

About Abenaki Lacrosse

Abenaki Youth Lacrosse is a total volunteer organization. We are not sponsored or funded by the school district or the town recreation departments. The program is run by a Board of Directors and a volunteer coaching staff along with the assistance of the parents of all players.

We are dedicated to the instruction of the game of lacrosse, sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play. No child will be refused the opportunity to play due to financial constraints. All players will be given equal opportunity to improve their skills through participation. The development of the child is what matters most, not winning at all costs.

Abenaki Youth Lacrosse respects, values, and celebrates diversity. As such, we are committed to establishing and maintaining an inclusive culture that fosters equitable experiences for all organization members, including players and their families, regardless of race, orientation, ability, or talent level.

Abenaki Youth Lacrosse Bylaws

Article I – Name and Offices

1.1 The name of this lacrosse program is Abenaki Youth Lacrosse, also known as ABENAKI LACROSSE.

Article II – Purpose

2.1 The purpose of Abenaki Lacrosse:

(a) Abenaki Youth Lacrosse gives Abenaki Lacrosse players the opportunity to play in the New Hampshire Youth Lacrosse Association (NHYLEA) and to develop lacrosse skills and knowledge of the game within an environment of fair play and sportsmanship. We value peer/family participation in our efforts to do so.

(b) Abenaki Youth Lacrosse is registered as a charitable trust with the Department of the Attorney General, Division of Charitable Trusts pursuant to Chapter 7 Section 19 of the Revised Statutes Annotated of the State of New Hampshire. The purpose of the trust is for the organization of youth lacrosse in the Wolfeboro, New Hampshire area.

Article III – Record Keeping

3.1 There shall be kept, at a location designated by the Board of Directors, records of Membership and complete accounts of the activities and transactions of Abenaki Lacrosse. These shall include, but not limited to: meeting minutes, copy of the Abenaki Lacrosse Bylaws, and all amendments.

Article IV – Meetings

4.1 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly at a convenient time and place as determined by the Board of Directors.

4.2 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or at the written request, to the President, of at least five members of the board.

4.3 Quorum: At least 5 members of the board must be present to constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

4.4 Order of Business: The Order of business for meetings shall be as follows:

1. Attendance
2. Read and approve minutes of the previous meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

4.5 All meetings should be governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure. Roberts Rules of Order shall govern questions of procedure.

Article V – Membership

5.1 Abenaki Lacrosse Board of Directors shall include up to ten members: four appointed officers and six directors.

5.2 All members must remain in good standing with regard to payment of program fees and dues.

5.3 Right to Hold Office: Each active member at least 18 years of age is entitled to run for a position on the Board of Directors under the procedures established by these Bylaws, and if elected, to run for any office of the Organization.

Article VI – Board of Directors

6.1 Officers of Abenaki Lacrosse Board of Directors are defined as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

6.2 Officers and Duties:

(a) President: shall preside over all meetings of the Board, plan for and notify of meetings, assign or perform other duties as necessary, maintain general communication with coaches during the season, maintain general communication with and is the first point of contact for parents, and is authorized to sign/countersign all checks.

(b) Vice President: shall perform duties of the President if required, attends or coordinates attendance to all NHYLA meetings, recruits coaches for all teams and presents a coaching roster to the Board for approval, is the first point of contact for coaches with parent/player issues, and is authorized to sign/countersign all checks.

(c) Secretary: shall take minutes of board meetings and maintain records, collect mail if needed, assist with advertising and marketing, assist with website maintenance and other official paperwork.

(d) Treasurer: shall collect, receive, disburse, and record all Abenaki Lacrosse funds; keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements by managing the checkbook and Quickbooks account; deposit all moneys in the name of Abenaki Lacrosse; provides report to the Board at each meeting, proposes a registration fee based on prior year data, oversees overdue balances/payment plans, writes checks to officials. The treasurer may sign all checks up to an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). All checks greater than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall require two (2) of the three (3) authorized board signatories.

(e) Directors: Shall perform duties as assigned.

6.3 Terms of Office:

(a) Officers shall be elected to two-year terms, with terms being offset.

(b) The Officers of Abenaki Lacrosse shall be elected on even or odd years as follows:

A. President	odd
B. Vice President	even
C. Secretary	odd
D. Treasurer	even

6.4 All Officers shall serve for a term of 3 years. There shall be no limit on the number of terms an officer may serve. No person shall hold more than one office.

6.5 Removal from office:

(a) Attendance at all meetings of the Board is required. Any Board member that fails to attend three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings may be removed from the Board by a

majority voice vote of the remaining Board members.

(b) Removal of a Board member for any reason other than absenteeism requires a unanimous voice vote by the existing Board not including the subject Board member.

6.6 Elections:

(a) Nominations will be accepted from the adult Abenaki Lacrosse membership for all Board vacancies.

(b) The election of new Board members will be conducted by the existing Board from the accepted nominations. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in the fall (September, October, or November) preceding the primary spring season.

(c) Appointment of new officers will be conducted by the new Board at their first scheduled meeting.

(d) In the event of a mid-term vacancy, the Board President, with Board approval, may appoint a new member to the Board to serve the remainder of the term.

6.7 Resignation: Any member of the Board of Directors may resign and or withdraw from membership at any time, upon written notice of his/her desire to do so delivered to the president or secretary.

Article VII – Amendment

7.1 These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the Board of Directors, provided that any bylaws or amendments thereto as adopted by the Board may be altered, amended or repealed by vote of the Board, or a new by-law in lieu thereof may be adopted by the Board.

7.2 Notice must be given to all Board members ten (10) days prior to a meeting for the purpose of altering or amending these bylaws.

7.3 A quorum of five (5) members of the Board of Directors is necessary to vote on any amendments to the bylaws.

Article VIII – Coaches

8.1 All Abenaki Lacrosse coaches and assistant coaches must be approved by the Board.

(a) All Abenaki Lacrosse coaches must be certified at the Silver Level or higher through USA Lacrosse.

(b) All candidates for coaching positions shall consent to and be subject to a criminal background check.

8.2 The Board reserves the right to provide guidance and support with a coach or coaches regarding their coaching style or beliefs in order to uphold Abenaki's philosophy, purpose, and policies and to be sure players are not adversely affected (e.g. abusive language, unilateral cancellation of practices or games, etc.).

8.3 Team coaches must meet minimum licensing requirements and/or standards as set forth by NHYLA.

Article IX – Disciplinary Code

9.1 A Disciplinary Committee shall be created as needed to review and act upon infractions of

the Abenaki Bylaws or Team Rules by a coach, player or parent/guardian. The committee shall consist of the Vice President and two other Board members. Decisions of that committee shall be final, subject only to review on appeal by the full Board.

9.2 Penalties

(a) Coaches must keep track of any unsportsmanlike behavior, game misconduct, or bench penalties issued to players or coaches and report to the Board immediately after each game.

(b) Any player or coach receiving two (2) penalties in a season for unsportsmanlike behavior, game misconduct, or player bench penalties is subject to disciplinary action by the Board. This may include further review and action as well as penalties up to and including expulsion from Abenaki Lacrosse.

9.3 Coaches, players and their parents/guardians have the right to appeal any disciplinary action.

(a) Appeals must be submitted to the Board in writing specifying all pertinent information within five (5) days of notice of approved action.

(b) In the event of a player appeal by parent(s)/guardian, a written statement from the player's coach is also required by the Board.

(c) Board decisions on appeals shall be final.

9.4 Coaches, parents, and players must sign a Code of Conduct statement as prepared by NHYLA and/or Abenaki Lacrosse in order to participate in the program.

9.5 In the event of dismissal of a player from Abenaki Lacrosse, no refund shall be given.

Article X – Organization Policy

10.1 The primary season for Abenaki Lacrosse shall be the spring league season. The Board shall determine entering Abenaki Lacrosse teams for any other seasonal play outside the primary.

10.2 In the event that Abenaki Lacrosse elects to enter both "A", "B" and/or "C" teams in a given age division within NHYLA, the Board will determine whether the teams will split by age or if evaluations will be conducted to determine which players will be eligible for which level team. The Board shall determine the time, date, and place for evaluations.

(a) Any player who fails to attend an evaluation is subject to placement on the team deemed appropriate by the Coaching Committee.

(b) Any player that wants to "play up" on a team with minimum age requirements that the player does not meet must make an appeal in writing to the Board. No player is allowed to play above their age level without permission of the Board regardless of whether Abenaki Lacrosse sponsors multiple teams or only one team at a given age level.

(c) All teams sanctioned by Abenaki Lacrosse will be named Abenaki Lacrosse.

(d) Potential players that miss the sign up deadline may file a written appeal with the Board to participate in the coming season. The Board in its sole discretion shall determine if players that miss the sign up deadline will be allowed to participate or not.

10.3 In the event of a tryout, the Coaching Committee shall appoint evaluators who will observe the tryout and, in conjunction with the coaches, determine the level to which each player shall be assigned.

(a) Evaluations will be based on criteria which include teamwork, attitude, knowledge of the game, skill, and ability.

10.4 Registration fees shall be determined by the Board.

10.5 All current participants of Abenaki Lacrosse have first priority to play for Abenaki Lacrosse. These are players who are residents of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District and abutting towns with no lacrosse program offered.

(a) Abenaki Lacrosse team roster size shall be determined by the Board and in accordance with the State of NH and NHYLA regulations.

(b) Coaches will not be permitted to “hold” positions or have unfilled spots on the roster with the intent to fill them later in the season.

10.6 In the event of team vacancies after a team has begun practicing together, a coach must notify the Board of his/her intent to add players. Players may be added to the team to fill vacancies within guidelines established by the Board, and the coach may come to the Board for approval for recruitment

10.7. All players and coaches must be US Lacrosse members during the spring season.

(a) US Lacrosse membership must be valid through the whole spring season.

(b) Should the membership need to be renewed during the season, a player or coach will pay the renewal prior to the start of the season.

Article XI – General Provisions

11.1 No part of the earnings of Abenaki Lacrosse shall benefit or be distributed to its members or other private parties except for official business.

11.2 Provision for Dissolution: Upon dissolution of the organization, Abenaki Lacrosse shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes and shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United State Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Carroll County Superior or Probate Court, exclusively for such purpose or to such organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. The Board of Directors attests that the foregoing constitutes a true copy of the Bylaws of Abenaki Lacrosse.

Abenaki Lacrosse follows the rules and guidelines published by US Lacrosse, the governing body of lacrosse in the United States and of New Hampshire Youth Lacrosse. Click the links below for a summary of boys' and girls' lacrosse rules of play and to order rulebooks.

NHYLA Rules:

<http://www.nhyla.org/Page.asp?id=14167&snid=eIH%40X6I5%5E&org=NHYLA.ORG>

Boys Rules: http://www.uslacrosse.org/the_sport/boys_rules.phtml

Girls Rules: http://www.uslacrosse.org/the_sport/girls_rules.phtml