

Texas Women's Lacrosse League

By-Laws

2005-2006 Season

I. Annual TWLL League Meeting:

An annual meeting of all teams will be held this year in November at Texas A&M. The meeting will be open to all interested teams in joining the league.

II. Competition

TWLL teams shall play members within their division once during the season and play 2-3 non-division (inter-league) games. League games will take place during play days. Each team will host at least once during the season. Travel to a neutral site must be by mutual agreement.

III. Division Contests

League games shall be determined prior to the start of the season (new calendar year). Tournament games may not be substituted for league games unless a regulation game is played at some point during the tournament. All coaches and/or representatives must be in agreement prior to the start of the season.

IV. League Game Schedule

Tentative schedules will be distributed in the fall to all members of the TWLL. Teams individually negotiate changes in the schedule and notify league Coordinators of any or all changes prior to the start of the season, February 1.

For no reason except for weather or other natural disasters will the schedule be changed after February 1 of each season.

Each team is responsible for the maintenance of their team's schedule and should meet the expectation of completing all league games one week prior to the scheduled start of league play-offs.

Any teams who reschedule games for reasons other than natural disasters and unavoidable occasions encounter the following obligations:

A. It is the host teams responsibility to notify both officials. Failure to notify officials will result in the host team paying both official's fees, not including travel costs.

B. If a game is canceled due to weather or natural disasters, it is the host team's responsibility to reschedule within 72 hours, or it will be the host team's forfeit.

C. The referee coordinator arranges officials for the new game date.

D. Notification of officials at least eight days in advance of the original game date. If notice is given less than eight days prior to the original game date, referees must be compensated for that game.

V. League Divisional Standings

Games results are to be reported by BOTH teams within 48 hours of the game, regardless of outcome (win / loss), to the Coordinator. Failure to report scores will result in the delinquent team forfeiting.

Division standings shall be determined by the win / loss records of the participating teams.

VI. Tie Breaking Procedures

Should one or more ties occur when determining the division standings, the tie or ties will be broken statistically in the following order:

- A. Comparison of win / loss records involving only the league games between the tied teams.
- B. Comparison of goals allowed involving only the league games between the tied teams.
- C. Comparison of goals allowed involving all league games played by the tied teams.
- D. Blind draw conducted in the presence of a representative from the tied teams, the Coordinator involved.

VII. Student-Athlete Eligibility

To eliminate ambiguity and disputes, the TWLL will use the following eligibility rules:

- Student-Athletes must be enrolled as a student in a program of studies as defined by the institution that they are representing.
- A player is able to play four seasons of collegiate lacrosse in any time frame. Any college lacrosse seasons count in this equation (IA, NCAA, NAIA, club, not WDIA, etc.).

VIII. Eligibility Appeals

In the event that a team feels that a Student-Athlete should be eligible despite not meeting the rules in Section VII above, then a written appeal may be made to the Coordinator. The Coordinator will forward all requests to the Executive Committee for a vote. A unanimous vote is required to grant the appeal. Players in question are not eligible to compete until their team has received written confirmation from the Coordinator that the appeal has been granted.

IX. Team Rosters and Eligibility Reports

Each team is responsible for submitting a Team Roster / Eligibility Form to the Coordinator by February 1 of that season. Teams are to update their rosters when there are additions or deletions. Players whose names do not appear on a team's original roster will not be eligible to play in league games until the Team Roster / Eligibility Form is updated and approved by the Coordinator.

It is up to the institution and coaches involved to respect and carry out all eligibility rules so that all games involve equitable competition between students.

Use of an ineligible player will result in the team's automatic forfeiture of the game(s), possible probation from post-season league play. These decisions are to be made by the Executive Committee.

X. Game Guidelines

Rules: All league games will be played according to US Lacrosse College Rules. The host team will provide a US Lacrosse regulation field that will be available one hour before game time.

If a league game score is tied at the end of regulation play, the procedure outlined in the US Lacrosse Rule 11-C-1 through 5 should be used to break the tie. If two games are to be played on the same day, the procedure outlined in the US Lacrosse Rule 11-C-6 should be used.

Personal Supplies: The host team shall provide the following for each game (each is to report to the field a minimum of 20 minutes prior to game time).

Officials: Two home officials must be chosen prior to the season by each team. Home officials must be rated by US Lacrosse and must commit to the majority of the requesting team's schedule. These names must be given to the TWLL referee coordinator with all contact information.

Any paid or volunteer coach of a team may not referee any league game involving that team. Two US Lacrosse rated officials are required for each league game to be played. **The minimum payment is \$50 with a traveling fee of \$0.30/ mile.**

Payment to all officials for league games shall occur prior to the start of the game. Failure to provide payment will result in forfeiture by the home team. The only exception to this shall be if previous arrangements have been agreed upon by each official.

There should be no less than two officials at each regular season game. One of the two officials must be a local or above rated official.

In the case that an official does not show up at the schedule time, the away team has the right not to play the game. This means that the host team will have a Standard Forfeit. If both teams agree to play the game with a non-rated official or rated official from one of the teams, the TWLL Coordinator must be notified before playing. Both teams must say they agree to this arrangement to play.

Statistician: One person to record statistics (goals, assists, saves) for each team during the games. Both coaches will provide game rosters with players' names and numbers 20 minutes before game time. At the conclusion of each game the statistician will summarize all stats and get them to the coaches as soon as possible. All scores must be submitted to the Coordinator for the division by the home team within 48 hours of game completion.

Time Keeper: One person to keep time as described in the US Lacrosse Rules. The timekeeper may also assist the statistician with spotting while the ball is in play.

Trainer: *It is recommended that the host team provides any combination of the following: An athletic trainer, student athletic trainer, first aid kit, ice and bags, arrangements with paramedics, phone on or near field for emergencies.*

Goals: In good condition and approved by both officials.

Facilities: Access to bathrooms, showers if possible, housing information (on and off campus) with detailed directions to accommodations and fields.

Equipment: Score table, score indicator, sound indicator (i.e. air horn), time clock, water (coolers, bottles, cups, etc.), 3 yellow game balls.

XI. Uniforms

Each team will have uniforms with numbers on the front and back as provided by the US Lacrosse Rule #7. The home team will wear light and the visiting team will wear dark color jerseys. The non-complying team is responsible for providing and wearing pennies in the case of similar colors.

All additional clothes must correspond to the uniform (i.e. if long sleeved shirts are worn, it must match the outer shirt color). All team members must wear the same uniform.

XII. Forfeits

Failure to appear for a scheduled game is a standard forfeit. Any team failing to appear at a game within 10 minutes of start time without notification of delay or without 8-day notice and an agreement to reschedule will forfeit the game. It is the responsibility of the host team to provide a reasonable method of notification for the visiting teams. It is the responsibility of the forfeiting team to pay for the officials hired for the game, including travel costs. Failure to do so will result in expulsion from the league. The score should be reported as Offended Team - 1, Opponent - 0. The assignment of non-approved officials to a league game is a forfeit. If it is discovered that the playing field for a league game is lined improperly, significant errors that affect the play of the game, or not at all, and the situation can not be remedied without more than 10 minute delay of the scheduled start of the game, the game will be forfeited.

Use of an ineligible player will result in the team's automatic forfeiture of the game(s), possible probation from post-season league play, and the individual may be banned from All-Star activities (see By-laws Section IX).

Failure to pay TWLL dues by the annual fall meeting will result in an Administrative Forfeit (see definition below) of all games played prior to receipt of payment, unless dated is changed by Coordinator.

It is also the responsibility of the home team to notify their opponents and the league of their Institution's policy regarding field use in the event of rain.

Disputes with regard to forfeits should be submitted to Coordinator.

Definition of League Forfeits

Standard Forfeit: The game in question is not played on the day or at the time or in a situation agreed upon by the league and both teams involved.

-Such forfeiture might occur if the visiting team does not show up without prior communication to that effect and an appropriate rescheduling attempt is not made. The visiting team arrives and determines that non-approved officials are assigned to the game or the field is lined improperly or not at all and the situation cannot be remedied. Delays or cancellations due to acts of Nature should automatically be rescheduled.

-Such forfeiture might also occur if an ineligible player is used and the outcome of the contest is affected (i.e. the winning team used the ineligible player). Note that use of an ineligible player is not a qualitative violation, how many goals that player scored, etc., has no bearing on the effect of the violation.

- With this forfeiture, the violation should be duly noted on the institutions record in the League Office, and if necessary, a reprimand should be issued by the league. The game should be reported to the Coordinator as either played or not played and either the actual score or a 1-0 victory recorded.
- Any team refusing to play any league match for reasons other than weather, field availability, or umpiring availability will be put on league probation for one calendar year. (I.e. if this happens April 15, then you will be on probation until April 15). The league will charge a \$100.00 fine for a second violation of this infraction. Any further repetition of this infraction will result in expulsion from the league.
- Administrative Forfeit:** The game in question is played and would have counted as a league contest except for an administrative problem encountered before, during, or after the fact.
- Such a forfeiture might include, but is not limited to, failure to pay dues by a predetermined date, continued use of an ineligible player, failure to withhold a red carded player, failure to reschedule canceled games within 72 hours, changing league games after February 1 of that season, etc.
- If the winnings team was in compliance with league standards at the time of the contest then the score shall remain the same. If the winning team was not in compliance with league standards at the time of the contest, than neither team will record a victory. The losing team will not be rewarded for an infraction that did not affect the outcome of the game.
- With this forfeit, the violation should be duly noted on the institutions record in the League Office, and if necessary, a reprimand should be issued by the league. The game should be reported to the Coordinator as played and either the actual score or a 1-0 score recorded.

XIII. Season Play Period

League play will conclude one week, unless given special permission from the League Coordinator, before the TWLL Play-Offs. This is traditionally the Sunday before play-off tournament play. The actual date or each season is to be determined at the Fall TWLL meeting.

XIV. Post Season Activities

League Championships

Eight teams (4 from each division) will participate in the post season tournament to determine league championship contenders. The 8 teams will play each other in the following manner, # 1 and # 8 will play each other and the winner will be the # 1 seed. # 2 will play # 7 and the winner will be the # 2 seed. # 3 will play # 6 and the winner will be the #3 seed and # 4 will play # 5 and the winner will be the # 4 seed.

Four teams will play in the TWLL League Championships. Four teams will play each other in the following manner, #1 and #4 will play each other and the winner will be the #1 seed. #2 and #3 will play each other and the winner will be the #2 seed. The

#1 and #2 seeds will advance to the Championship game. The #3 and #4 seeds will compete for the third and fourth place in the League Championships.

Championship Sites: The site will be any school wishing to host the championships.

If two schools are wishing to host then the Executive Committee will determine the site.

League Championship Officiating:

The TWLL Coordinator selects 5 umpires based on:

1. Current US Lacrosse rating
2. Experience
3. Personal knowledge gained from seasonal comments by coaches, players, and fellow umpires
4. Availability

An attempt is made to balance the strengths and weaknesses of individual umpires for the first round games with the strongest officials on the finals. This decision is based on the same criteria as above.

WDIA Nationals

The participant for the WDIA National championship will be chosen one month prior to the scheduled national championships, which also may fall before the scheduled TWLL Championships. If this is the case, the team attending will be decided by a combination of the season rankings and pre-season tournament performance.

Tournament Planning: Coach, team representative, or school representative of hosting team will act as TWLL Tournament Coordinator. The TWLL Coordinator will work and attend meetings with (as geographic location allows) the Tournament Coordinator to ensure that all tournament expectations and responsibilities are met and or exceeded.

Responsibilities of Championship Tournament Coordinator:

- Participate as an active and regular member of the Tournament Planning Committee. Voice options on behalf of the league about game times, field locations, supplies, vendors, T-shirts, programs, etc.
- Communicate with Coordinator for Umpires and Statistics, Scheduling, and Tournaments about planning decisions, game scheduling, and staffing.
- Coordinate materials for the program.

Tournament Expectations:

Game Conditions:

- No music during any of the Women's Championship games
- Scoring table and score indicator
- Score and commentary via PA system and electric score board (if available).
- Supplies- Stat book, pencils, clock (counts down), trained statistician, trainer (if available), timer, air horn, extra balls, two chairs, field table, ice, water, nets and goals.

Schedule:

- Game times to accommodate teams traveling from the furthest distance.
- No games on the Friday before.
- No other games to be played during the Championship Game.

Trophies:

- Six awards will be handed out following the Championship Game.
- The Coordinator or designee will present all awards.
- Six awards will be presented: MVP, Best Defense, Best Offense, Runner Up Team, and Championship Team.

XV. Club Championships

It is agreed that the winner of the TWLL from the previous year has the option to play at a Club Championship. If available, funds will be provided.

XVI. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

A majority vote by league members (Executive Committee) is required for entry of a new institution into the TWLL. Approval of this document is a prerequisite for the institutions wishing to enter the league. Future changes to this document must be met by majority approval of the members of the institutions.