYEES, AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES, AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, AS WELL AS SPONSORS, AND ADVERTISERS, AND THE OWNERS AND LESSORS OF ANY PREMISES USED TO CONDUCT ANY EVENT (COLLECTIVELY, “RELEASED PARTIES”) OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY AND ALL INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE PARTICIPANT’S PRESENCE AT OR PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY AT THE REQUESTED GRADE LEVEL.

(b) WE EACH, FOR OURSELVES AND ON BEHALF OF OUR HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE AND HOLD HARMLESS, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE RELEASED PARTIES OF AND FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY TO THE UNDERSIGNED, AND OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ASSIGNS, EXECUTORS, HEIRS AND NEXT OF KIN, FOR ANY CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES OR DAMAGES, ON ACCOUNT OF ANY BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DEATH OF THE PARTICIPANT, ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY, OR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE, ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THE PARTICIPANT’S PRESENCE AT OR PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY AT THE REQUESTED GRADE LEVEL, WHETHER CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY THE NEGLIGENCE OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF ANY OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, OR OTHERWISE.

(c) WE FURTHER AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND DEFEND THE RELEASED PARTIES FROM ANY LIABILITY,

LOSS, DAMAGES (INCLUDING PUNITIVE DAMAGES), CLAIM, SETTLEMENT PAYMENT, COST AND EXPENSE, INTEREST, AWARD, JUDGMENT, DIMINUTION IN VALUE, FINE, FEE, AND PENALTY, OR OTHER CHARGE, ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS REQUEST, ANY MISREPRESENTATIONS MADE IN THIS REQUEST, OR THE PARTICIPANT PLAYING AT THE REQUESTED DIFFERENT GRADE LEVEL, AND ANY COURT FILING FEE, COURT COST, ARBITRATION FEE OR COST, WITNESS FEE, AND EACH OTHER FEE AND COST OF INVESTIGATING AND DEFENDING OR ASSERTING ANY CLAIM FOR INDEMNIFICATION UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, IN EACH CASE, ATTORNEYS' FEES, OTHER PROFESSIONALS' FEES, AND DISBURSEMENTS.

5. We understand that the foregoing release of liability and waiver of claims is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Texas and agree that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder of this agreement, including the release of liability, waiver, and indemnification will continue in full legal force and effect.

6. We, the participant and his parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s), have read the foregoing release, waiver, assumption of risk and indemnity, fully understand its terms, understand that we have given up substantial rights by signing it, and have signed it freely and voluntarily without any inducement, assurance, or guarantee being made to any of us and intend our by our signatures below to make a complete and unconditional release of all present or future liability on the part of the Released Parties to the greatest extent allowed by law.

_____ Participant _____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian _____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian _____ Date

Consent of the Program

The Participant's program, by and through its undersigned representative, consents to this request and recommends that it be approved. The program represents that it has discussed this request with the Participant's current grade level and requested grade level coaches (to the extent available) and that, based on its investigation, it is aware of no facts or circumstances indicating that the Participant playing lacrosse at the requested grade level would unreasonably increase the risk of injury to himself or to other players.

Program

By: _____ Name

_____ Date

_____ Title

Approval of League

By: _____ Name

_____ Date

_____ Title

Commissioner of DFWL Instructions:

- (1) Please complete the petition by inserting pertinent information into blanks.
- (2) Please sign where indicated. Each parent having a parent-child relationship with the Participant and/or each legal guardian of the Participant must sign. A representative from the program also must sign.
- (3) Submit the completed and signed petition to: Commissioner/President or League Director of Dallas Fort Worth Lacrosse League
- (4) The Commissioner or designee will send to you a copy of the petition signed by a representative of the League if approved.