Texas Girls High School Lacrosse League Rules

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Texas Girls High School Lacrosse League Rules

This document establishes the rules of the Texas Girls High School Lacrosse League (the League) and is under strict control and ownership of TGHSLL, Inc.

Overview

The League is the governing body for girls' lacrosse teams at the high school level in Texas and Louisiana. The high school level is defined as grades nine through twelve.

The League is divided into four districts:

The North District covers Dallas/Fort Worth and surrounding areas, including northwest LA and southern OK.
The Central District covers Austin and surrounding areas. The San Antonio District covers San Antonio and surrounding areas. The South District covers Houston and surrounding areas.

Each District has Member Programs with teams consisting of Varsity and/or Junior Varsity (JV) Teams. Varsity Teams are divided into Division I (DI), Division II (DII), and Division III (DIII) levels of play.

Definition of Terms

Member Program – A high school or club organization that is the controlling entity of a League team(s) that pays League dues and abides by these rules of the League. Each Member Program with a varsity level team receives one vote per League business item requiring a member vote.

Team – A group of lacrosse players within a Member Program who pay team dues and abide by the rules of the League. A team must be one of the following types:

JV Team – Pays JV dues and plays a JV schedule. A Member Program having only a JV Team is not entitled to vote on issues requiring a member vote. The JV level of play is intended for new players who are learning the game. New Member Program teams will normally compete at the JV level their first year, but a new team may compete at the Varsity level in its first year at the district's discretion.

Varsity Team - Pays Varsity dues and plays a Varsity schedule. A Member Program with a Varsity Team is entitled to one vote on issues requiring a member vote. A Varsity Team will be assigned to either Division I, Division II, or Division III by their District.

League Games – The following game types are all considered to be League games and all League governed games will be one of the following types.

District game
Inter-district game
District playoff game
State playoff game

Specific Rules

1. Member Programs

The League shall be comprised of Member Programs fielding a team(s). League teams shall include only those paying annual League dues to TGHSLL, Inc.

All Member Programs shall be affiliated with or sponsored by a specific high school. Member programs who have not already done so must declare their school affiliations by January 1, of the current season, and new Member Programs must do so at the time of admission into the league. The Member Program's physical address for the sake of player eligibility determinations shall be the official address of the sponsoring or affiliated high school, unless a different address is approved in writing by the District Coordinator(s) by December 1st. In considering whether to approve a different address, the District Coordinator(s) shall consider the sponsoring school's location, the teams field location, or other reasonable criteria established by the District Coordinator(s). Once set, the Member Program physical address shall only be changed because of significant changed circumstances.

2. New Member Teams

New League team applications shall be submitted to the District Coordinator and voted on by District Member Programs. The application shall detail the new team's intensions and start-up plans. Only Member Programs with voting privileges in the District in which application is submitted vote to approve or deny membership to applicants. New teams are expected to be in full compliance with all League rules at the time of their approval. All new teams shall be announced at the following League meeting.

3. Districts and Divisions

3.1 Districts

The League is divided into four Districts – the North District, the Central District, the San Antonio District and the South District. Each District is responsible for developing their own procedures to implement these League rules.

(Amended December 2023) As of June 2024, the league will be divided into four districts: North, South, Central (consisting of Austin and surrounding towns), and San Antonio

3.2 District Coordinators (amended September 2025)

Each District is responsible for electing (or selecting by some other method) a District Coordinator(s). The District Coordinators manage routine District business, and may serve on the TGHSLL, Inc. Board of Directors, and serve on committees as appointed by the League President. District Coordinators will be chosen from individuals that are not tied to any program, are not in a leadership (coach, administrator, director, etc.) or ownership role of a travel club team, are not a current official at the high school level, and are not related to/married to another coordinator (same or different district), Examples of being tied to a program include but are not limited to: coach of a program, program board member/administrator, a parent/guardian/relative of a current player/coach/board member of a program, etc.. If a district cannot find a coordinator that meets the criteria, then that district will fall under the purview of the other coordinators as a collective until such time a new coordinator is found. Should a candidate be found who meets all the criteria but one, then the state membership can vote (in a state meeting) to waive that requirement and allow that candidate to become a coordinator.

Up to two coordinators can be elected by each district. Each existing program in a district gets to vote for up to two candidates. The slate of candidates will include every person who expressed interest in writing by a deadline set and communicated broadly by the current Coordinators. Candidates can include a bio, their qualifications, and reasons for wanting the role (no more than a page in length). The list of candidates with bios will be distributed by the current coordinators to all member programs 2 weeks before the election. Votes will be cast online and counted by the coordinator. These positions should be voted on every 2 years, with 2 to 3 term limits.

3.3 Divisions

The League and its Districts are divided into Varsity DI, Varsity DII, Varsity DIII and JV divisions for regular season play. Districts are responsible for assigning their Varsity Teams to DI, DII, and DIII divisions.

Districts that make Varsity DI/DII/DIII division assignments prior to the start of regular season play shall do so in a manner that:
a) results in there being an equal number of DI, DII and DIII teams (differential may not exceed three teams) and
b) is fair and is based on the prior season's performance.

Any District that does not make the Varsity DI/DII/DIII division assignments prior to the start of regular season, shall do so at the conclusion of regular season play. Such assignments shall be made in a manner that: a) results in their being as equal a number as possible of DI, DII and DIII teams (in the case of a District having an odd number of total Varsity teams the result shall be more teams assigned to DI than to DII or DII than DIII), and (b) is fair and is based on the current regular season's performance.

New teams joining a DII or DIII division for the upcoming season may be excluded when counting teams for the purpose of balancing division assignments.

3.4 Authority (Amended 12/2019)
The General Rules and Bylaws of the League shall define the structure of the League, shall define and govern League play, shall define league team structure, shall define and govern League preseason and postseason events, and shall define and govern all directly related activities of the League. League being defined as Central, North, San Antonio and South districts and any additional districts that may be added in the future. The General Rules related to League play, team additions, 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 TGHSLL Member School Programs in accordance with a 51% majority vote of all the active, annual fee-paying TGHSLL Member School Programs in good standing, in person or by proxy. Each TGHSLL Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter within the respective District. A quorum is required for any rule change to be enacted.

The Board, according to General Powers, has final authority on League Rules related to League play and team structure. If rule changes are proposed by TGHSLL Member School Programs and in the majority opinion of the Board are in direct conflict with the TGHSLL Bylaws and TGHSLL Rulebook, the Board may at its option exercise these powers.

Each District and Division has the authority to establish supplemental rules and procedures governing their District or Division play.

4. Varsity DI, DII and DIII State Championships (Amended September 2025)

4.1 District Playoffs - All Districts will establish a District format to determine top 4 (3 top teams for DIII) teams to qualify for the state tournament.

4.2 DI, DII, DIII Championship Format:
The top four teams in each district in each division advance to the state tournament except for DIII in which, due to having 4 districts with DIII teams, the top 3 teams in each district advance.

A team must play a minimum of counter games + 3 additional games to qualify for playoffs. Preference is that the team would play these 3 additional games as out of area games, but if not, these could be 3 non-counters in area games. There can be a mix of both out of area and out-of-division non-counters to equate the 3 additional games. Exceptions may exist by a vote of all District Coordinators if extenuating circumstances apply.

See Appendix E for playoff seeding and brackets.

4.3 Host District and Playoff dates

The state super regional and championship hosting locations shall rotate between the districts as illustrated below (districts must have teams in all three divisions to host State Championship):

	2026	2027	2028
D1 Super Regionals	Central	North	South
D2 Super Regionals	South	Central	North
D3 Super Regionals	San Antonio	San Antonio	San Antonio
State Championship	North	South	Central

The League DI, DII and DIII Championship weekend shall be the second weekend in May as determined by availability of local venues and SPC Tournament dates. The Super Regional weekend shall be one weekend prior to the Championship weekend.
Host Districts must meet the approved League guidelines to ensure their success, as the Super Regionals and Championships are the highlights of the season for the players.

5. Meetings

5.1 Annual Meetings

The District hosting the DI State Championship Weekend in the upcoming season shall host the annual meeting of League member programs. These annual meetings are general meetings and are open for the transaction of any business including rule changes, new rules, and alike. The annual meeting shall normally be held in November.

5.2 Special Meetings

Special Meetings may be held at such time and place, by electronic or other means as determined by the League President. No business other than that specified in the published agenda of

the meeting may be transacted at any such meeting. Notification and voting may be done electronically or via USPS mail.

5.3 Meeting Notice
Notice of an annual meeting or of a special meeting shall be communicated by electronic mail or via USPS mail by the Secretary (or other person designated by the President) to each Member Program not less than fourteen (14) or more than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting. Notice shall be sent to the last known address(s) of the Member Program as it appears on the books or records of the League. Such notice shall clearly state the purpose for which the meeting is called and the time and place where it is to be held.

5.4 Quorum
The presence of one half of the active, annual fee-paying Member Programs constitutes a quorum at all meetings of the League. The act of a majority of the Members Programs present at any League meeting at which a quorum is present shall be an act of the League, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules.

5.5 Proxy Representation at Meetings
Member Programs may designate another Member Program to vote on its behalf at any meeting. Proxy authorizations must be submitted in writing prior to the start of the meeting. An authorized representative of the Member Program granting proxy must sign the document.

6. Officers

6.1 Roster of Officers
The officers of the League shall be the President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

6.2 Officer Selection
Officers of TGHSLL, Inc. serve in the same named role in the League. The President of TGHSLL, Inc. serves as the President of the League. The Secretary of TGHSLL, Inc. serves as the Secretary of the League. The Treasurer of the TGHSLL, Inc., serves as the Treasurer of the League. TGHSLL, Inc. officers are elected and serve in accordance with all provisions in the TGHSLL, Inc. Bylaws.

7. Duties of Officers

7.1 President
The President is responsible for the general affairs of the League. The President presides at all League meetings, appoints special committees and task forces, and serves as an ex-officio member of all such committees and task forces. The TGHSLL President designation is determined on a rotating basis by the district hosting the State tournament (i.e. 2024: President is from South District, 2025: President is from Central District, 2026 President is from North District). The term starts each year in December after the State Meeting **(amended 1/2024 by TGHSLL Board)**

7.2 Treasurer
The Treasurer does the annual billing and receives all dues. The Treasurer makes an accounting of these funds as well as periodical accountings as the President requests. The Treasurer prepares an annual dues recommendation based on a proposed annual budget prior to the annual meeting.

7.3 Secretary
The Secretary keeps the minutes of the League, gives all notices in accordance with the provisions of these rules, is the custodian of League records, distributes the rules of the League to all Member Programs, and performs other duties as may be assigned by the President.

8. Rule Making
These League Rules define and govern League Divisions, Districts, League play, League pre-season events, League post-season events, and all related activities of the League Member Programs, teams, and players.

These rules shall be revised or amended by the act of a simple majority of all League Member Programs at any annual meeting, at a special meeting, or by special electronic mail vote.

If the Officers of the Board and District Coordinators agree that there are circumstances that may have a serious detrimental effect on the League and that require immediate revision of League rules, the Meeting Notice requirements specified in Section 5.3 may be waived for the purpose of amending or modifying these League Rules.

9. Dues
Each League team must submit annual dues payments for the upcoming season to the Treasurer prior to the fifteenth (15) day of January. Failure to pay dues may result in forfeiture of games of all teams in the Member Program, and exclusion from District and League playoff championship games. The Treasurer prepares an annual dues recommendation prior to the annual meeting. The annual dues amount is approved at the Annual Meeting.

10. Eligibility
10.1 General Eligibility Requirements
Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 as full-time students and that have not graduated are eligible to play on a Varsity League team.

Students enrolled in grades 9 through 11 are eligible to play on a JV League team. Districts may approve exceptions to the grade 12 player JV team prohibition on a case-by-case basis.

Players have four seasons of high school eligibility. Playing in one or more League games in a season or participating in one or more games in a season while playing for a high school program

that is not a League member, is considered a full season of eligibility.

Eighth grade students are specifically prohibited from playing in League games.

A player is only eligible to practice and play with their team, as determined by rule 10.2 during the TGHSLL season.

10.2 Team Determination

All Member Programs shall be affiliated with or sponsored by a specific high school. Member Programs who have not already done so must declare their school affiliation by December 1, 2015, and new Member Programs must do so at the time of admission into the league. The Member Program's physical address for the sake of player eligibility determinations shall be the official address of the sponsoring or affiliated high school, unless a different address is approved in writing by the District Coordinator(s) by December 1. In considering whether to approve a different address, the District Coordinator(s) shall consider the sponsoring school's location, the team's field location, or other reasonable criteria established by the District Coordinator(s). Once set, the Member Program physical address shall only be changed because of significant changed circumstances.

The team a student plays on is determined by the process outlined below, starting with TD 1 and moving down until the appropriate classification is determined.

> TD 1: A student who attends a school with a Member Program team (JV and/or Varsity) must play for that team.
>
> TD 2: A student who attends a school (private school, parochial school, public school, charter school, or is home schooled) that does not have a Member Program team, but who resides in the attendance zone of a school with a team must play for that team (assuming that team accepts players who do not attend its sponsoring school).
>
> TD 3: A student who attends a school (private school, parochial school, public school, charter school, or is home schooled) that does not have a Member Program team, and who resides in an independent school district with one or more Member Program teams must play for the closest team in the district (assuming the Member Program accepts players who do not attend the sponsoring school). The closest team shall be determined by the shortest distance from the student's residence to the Member Program's physical address. All distances are determined by the District Coordinator(s) using the Goggle Maps Driving Directions application.
>
> TD 4: A student who attends a school (private school, parochial school, public school, charter school, or is home schooled) that does not have a Member Program team, and who

resides in an independent school district that does not have a Member Program team must play for the closest Member Program team (assuming the Member Program accepts players who do not attend the sponsoring school). The closest team shall be determined by the shortest distance from the student's residence to the Member Program's physical address. All distances are determined by the District Coordinator(s) using the Goggle Maps Driving Directions application.

TD 5: Exceptions to the above requirements may be granted by the District Coordinator(s) if there are special circumstances such as economic hardship, safety concerns, conflicting school release times, or similar conflicts.

The following "grandfathering" rules shall overlay TD 1, TD 2, TD 3 and TD4 above:

• If a new Member Program team joins the League, and as a result of the application of Rules TD 1 through TD 4 above, a player who is a junior or senior would be required to play for the new member team rather than for the program they played for the prior year (as either a junior varsity or varsity player), the player will be afforded a one-time choice to remain with the program for which they played the prior year or to go with the new member team. All affected programs should be notified before the choice is made. That choice is binding on the player for the remainder of their League eligibility (absent their being cut or there arising in a future year another member team to which the player would otherwise be assigned).

Only Jr and Sr. players can grandfather to their current team. All incoming freshmen and Sophomores must play at the school they attend if that school begins a lacrosse program. **(added 12/24)**

TGHSLL must keep all grandfather documentation. (emails, correspondence, etc.) for at least 5 years in the TGHSLL google drive and on the district email sites. If the documentation is not available, the player must re-submit the grandfather request.

• This grandfathering concept shall not be applied to an incoming freshman. A freshman player will play for the new member team (absent them being cut).

• Any player who is afforded this one-time choice must communicate their choice in writing to the local District Coordinator(s) and to all affected programs by January 1 immediately preceding the season first affected by the choice.

• The failure to provide notice as required above will result in loss of the "grandfathering" option and the player will be required to play for the new member team.

10.3 Residency Determination Process

The student's residence is defined as the location where the student and her family physically reside the majority of the school year. It is the legal residency of the student.

In the event of a protest or challenge regarding the residency status of a player, the District Coordinator(s) may request copies of documentation or other proof to determine legal residency. Proof of residency documentation may include but is not limited to: Texas driver's license, address page from current credit report, voter's registration card, utility bill, tax receipt, and proof the occupant holds a Texas Homestead exemption on that residence as listed with the appropriate County Tax Assessors office. Documents may be verified with State, local and other official sources, when appropriate. What documentation is required and sufficient will be determined by the District Coordinator(s) in their sole discretion on a case-by-case basis.

The District Coordinator(s) will issue a determination in writing within five business days of receipt of verifiable requested documentation. During the determination process, the District Coordinator(s) may appoint an eligibility committee to assist with the evaluation and decision process.

A Member Program or player may appeal the District Coordinator's decision in writing to the League President. The appeal must be filed within 15 business days of the initial determination. The President will then review the appeal and may appoint an eligibility committee to assist with the evaluation and decision process. The appeal will be reviewed and decided within 10 business days of receipt. The appeal decision will be final and exhausts the appeal process.

10.4 Home School Qualification

Students enrolled in a home school or correspondence school must provide information about their academic program so that the District Coordinator(s) can determine: 1) whether the student is undertaking an academic program comparable to that of a public, private or parochial school, and 2) what grade equivalent the student is participating in.

10.5 Switching Programs

Cuts: A player who is "cut" from a team based on relative skill level or ability, and is a student in good standing, and has been released in writing by the head coach, is allowed to play for

another member program team. The team determination process outlined above shall be used to identify the next school that the player is eligible to play for. If not accepted by that school, then the third program is identified using the team determination process and so on.

Relocations and Transfers: If a player's family changes residency during the season and the player must switch teams to comply with League eligibility rules, the head coaches from both her old and new teams must immediately notify the District Coordinator(s) in writing. The player must wait two weeks after approval in writing by the District Coordinator(s) before she may participate in League games for her new team. The District Coordinator(s) may waive the two-week waiting period if both involved head coaches agree to the waiver.

10.6 Submitted Rosters

Prior to January 15, or the first League game, whichever comes first, Member programs must submit a roster for each league team to the District Coordinator(s), except as otherwise agreed or allowed by the District Coordinator(s). The District Coordinator(s) will make these rosters available to all League coaches. Head coaches are responsible for promptly notifying the District Coordinator(s) of any additions or changes to team rosters as they occur. The District Coordinator(s) may grant extensions for submitting rosters if there are special circumstances that prohibit a program from determining their rosters by the January 15 deadline.

Once rosters have been submitted, players may not be moved between Division teams without the prior approval of a District Coordinator(s). The only exception to this approval requirement is the JV three-game exclusion described below.

Roster changes for teams in the playoffs are not allowed once the last regular season game has been played.

Returning players and incoming freshmen players must be registered with the member program before January 15. Should the member program fold (fail to field a team) only those players registered to play on that member program team will be allowed to play on the next closest member program in accordance with Rule 10 and subsections. Those players who have not registered and placed on the folding team's League roster will not be allowed to play in the upcoming season except for players whose physical home address has changed, transferred to a new school with a member program or are new players to the League. If a returning member program does not field a team by January 15 players previously registered to play for that team may play for a different member program in accordance with Rule 10 and subsections **(amended December 2025)**

10.7 Member Programs with both JV and Varsity Teams

Member Programs with more than one League team may compete in multiple divisions (Varsity and JV) during a single season providing that all rules governing multiple division programs have been met.

Players from a JV team may move to a Varsity team within her team's program. However, once a JV player plays in three League games for a Varsity team, she will thereafter become a member of the Varsity team and may not play in additional JV games unless the JV head coach for the opposing team specifically approves the use of this player in their JV game. District Coordinator(s) shall be notified immediately after a JV player's third Varsity game and the submitted rosters shall be amended accordingly.

10.7 Criteria for two Varsity teams (amended 12/2019):

• Member Clubs in good standing within TGHSLL may consider fielding two Varsity teams when the team/Club has 48 individual members or more for a period of 2 years

• Can field full DI, JV, DII and DIII rosters (minimum 18 unique individuals per Varsity teams and 12 unique individuals per JV)

• Has fielded a full JV team for 4 years (minimum 12 players)

• Must always field a full JV roster each season before consideration for a second varsity team. • Team/Club may not have more than one Varsity team in any Division: DI, DII, DIII

• If the member program cannot field two full Varsity teams and must dissolve a team, then DII or (if present) DIII is dissolved first, the individuals on that team will play on the JV team for the remainder of the season and cannot be moved to DI roster until the following year. Former DII or DIII players can play up for a maximum of 3 regular season games. All former DII or DIII players are ineligible for post season play (in the year of DII or DIII dissolution)

• If the JV team cannot field a full roster during the regular season, or forfeits a game due to participation, then the DII or DIII Varsity team must dissolve and become JV team.

• Member Team/Club is not eligible to field a DII or DIII Varsity roster for 2 years after the dissolution of DII or DIII Varsity team.

Member School Programs with more than one Team may compete in both DI, DII or DIII Divisions during a single TGHSLL season provided that all rules governing Dual-Division Programs have been met. A newly formed Team must apply for membership as required of all Teams by the League Rules. There may not be two member teams from the same school, each member team may field up to two Varsity teams.

Prior to playing League games or as otherwise required by the District Coordinator, the roster for each Member Team must set and be submitted to the State President and District Coordinators. The District Coordinator will make these rosters available to any Coach or designated Member Team Representative.

Once a player plays on the Division I Varsity team in a TGHSLL game, she may not play on the Division II or DIII Varsity team for the remainder of the season, including post season games. Players from a Junior Varsity Team may play on either the DI or DII Team within the Member School Program. Only JV players can move between JV and Varsity teams. Once a JV player plays on the Division I Varsity team in a TGHSLL game, she may not play on the Division II Varsity team for the remainder of the season, including post season games. She may not play on the Division II or DIII Varsity team as a swing player. Players from a DII Varsity Team may not move to a DI Team within the Member School Program. A JV player can only play 3 games for DI, DII or DIII Varsity team before moving permanently to the specified Varsity team. If the JV head coach for the opposing team specifically approves the use of this player in their JV game, then a varsity player may be played down (JV). District Coordinator(s) shall be notified immediately after a JV player's third Varsity game and the submitted rosters shall be amended accordingly.

> Exception: A JV player may play in any regular season varsity non-counting interdivisional game without the game counting toward the 3-game restriction described above. **(added December 2025**)

Personnel associated with the Member Teams are responsible for promptly notifying the State President and District Coordinator of any additions/changes to the Team rosters as they occur and prior to player activation on a Team within the Program. Dual Division Programs must have DI, DII, DIII and JV rosters with up to 30 unique individuals on each roster and no less than 18 unique individuals on the Varsity DI, DII and DIII Rosters. 16 unique individuals on one varsity roster can be considered on a case-by-case basis, once member teams have played in dual divisions for a period of one year, with a minimum of 48 unique members on the collective team.

Dual Division Team rosters are locked from any movement between DI, DII and DIII after roster submission to State and District Coordinators.

10.8 Violations

Any program found to be in violation of any of these eligibility rules will immediately forfeit all games in which an ineligible player was used. Additionally, if warranted by the circumstances, that team may, at the discretion of a majority of the District Coordinators, forfeit the remainder of their regular season games and/or be barred from post-season play. Circumstances to be taken into consideration include, but are not necessarily limited to,

the seriousness of the violation, whether the violation was committed knowingly or intentionally, whether the violation was self-reported or the program made any attempt to cover it up upon learning of it, etc. Egregious or repeat violations may result in expulsion of the program from the League.

11. Coaches
All teams, both Varsity and JV, must have a designated head coach who is a US Lacrosse member. US Lacrosse membership must be valid the entire time the individual is serving as head coach. Head coach US Lacrosse membership information shall be submitted to the District Coordinator prior to participation in any League activity, or by January 15 of the upcoming season, whichever comes first.

12. Insurance
All League Member Programs must have current, general liability insurance that is equivalent to or better than the coverage offered by US Lacrosse. League teams may not play in any League games or participate in other League events without proper insurance. Each Member Program must provide proof of acceptable insurance to their District Coordinator prior to participation in any League activity, or by January 15 of the upcoming season, whichever comes first.

13. Video Recording and Broadcasting of League Games
Individuals associated with a League team (player, parent, coach or individual or organization contracted by the League team) may video record, broadcast and/or rebroadcast games in which their affiliated League team is participating. All other video recording, broadcasting and/or rebroadcasting of League games, without the express written permission of a District Coordinator having jurisdiction over the game, is prohibited.

14. Officials
Varsity and JV games are officiated by individuals rated by the US Women's Officials Association and assigned by the women's officials coordinator having jurisdiction in the District of play. Payment of official's fees for all League games, except State Championship games, is the sole responsibility of each team. Failure to pay official's fees may result in forfeiture of league games. Official's fees for State Championship games are the responsibility of the League.

15. Rules of Play
Varsity and JV games are played in accordance with National Federation of US State High School Associations Girls Lacrosse Rules as published from year-to-year in collaboration with US Lacrosse, which are incorporated herein by reference. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the US Lacrosse Rules and the TGHSLL Rules set forth herein, the TGHSLL Rules shall govern. Exceptions to the US Lacrosse Rules shall be approved by a simple majority of all League Member Programs eligible to vote at any annual meeting, at a special meeting, or by special electronic mail vote.

If a team determines or is informed that their uniforms are not in compliance with US Lacrosse Rules, they may petition the League for a

waiver for their uniforms, which may be granted by a majority vote of the District Coordinators if, in their discretion, the proposed uniform variance does not affect safety, competition, or impede the ability of the referees to officiate the game (for example, the uniform has patterns that obscure the numbers or numbers that are too small). If a majority of the District Coordinators grant the waiver, the officials shall be notified that the uniforms will be deemed for all purposes to comply with US Lacrosse Rules for the remainder of that season only, and any penalties for illegal uniforms in the US Lacrosse Rules (currently AR-215) shall not be enforced for any TGHSLL regular season or playoff game. Uniform waivers may be granted on a season-by-season basis only, and if a waiver is desired for any following year, the team must re-petition the League for a new waiver.

16. All-State Team (amended 12/2019)

Each District Varsity Division; DI, DII, DIII selects 14 players who represent the "best of the best." The 14 players shall be comprised of four attack players, three midfield players, four defense players, one goalie, and two at large players. More than one player may be selected from a team. All teams do not need to be represented. All-State selections must be completed 10 days prior to the State Championship weekend.

17. Code of Conduct

All coaches, administrators, players and parents must abide by the TGHSLL Code of Conduct (Appendix A).

18. Improper Behavior

Abusive, profane, or violent behavior or language by players, coaches, parents, or fans at any League function may result in team, coach, or player suspension or expulsion from the League. This includes any behavior not in conformance with the Purposes of TGHSLL, Inc. as stipulated in the Bylaws.

No alcoholic beverages or any intoxicating substances or intoxicated individuals are allowed at any League functions.

The officials at the game manage all initial action for unsportsmanlike conduct involving players, coaches, parents, and fans. If behavior is egregious and believed to warrant further disciplinary action, the District shall convene a Conduct Committee that is normally composed of the District Coordinator(s), a coaches' representative and an official's representative. Any coach, official or District Coordinator that is the subject of complaint may not serve on the committee. This committee determines the actions to be taken against the individual or individuals involved in the incident.

If an issue cannot be resolved at the District level, the complaint shall be forwarded to a League Conduct Committee comprised of two District Coordinators (the District where the appeal originated is not included), and a League officials' representative. Their recommended action is final.

19. Enforcement of TGHSLL Rules

The District Coordinators shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of TGHSLL rules for violations involving TGHSLL Participants. TGHSLL Participants include Member Programs, Member Teams, or individual participants (administrators, advisors, volunteers, coaches, assistant coaches, parents or players) involved in the accusation or dispute. Such penalties may include but shall not be limited to expulsion, suspension, probation and/or forfeiture of games, and may also include the performance of remedial actions such as letters of apology or attendance at training events. A TGHSLL Participant may appeal the penalty to an Appeals Committee, consisting of the District Coordinators from the other districts. Appeals shall be by written submission and shall be decided by the Appeals Committee within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of all pertinent information associated with the appeal. Upon any such appeal, the Appeals Committee may agree with, modify, or overturn the penalty or remedy instituted by the District Coordinators.

20. TGHSLL Rules Governance Process (Amended December 2023)
It is the intention of the TGHSLL District Coordinators to act expeditiously, fairly, and consistently on all violations of TGHSLL rules, and/or on TGHSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges, through a thorough and consistent process with clearly articulated roles and expectations. This process, the TGHSLL Rules Enforcement and Governance Process, hereinafter referred to as the "Governance Process", begins with clear ownership of the fact-finding and investigation into suspected rules violations, and/or on TGHSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges. The guiding principles for TGHSLL are the presumption of innocence, that TGHSLL Participants are innocent until proven guilty, and taking into consideration what is in the best interests of the TGHSLL high school lacrosse player(s) involved when making decisions about their health, welfare, and general well-being. These guiding principles are relevant and applicable to this Governance Process.

The Coordinator(s) for the District in which the suspected rules violation(s), and/or TGHSLL Participants' dispute and/or legal challenge occurred are the owners of the governance process, and will be accountable for all actions towards resolution of the rules violation, and/or TGHSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges, including the pro-active investigation, proposed penalties, and communication with the involved TGHSLL Participants before, during, and after the Governance Process. In the event of a conflict of interest, or based on the severity of the matter, a Coordinator may recuse themselves, and they will appoint a Coordinator from another District to act as one of the Governance Process owners.

The Coordinator(s) assigned to the matter will be responsible for all communications and interaction with all involved TGHSLL Participants relating to the Governance Process. The suspected rules violation, complaint, and/or dispute and/or legal challenge must be submitted in writing to establish a written record, and point of origin, of the complaint, suspected rules violation, and/or dispute and/or legal challenge, and to initiate the Governance Process. This process step will help to minimize "he said, she said" or gossip, the chance of possible unfounded accusations receiving serious consideration,

threatened legal action and/or litigation, and from having major time and emotional impacts on any and/or all TGHSLL Participants.

From that point, the assigned Coordinator(s) will determine who is to be contacted, when, and how; and what the course of action is regarding the suspected rules violation, and/or dispute and/or legal challenge. The Coordinator(s) will determine who the involved TGHSLL Participants should be based on the issue, the perceived severity of the issue, and the circumstances surrounding it as understood at the time the Governance Process was initiated. If the Coordinators believe the matter is politically sensitive, they may seek counsel from the other District Coordinators on the investigation and the resulting Governance Process. If the Coordinator(s) determines there is a clear rules violation, and no additional investigation or follow up is required, the Coordinator(s) may act as defined in the TGHSLL Rules.

From the beginning and throughout the Governance Process, including any assessment of any penalties and beyond, confidentiality is a foundation principle that cannot be compromised by any TGHSLL Participant involved in the Governance Process. All TGHSLL Participants are expected to maintain confidentiality and allow the process to follow its course. An individual, when contacted by a Coordinator regarding a suspected rules violation, and/or TGHSLL Participants' dispute and/or legal challenge, immediately becomes a possible TGHSLL Participant in the Governance Process.

The Coordinator(s) will be the investigator in the Governance Process and will decide who is to be contacted and when based on the severity and scope of the suspected rules violation, and/or TGHSLL Participants' dispute and/or legal challenge, and the extent of the investigation that will occur. The Coordinator(s) will communicate the Governance Process, the investigation plan, and the timeline to the involved TGHSLL Participants in writing, as appropriate, and make it clear that no one other than the Coordinator(s) will be investigating the matter and/or contacting individuals to determine if any inappropriate behavior has occurred, and/or inappropriate actions have been taken. Any TGHSLL Participant acting in an investigative capacity outside of the Coordinator(s) and/or discussing the investigation and/or Governance Process with other TGHSLL Participants or other individuals outside of the governance process may be subject to penalties for such actions.

The Coordinator(s) will normally have one week to complete the fact-finding and investigation and will record the findings along with a recommendation for resolution, including any penalties and/or warnings. In the event circumstances call for an extended investigation, the Coordinator(s) will communicate that in writing to the TGHSLL Participants. In the event the findings do not support any further action, the Coordinator(s) will inform the involved TGHSLL Participants and the investigation will be closed.

During the Governance Process, it is expected that the Coordinator will interact with Member Programs, Member Teams, and possibly players and parents, and other witnesses to determine the facts, to investigate the situation, and to conclude as to what may or may not

have occurred. The Coordinator(s) are sensitive to the fact TGHSLL Participants may have mixed emotions about what is going on and that during these kinds of matters emotions are high. All Governance Process contact will be done through a Coordinator, and all TGHSLL leadership will do their best to minimize the inconvenience and emotions throughout the Governance Process, however, this is a shared responsibility as everyone involved has a role in managing expectations and emotions in a difficult process. If there is a need for clarification or further investigation based on that initial fact-finding and communication, the Coordinator(s) will determine the appropriate course of action and establish a plan and timeline.

Once the Coordinators have determined that sufficient information is available to make a recommendation they will do so in writing. If the ruling is no action, that communication will be passed along to the involved TGHSLL Participants in writing, and the matter will be closed. If the ruling is some form of penalty for a Member Program, Member Team, or individual participant(s), the Coordinator(s) will communicate that information to the involved TGHSLL Participants in writing, and the matter will be closed. If the matter is of such nature that it should be held in confidence between the TGHSLL Participants that will be communicated to the involved TGHSLL Participants in writing, and the matter will be closed.

The District Coordinators will determine the appropriate action, and the Coordinator(s) will carry out those actions with the involved TGHSLL Participants. In the event the involved TGHSLL Participants wish to appeal the decision of the Coordinator(s), they may do so through the process outlined in Section 19.

The Coordinators have as their number one priority and goal in this Governance Process to protect the health, welfare, and general well-being of the involved TGHSLL high school player(s), and other TGHSLL Participants through the presumption of innocence and fair play. Beyond that the Coordinators will endeavor to treat everyone involved with respect and to minimize the inconvenience associated with the Governance Process. We ask that all the involved TGHSLL Participants endeavor to do the same. If everyone involved in the Governance Process agrees in advance to do what is in the best interests of the TGHSLL Participants, and to accept those decisions, then the outcomes will be fair and reasonable.

Dispute Resolution. Mediation and Arbitration Clause

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, the relationship resulting in or from this Agreement or breach of any duties hereunder will be settled by Arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the U. S. Arbitration & Mediation (“USA&M”) which may be found at www.usam.com. All hearings will be held in the state of Texas before an Arbitrator who is a licensed attorney with at least 15 years of experience. A judgment upon the award rendered by the Arbitrator shall be entered in a Court with competent jurisdiction. The Federal Arbitration Act (Title 9 U.S. Code Section 1 et. seq.) shall govern all arbitration and confirmation proceedings.
As a condition precedent to the filing of an arbitration claim, the parties agree to first mediate any claims between them with a licensed

mediator. Any party refusing to mediate shall not prevent the other party or parties from pursuing their claims in arbitration. The parties will share the cost of mediation equally. Nothing herein will be construed to prevent any party's use of injunction, and/or any other prejudgment or provisional action or remedy. Any such action or remedy will not waive the moving party's right to compel arbitration of any dispute.
The parties agree to also meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any disputes which may arise between them.

All parties involved in a grievance process must sign the MNDA (attached, Appendix D)

21. TGHSLL Conflicts of Interest

Whenever a Coordinator, Program Director, Athletic Director, Program Board member or Coach has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board of directors or the league, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussions, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested Coordinators, Program Directors or coaches determine that it is in the best interest of the League to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

APPENDIX A
TGHSLL Code of Conduct

All TGHSLL players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators are to conduct themselves in a manner that "Honors the Game" and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and fans.

The following essential elements of the "Code of Conduct" must be followed:

• 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, 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 shall always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforce them to 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 shall always demonstrate positive behavior and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.
• Coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials
and reinforce that respect to players/teammates. Coaches are also expected to educate their players as to the important role of lacrosse officials and reinforce the ideal of respect for the official to players/teammates.
• Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport shall be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play in view of spectators or participants.
• 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 shall adhere to the rules in both the letter and the spirit of the game.
• Coaches shall provide a basic knowledge of the rules to both players and spectators within his/her program. Attempts to manipulate rules 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.
• Head coaches are responsible for controlling their players, spectators and any other persons associated with their program.
• Abusive, profane or violent behavior or language by coaches, players or fans at any League function will not be tolerated at any TGHSLL event. Behavior in this manner may result in member suspension or expulsion from participation or attendance at any League game or activity.

APPENDIX B
Recommended Practices for all Member Programs

A. Emergency Action Plan
All teams should have a written Emergency Action Plan that includes all items recommended US Lacrosse. The plan should be readily available to coaches and/or administrators at all practice sessions and games.
http://uslacrosse.org/safety/risk-management-emergency-plans/emergency-plan-guidelines

B. Lightening Procedure
All teams should have a lightening procedure that follows Texas UIL recommendations. https://www.uiltexas.org/health/info/lightning-safety
Written procedures should be included the team's Emergency Action Plan. Lightening detectors are the preferred method of identifying dangerous conditions. If a lightening detector is not available, web-based weather/lightening apps coupled with the flash-to-bang count method identified in the UIL recommendations should be utilized.

C. Physical Examinations
All players should be approved to participate in accordance with the pre-participation physical examination process outlined in Texas UIL requirements. http://www.uiltexas.org/files/constitution/uil-ccr-section-1205-1206.pdf

D. Dedicated Medical Personnel at Games
The home team should make available immediate, on-the-field, first aid services by a licensed athletic trainer, team physician, or licensed health care professional. This individual should remain near the bench area before and during the game and should be introduced to all officials and the visiting team coaches prior to the start of the game.

E. Concussion Management
All teams should follow the concussion management guidelines provided by US Lacrosse. http://uslacrosse.org/safety/concussion-awareness

F. Coach and Administrator Background Check
Member programs should conduct background checks on coaches and administrators that interact with the players or manage organization finances.

G. Coach Training Certifications
Teams should encourage their coaches to complete all US Lacrosse Coaches Education Certification program levels.
http://www.uslacrosse.org/participants/coaches/coaching-education-program.aspx

H. Coach First Aid and CPR Training
Coaches should have First Aid and CPR training certifications that are current.

Appendix C
Seasonal Play Prohibiting Playing Non-TGHSLL Team, Players Prohibited from Participating with Non-Assigned Team (added September 2024)

During the TGHSLL regular season through and including the date(s) of the State Championships, no TGHSLL Member Team shall play, including scrimmages, a non-TGHSLL team with players that are eligible to play on a TGHSLL team. Violators of this rule may be subject to sanctions; that include, but are not limited to: game forfeiture, ineligibility for Playoffs and State Championships, and Coach and/or Team probation or suspension, as determined by the TGHSLL board. Amended: No team may permit a player who is eligible to play for another TGHSLL team (ineligible player) to practice, scrimmage, or participate in games with any team other than the team the player is eligible to play with per the TGHSLL rules during the regular season.

Appendix D
TGHSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MNDA)

It is understood and agreed to that the parties, hereinafter referred to as the "TGHSLL Participants", to this Affidavit & MNDA, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", each would like to provide the other

with certain information that is to be considered confidential in the TGHSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process as outlined in Section of the then current TGHSLL Rules/bylaws, hereinafter referred to as the "Governance Process". To ensure the protection of such information and the TGHSLL Participants in consideration of the agreement to exchange said information, the TGHSLL Participants agree as follows:

1. The confidential information ("Confidential Information") to be disclosed under this Agreement can be described as follows and includes:

• Firsthand information relating to actions or lack of actions by a TGHSLL Participant(s) (TGHSLL Member School Program, Member School Team, parents, players) related to suspected rules violations of TGHSLL rules as defined in the then current TGHSLL Rules/bylaws, and/or TGHSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges around them, regardless of whether such information is designated as "Confidential Information" at the time of its disclosure.

• Firsthand information relating to TGHSLL Waiver Requests submitted by a TGHSLL Member School Program with input from involved parents and players.

• TGHSLL Coordinator, TGHSLL Board, and Commissioner provided communications, including timelines, plans, and written TGHSLL Participant communications throughout the Governance Process.

• In addition to the above, Confidential Information shall also include, and the TGHSLL Participants shall have a duty to protect, other confidential and/or sensitive information which is (a) disclosed as such in writing and marked as confidential (or with other similar designation) at the time of disclosure; and/or (b) disclosed by the TGHSLL Participants in any other manner and identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and is also summarized and designated as confidential in a written memorandum delivered within forty-five (45) days of the disclosure.

2. The TGHSLL Participants shall use the Confidential Information only for the purposes of the Governance Process.

3. The TGHSLL Participants shall limit disclosure of Confidential Information to the TGHSLL Coordinator in charge of the Governance Process and shall not disclose Confidential Information to any third party (whether an individual, corporation, team, or other entity) without prior written consent by the TGHSLL President. The TGHSLL Participants shall satisfy their obligations under this paragraph if they take affirmative measures to ensure compliance with these confidentiality obligations by other TGHSLL Participants who are permitted access to or use of the Confidential Information.

4. This Agreement imposes no obligation upon the TGHSLL Participants with respect to any Confidential Information (a) that was possessed before receipt; (b) is or becomes a matter of public knowledge through no fault of receiving TGHSLL Participants; (c) is rightfully received from a third party not owing a duty of confidentiality; (d) is disclosed without a duty of confidentiality to a third party by, or with the authorization of the disclosing TGHSLL Participant; or (e) is independently developed. However, all TGHSLL Participants are expected to avoid discussions of the matter(s) involved in the Governance Process, including any information shared by others that may be

related.
5. The TGHSLL Participants warrant that they have the right to make the disclosures under this Agreement.
6. This Agreement shall not be construed as creating, conveying, transferring, granting or conferring upon either TGHSLL Participant any rights, license or authority in or to the information exchanged, except the limited right to use Confidential Information specified in paragraph 2. Furthermore, and specifically, no license or conveyance of any intellectual property rights is granted or implied by this Agreement.

7. Neither TGHSLL Participant has an obligation under this Agreement to purchase any service, goods, or intangibles from the other TGHSLL Participant. Furthermore, both TGHSLL Participants acknowledge and agree that the exchange of information under this Agreement shall not commit or bind either TGHSLL Participant to any present or future contractual relationship (except as specifically stated herein), nor shall the exchange of information be construed as an inducement to act or not to act in any given manner.

8. Neither TGHSLL Participant shall be liable to the other in any manner whatsoever for any decisions, obligations, costs or expenses incurred, changes in practices, plans, organization, products, services, or otherwise, based on either TGHSLL Participant's decision to use or rely on any information exchanged under this Agreement.
9. If there is a breach or threatened breach of any provision of this Agreement, it is agreed and understood that the non-breaching TGHSLL Participant shall have no adequate remedy in money or other damages and accordingly shall be entitled to injunctive relief; provided however, no specification in this Agreement of any particular remedy shall be construed as a waiver or prohibition of any other remedies in the event of a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement.

10. This Agreement states the entire agreement between the TGHSLL Participants concerning the disclosure of Confidential Information and supersedes any prior agreements, understandings, or representations with respect thereto. Any addition or modification to this Agreement must be made in writing and signed by all TGHSLL Participants and be agreed to in advance by the TGHSLL President and TGHSLL Board. This Agreement is made under and shall be construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, U.S.A. If this agreement is breached, any and all disputes must be settled by mediation or in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Texas, U.S.A.

11. If any of the provisions of this Agreement are found to be unenforceable, the remainder shall be enforced as fully as possible and the unenforceable provision(s) shall be deemed modified to the limited extent required to permit enforcement of the Agreement as a whole.
WHEREFORE, the TGHSLL Participants acknowledge that they have read and understand this Agreement and voluntarily accept the duties and obligations set forth herein.

Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MNDA)

We, the undersigned, acknowledge and accept that the information we are sharing and/or receiving is confidential information, included in the TGHSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process. We agree to be bound by the TGHSLL Rules/bylaws, including the requirements around Confidential Information, and the decisions of the TGHSLL Board and the TGHSLL President.

Recipient of Confidential Information:_____

Discloser of Confidential Information: _____ Date
Signature_____
Name (Print or Type):
Date
Signature: _____
Name (Print or Type):
Signature
Name (Print or Type):
Signature _____
Name (Print or Type):
Date

Appendix E

D1, D2, D3 Playoffs Seeding and Bracket Rotation (Amended 10/2023, 9/2025 by adding D3)

Twelve teams from each division are selected to the TGHSLL State playoffs and are split into four brackets of four teams. The twelve teams are made up of the top four D1 and D2 teams from Central; the top four D1 and D2 teams from North; the top three D3 teams from each of the four districts and the top four D1 and D2 teams from South. These teams advance and are placed into the bracket based on where they finished in their respective district. The predetermined rotation for seeding is included in the table below:

D1/D2 playoff seedings	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Seed 1	C1	N1	S1	C1	N1
Seed 2	S1	C1	N1	S1	C1
Seed 3	N1	S1	C1	N1	S1
Seed 4	N2	S2	C2	N2	S2
Seed 5	S2	C2	N2	S2	C2
Seed 6	C2	N2	S2	C2	N2
Seed 7	C3	N3	S3	C3	N3
Seed 8	S3	C3	N3	S3	C3
Seed 9	N3	S3	C3	N3	S3
Seed 10	N4	S4	C4	N4	S4
Seed 11	S4	C4	N4	S4	C4
Seed 12	C4	N4	S4	C4	N4

D3 playoff seedings	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Seed 1	C1	SA1	N1	S1	C1
Seed 2	S1	C1	SA1	N1	S1
Seed 3	N1	S1	C1	SA1	N1
Seed 4	SA1	N1	S1	C1	SA1
Seed 5	S2	SA2	N2	S2	S2
Seed 6	C2	N2	S2	N2	C2
Seed 7	SA2	S2	C2	SA2	SA2
Seed 8	N2	C2	SA2	C2	N2
Seed 9	S3	N3	S3	N3	S3
Seed 10	N3	SA3	N3	S3	N3
Seed 11	SA3	C3	SA3	C3	SA3
Seed 12	C3	S3	C3	SA3	C3

Playoff Brackets:

Winners of brackets advance to State Championship

Bracket A - Seed 1 bye, Seed 8 plays Seed 9, winner plays Seed 1
Bracket B - Seed 4 bye, Seed 5 plays Seed 12, winner plays Seed 4

Bracket C - Seed 2 bye, Seed 7 plays Seed 10, winner plays Seed 2
Bracket D - Seed 3 bye, Seed 6 plays Seed 11, winner plays Seed 3

Appendix F

Rule Amendment Dates

Original 15 November 2015
Revised 3 December 2016
Revised 2 December 2017
Revised 9 December 2019
Revised 2 December 2021
Revised 8 December 2022
Revised 11 December 2023
Revised 20 December 2024
(added freshmen and sophomores cannot grandfather)
Revised 29 September 2025
(added requirement for D3 to follow same rules as D1/D2 including playoff structure, changed qualification requirement for district coordinators (DC))
Revised 17 December 2025
(removed USAL oversight for DC voting, added hosting district rotation for playoff games, added hosting district must have all 3 divisions in the district to host State Championship, allow JV players to play in regular season non-counter varsity interdivisional games without restriction)