

# 2023 OHSLA Standard Operating Procedures – FINAL DRAFT

## Oregon High School Lacrosse Association

Revised July 28, 2022

### OHSLA Operating Principles

The OHSLA operates under the guidelines/rules of the OSAA and the NFHS current rule book, unless otherwise noted below in these Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs.).

OSAA guidelines can be found at their web site OSAA.org (<http://www.osaa.org/governance/handbooks/osaa>).

In particular OHSLA embraces the sportsmanship requirements of the OSAA and NFHS, of which highlights can be found attached to the SOPs.

Yellow highlighting indicates OHSLA SOP edits/changes for 2023.

- 1. Coaching Certifications**, including NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching, NFHS Concussion Recognition and Awareness Training, NFHS Heat Illness Prevention, and NFHS Anabolic Steroids and Performance-Enhancing Substances Training are mandated by OHSLA/OSAA and Oregon state law.

Details of these certifications can be found on OHSLA web site under the Info/OHSLA/Forms & Documents menu (<http://www.ohsla.net/forms.asp>).

Failure to complete all required certifications will prevent teams from playing any games. A signed letter of certification completion for each team, must be on file with OHSLA prior to first official practice date or as noted on OHSLA calendar. Form can be found on OHSLA web site (<http://www.ohsla.net/forms.asp>).

It is the responsibility of the head coach/team to keep the completed certification documents on file in an electronic format that allows easy retrieval. These documents must be kept on file at the team location for a period of two calendar years.

- 2. Insurance:** Each team must secure general liability coverage in the minimum amount of \$2,000,000 prior to the start of the first practice date or as noted on OHSLA calendar.

See OHSLA web site (<http://www.ohsla.net/forms.asp#Insurance>) for sources of affordable insurance carriers.

Failure to complete certifications and obtain insurance will result in scheduled games being cancelled.

3. **Academic Eligibility for student athletes:** must meet the minimum academic standards as set by the OSAA, School District, and/or its athletic department. If the school or district has a higher expectation or more stringent requirements for academic eligibility, that will take precedence over the minimum requirements of OSAA. Head coaches are responsible for monitoring academic eligibility of all their student athletes.
4. **Where students can play:** OHSLA will defer to the OSAA on issues of where a student athlete may participate (OSAA rule 8.5 through 8.10).

To promote the growth of our sport in Oregon we will support all student athletes from schools that do not offer lacrosse an opportunity to play.

It is a Fundamental Rule of OHSLA that a student athlete must play lacrosse for the high school they attend if that school has a lacrosse program. If that school does not have a lacrosse program the student athlete would be eligible to play for the public school they would attend (Home District School) based on where the Joint Residence of the student and the student's parents is located. Furthermore, if the Home District School does not have a lacrosse program the student athlete may be eligible to play for the closest geographic school to the Home District School that does have a lacrosse program. In this last case, a certificate of agreement must be executed by the following entities:

1. The eligible host school represented by the Athletic Director or other designated representative of the Administrative Team.
2. The Head Coach and Parent Administrator of the Host School Lacrosse team
3. The Commissioner of the OHSLA

Additionally, there is an expectation that players granted this eligibility will be open to working with the OHSLA to develop lacrosse interest at the original attended school.

4.1 Student athletes may seek transfer to a different school under the rules of the relevant school district prior to the start of the OSAA year and would then be eligible to play for that new school they attend without sanction. However, student athletes that transfer schools mid year must sit out the upcoming lacrosse season, or apply for and receive a waiver of this rule from the OHSLA. Exceptions to this rule will be granted only in consultation with the new school administration and only under the most severe of hardship circumstances as defined by the district policy of the school the student athlete is leaving. Rationale: A transfer/residency requirement assists in the prevention of students switching schools in conjunction with the change of season for athletic or activities purposes; impairs recruitment; and reduces the opportunity for undue

influence to be exerted by persons seeking to benefit from a student athlete or activities participant's prowess.

A transfer/residency requirement promotes stability and harmony among member schools by maintaining the amateur standing of high school activities participants; by disallowing individuals other than enrolled students to participate; and by upholding the principle that a student should attend the high school in the district where the student's parent(s) reside.

In addition, a transfer/residency requirement restricts student athletes from displacing other students from athletic and activities opportunities.

The OHSLA Executive Board reserves the right to review any teams roster to determine that the OHSLA SOP's and OSAA guidelines are being followed.

5. **Co-Op agreements:** To promote the growth of our sport in Oregon OHSLA will support co-op agreements, whereby 2 schools may combine to facilitate having a team in the league.

Co-Op agreements can take on several forms

- a. To support starting a HS lacrosse program at a new school. Example would be a new school opens in a school district and co-ops with a school that already has an established lacrosse program to "jump start" the new program.
- b. Two HS's where student athlete numbers would prohibit one or both of the schools from participation in OHSLA play.

Applications for any cooperative agreement must be approved by the commissioner.

If approved, the duration of a co-op is two years/seasons. Both schools need to consider from the outset how they will have 2 sustainable programs at the end of the co-op agreement.

Both co-op school names will appear on the OHSLA website and schedule for the duration of the agreement.

Schools wishing to enter into a co-op agreement with OHSLA will need to submit the proper application found on the OHSLA website under the forms, documents, and information tab. In addition, they must:

- a. Secure written approval from Athletic Directors of both schools participating, i.e., the host school with the team, the coop school currently lacking a team but with active student athletes.

- b. A written plan of action must be presented upon application to the OHSLA as to how a new program will be established at the schools participating in the agreement, at the end of the two-year term. This plan should include the following:
  - i. Connect with the OHSLA coach's representatives in the conference to develop mentoring of coaches, and parent or board of director support.
  - ii. How current and future coaching resources will be developed to provide solid coaching staffs at both schools at the end of the co-op period.
  - iii. A plan to develop supporting board of directors for the co-op and plans to split the board.
  - iv. Develop or connect with a youth program to recruit and develop student athletes for the HS programs.
  - v. How recruiting efforts in both schools will be implemented to grow the # of student athletes towards the goal of 2 sustainable programs.
- c. The executive committee of OHSLA will periodically review co-op agreements and may terminate agreements no longer deemed appropriate

6. **Games & Opponents:** Play in all OHSLA games is governed by the NFHS rulebook (except for timing of JV games as noted below).

OHSLA teams must conform to first practice & play dates noted on the OHSLA/OSAA calendar. Each team, at any level, may play a maximum of 20 games during the season, including a maximum of 18 games against OHSLA opponents.

Therefore if 20 games are played, at least 2 games must be against out-of-state teams. **Play against non OHSLA/out of state teams must first be approved by OHSLA commissioner via email.**

Post season playoff games do not count against the 18 game OHSLA limit. Conference playoff games (a.k.a. seeding for OHSLA playoffs) are also excluded from the 18-game limitation but must be played before the end of the regular season per the OHSLA calendar on the website.

For the 2023 season OHSLA will allow each team 1 scrimmage (non-counting) game, or Jamboree for the season. The following rules will apply:

- a. Scrimmage games must occur after the first allowable play date per the OHSLA/OSAA calendars.
- b. Each team will be allowed only 1 scrimmage game.
- c. Host team will place the game on the OHSLA schedule, so OLOA officials can be assigned, and notify the OHSLA board, so the game can be placed in the scrimmage tab. Regular game fees will apply, but the coaches can direct how the scrimmage time is used.
- d. Total scrimmage time should not exceed 45 minutes running time.

- e. The scrimmage is a non-counting game for ranking purposes, but it does count against the teams 18 game **in state** maximum for the season.
- f. Jamborees may be scheduled as a form of scrimmage, however, can have NO more than 4 teams.
- g. Each team may play 3 periods of NO more than 15 minutes running time each.
- h. All Scrimmage games must be concluded by the end of the first week of competition for the 2023 season.**

Games may be scheduled Monday – Sunday.

- 7. JV games:** all JV/JV2/JV3 games will be played under running clock rules with quarters not exceeding 15 minutes.
- a. Penalty time will be NFHS penalty time for violation plus 50% (example: 1 minute penalty plus 50% -- 30 seconds or 1:30 seconds). Penalty time will start at the restart of play following the violation.
  - b. When using the running time for penalties, NFHS Rule 5-11 will be amended from 5min to 7min of accumulated personal foul time.
  - c. JV2 & JV3 games will not be scheduled on Tuesday or Fridays for any reason.
  - d. No overtime for any JV game.
  - e. **Each team will be allowed 2-time outs per half.**
- 8. Game Scheduling:** All games, including games against non-OHSLA teams (out of state games **or home games against out of state teams**) must be scheduled using the OHSLA web-based scheduling system.

All Varsity game scores must be reported using the OHSLA website Game Score Reporting (GSR) system (see #12 below).

After online scheduling has closed (typically 2 weeks prior to the start of the season), all schedule changes must be performed using the website Game Change Request (GCR) system up until one day prior to the originally scheduled game time (preferably earlier).

Changes less than one day prior will most likely not be accepted, but email and/or phone must also be used.

Since these schedule changes require re-assignment of officials there is a cost to the league. If the OHSLA board determines that a team's GCR's are excessive (more than 3/season), a \$25 fee/GCR may be charged to the team. There will be no charge for forfeiting a game.

- 9. Game Cancellations:** The GCR system is used for game cancellations. In cases other than inclement weather, teams must give a minimum of 24 hours' notice of cancelling a scheduled game.

The OHSLA Commissioner, appropriate Assistant Commissioner, and opposing coach must be notified via phone & email of the cancellation by the cancelling coach including the reason why.

Failure to meet 24-hour notice time frame, will result in team being billed for cost of game officials.

Cancellations due to inclement weather: As soon as possible, prior to the game, the home team shall contact the Commissioner, appropriate Assistant Commissioner, OLOA scheduler, and the visiting team head coach of the game being cancelled.

**10. Interrupted Games:** For both regular and post season games. Once a game has started, all efforts to complete the game should be taken, but safety is the priority. The crew chief of the game officials will consult with both head coaches to determine if an interrupted game can be restarted that day. If the game cannot be continued the following options take effect:

- a. The game can be replayed another day from the point of interruption only.
- b. If either team is ahead by 12 or more goals at the time of interruption, then that game score will be accepted and entered into the Game Scoring Reporting system, as a completed game.
- c. Non-playoff games: if the interruption occurs during the first half of the game and the coaches agree that to reschedule is impractical, the result will be considered a non-game. Home team will be billed for the cost of the officials.
- d. Non-playoff games: If the interruption occurs during the second half of the game with the game tied and is agreed to by coaches not to reschedule the game, this would be considered a non-game. However, if one team is ahead at interruption, then the score will be recorded, and the game completed.
- e. NFHS Lighting Protocols: The crew chief of the game officials will have final decision on all aspects dealing with lightning protocols. Safety is priority!

**11. Reporting of Game Scores:** it is the responsibility of the home team head coach to ensure correct scores are entered into the GSR on the OHSLA website immediately following the game. For out-of-state games, the OHSLA coach submits scores to the GSR. Game scoring reporting is used to calculate the relative ranking of teams for playoff seeding purposes, using the laxnumbers.com website. The OHSLA site automatically submits scores to that site on a daily basis.

**12. Facilities:**

- a. The Home team shall have a representative at the game site one hour prior to game time.
- b. At a neutral facility, the home team shall provide equal access to water, benches, locker rooms, and warm up space for the Visiting team.

- c. The Home team will make every effort to provide one hour warm up time for each team.
- d. Fields shall meet NFHS specifications.

**13. Number of Coaches:** A maximum of 4 coaches, including the head coach, are allowed in the coaching box. **This will be a point of emphasis for the 2023 season for OHSLA and OLOA.**

**14. Game Administration:** At the beginning of the game, the home team is required to provide a score book, a timing device, table, chairs and a working horn. Failing to provide any of these items is penalized as illegal procedure.

The Home team can have up to three representatives allowed at the table. The Visiting team can have one representative at the table and a second with advance notice. The table personnel are considered part of the officiating crew and should remain neutral in all aspects during the game, student athletes, coaches and game officials and are to be treated respectfully **by table staff.**

**15. Concussions and Concussion Management:** As per NFHS rules student athletes who exhibit signs of a concussion must be removed from the game immediately. At that point protocols for a student athletes resumption of participation documented in the required annual NFHS Concussion Training class must be followed (see the Forms and Documents page on OHSLA web site <http://www.ohsla.net/forms.asp> for details).

**16. Crowd Control:** The Home team head coach is responsible for security (as needed), home crowd control, and bench area.

The visiting coach is responsible for its team, students, and fans. It is recommended that each team have at least one designated crowd monitor to ensure that spectators follow proper lacrosse etiquette.

This includes stopping the crowd from berating the officials, making offensive comments about the other team and/or its coaches, or encouraging rough play or “take-out” tactics by their team.

- a. Home team will make every effort to keep spectators in stands or behind designated limit lines.
- b. In no case shall any spectator be allowed to encroach on playing field past track or limit lines while play is active.
- c. Every effort shall be made to limit spectator presence behind the bench area(s). When possible, the student athletes bench areas should be on the opposite side of the field from the main grandstand area. If that is not possible then it is suggested the area behind the bench be roped or flagged off to limit access by spectators in that area.

- d. Clubs should review their game management plans and revise as appropriate to address pregame, during and postgame situations. Some “Best Practice” tips that teams have utilized include:
- i. Parent volunteer crowd “ambassador” assist in maintaining crowd decorum and sportsmanship, present in the stands
  - ii. Secured separate parking for game officials
  - iii. Crowd control safety, security personnel, e.g., school admins, escort to parking
  - iv. Sportsmanship Announcement required to be read over the PA system before the start of each game.

*Good evening, Lacrosse Fans! (Name of High School) and the (Name of Conference) promote good sportsmanship by participants and fans at all athletic events. Sportsmanship is about respect for opponents, officials, teammates, coaches and especially for the game itself. Booing, negative cheers or derogatory comments directed at individual student athletes, officials or coaches is prohibited. We welcome our guests from (Name of Opponent) and look forward to tonight’s contest. Now the Starting Lineup for the visiting (Name of Opponent & Mascot): (read lineup) And now the Starting Lineup for the (Name of Home team & Mascot): (read lineup)*

**17. Team Sportsmanship:** OHSLA will strictly follow rule 3-4-5 of the OSAA handbook as it relates to sportsmanship - [OSAA - Handbook](#) (excerpts appear in appendix I below). OHSLA and OLOA will be making overall team sportsmanship by head coaches, assistant coaches, student athletes, and spectators a point of emphasis moving forward. There were an unprecedented # of unsportsmanlike conduct (USC) fouls called on teams in 2022. As a reminder the Head Coach is directly responsible for the behavior of student athletes, assistant coaches, and team spectators.

Any negative game report indicating unsportsmanlike conduct received by the OHSLA Executive Committee (EC) will require the Head Coach for that team to answer to the OHSLA EC via phone with an explanation.

Any team that that has multiple USC in a single game, or multiple game reports with USC will have to meet with the OHSLA EC in person to discuss team plans to improve sportsmanship and avoid USCs in future. A \$500 fine will be levied against the offending team, and if the issues are deemed serious enough, the OHSLA EC may suspend student athletes, head coaches, and assistant coaches.

At the discretion of the OHSLA EC teams may be put on probation for excessive USC’s. Probationary status will require the head coach, school AD, and team parent representative to meet in person with the OHSLA EC and submit a plan including:

1. A written plan to address sportsmanship for all team student athletes and coaches.
2. A written code of conduct for the team, coaches and spectators to be submitted and adhered to.

If unsportsmanlike behavior persists during a period of probation the OHSLA EC may impose additional sanctions up to and including suspension of coaches and student athletes, cancelling games, and exclusion from post season play.

**18. Ejections:** Ejections are accumulated per club. That is, any student athlete or coach ejection from any team in the club counts against the entire club. The first Ejection of a coach or student athlete from a game will result in a \$300 fine and the offender cannot participate in the next game.

If the program (at any level) has a second ejection during the season, the fine will increase to \$500.

A third ejection charged to any team on that club will result in a \$1,000 fine and the Varsity head coach must contact the commissioner and inform him of the plan to prevent future ejections. A fourth ejection may result in the remaining games being cancelled for the entire club.

Any student athlete that is ejected more than 2 times during the season will be suspended from play for the remainder of the season.

**19. Appeals of Ejections:** Only the head coach of the team may appeal an ejection. The appeal must be filed (using online form accessed from the coach's Ejection Report on the website) with the OHSLA commissioner within 24 hours of notification of the ejection taking place.

The appeal must include the specific NFHS rule number that you believe to be miss-applied and a specific description of how the rule was miss-applied. Any video must be supplied with the original appeal. Appeals that do not meet the time- lines or format described will be rejected.

**20. Uniforms:** In 2023 OHSLA will strictly follow NFHS rule book uniform guidelines. See NFHS Rule Book page 17 section 9 G. Home team will wear white uniforms, light colored uniforms of any other color are prohibited and will result in an equipment penalty against the home team. In addition, all uniforms will conform to NFHS regulations. Sleeveless jerseys seen at the NCAA level do not conform to NFHS requirements.

**21. Six Quarter Rule:** For 2023 OHSLA will amend the OSAA rule regarding participation limits to allow a student athlete to compete in 6 quarters and will apply in the following situations:

- a. Two (2) contests in one day (Example: JV-Varsity double header – Two (2) contests within 48 hours against the same school.
- b. The penalty for violation will be a fine of \$100 and forfeiture of the game in which the 6th quarter violation occurred.

This is designed to help OHSLA teams support both JV and Varsity teams at member schools and the overall growth of HS Lacrosse in Oregon.

**22. Fifth Quarter Availability:** OHSLA will continue the provision made in 2022 allowing teams to add a 5<sup>th</sup> quarter of play. This is done to allow teams without JV teams to get JV caliber student athletes playing time. The fifth quarter must be agreed to by both coaches, and scheduled on the OHSLA website, with the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter indicated.

**23. Rule Violations:** Teams in gross or continual violation of league policies, SOP's or directives may be suspended from league play.

Student athletes or coaches participating in gross misconduct or actions deemed detrimental to the OHSLA may be suspended from participation by the OHSLA Executive Committee.

**24. Parent Complaints:** Any/all complaints by parents must be directed to the team head coach or team board of directors/athletic director.

**25. Off-Season Practices:** The OHSLA has adopted the new OSAA Practice Limitation Rules (formerly a Pilot Program) as documented in the Practice Limitation Rule (6A, 5A Pilot) on the OSAA website. If one scrolls down to the Q&A section, there are some helpful answers. These rules represent a move away from the former Rule-of-Two limitations and allow coaches to spend time with larger groups of student athletes during certain periods of the Off-Season. When a sport is not in season, there will be two periods with different limitation for coaches during the off-season:

***Closed Period*** - This is a 6 week period that starts with the first practice of every season (see this link - [23-23ActivityCalendar.pdf \(osaa.org\)](#)). During this period conditioning is the only activity that coaches can supervise their student athletes and the sessions must be voluntary. Note coaches cannot conduct any skill development with any number of student athletes during this period, thus the name closed. There is no longer rule-of-two training permitted in the *Closed Period*.

***Open Period*** - Runs from the end of the *Closed Period* to the first practice of the next season. During this period an unlimited number of student athletes can participate in

skill development sessions run by their coaching staff. However, the coaches cannot supervise competitions (games, scrimmages, etc.) with student athletes from other schools. These practices are limited to 6 hours per week and must be voluntary.

The rules for the summer have not changed. There is still a Moratorium week (typically at the end of July beginning of August) and coaches can coach their teams without restrictions until the start of the Fall Closed Period.

**26. Playoffs:** the OHSLA will host two playoff brackets – State Championship & Cascade Cup. State Championship participants will include 24 teams: the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place team from each conference and the balance of that bracket will be determined by the LaxNumbers.com ranking system at the close of the regular season. First round Cascade Cup participants will include the top 16 teams as ranked by the ranking system that are not included in the State Championship Bracket.

- a. Conference Playoffs may be used to determine 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place in conference standings.
- b. Conference Playoff games must be completed prior to the end of the regular season.
- c. Each conference must submit (prior to start of season) their protocols to determine conference placements and tie breaker process.

**27. Admission to Playoff games:** Admission must be charged for all playoff games (both Championship & Cascade Cup) starting with the first round of play and is the responsibility of the home team. The OHSLA commissioner will determine admission rates and advise all teams and the rates will be published on the website at the bottom of the [2023 Playoff page](#).

- a. Gate revenue will be split 50/50 with OHSLA and host school after approved host expenses are subtracted from the total.
- b. Copy of the gate accounting and appropriate expense receipts must be submitted to the OHSLA treasurer within 7 days of the game.
- c. Failure to charge admission/submit accounting forms/pay OHSLA share, will result in the host team being billed a \$250 fine **and** the average of gate share received by OHSLA from teams in a similar round of the playoffs.
- d. Any requests for variance must be sent to the OHSLA commissioner and treasurer 48 hours prior to the start of the game.

**28. Semi Finals and Final Games (Cascade Cup & Championship):** Admission will be charged, and the rate determined by the OHSLA commissioner. The total gate for these games will be shared between OHSLA and the host/volunteer school. OHSLA will receive 75% and host school 25%. Final 4 teams in each bracket will receive 5% share of OHSLA share.

**29. Awards:** The coaches of the respective conference teams will be responsible for the selection of All-Conference honors. Nominated student athletes must be in good standing within their team at time of nomination, meet all school district and OSAA/OHSLA guidelines for eligibility and have displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season. Coaches and student athletes with multiple USC penalties during the season, need to make a case for consideration. It is the position of the OHSLA that student athletes that have displayed a pattern of unsportsmanlike behavior during the season should NOT receive post season honors. All-Conference teams will include student athletes in common positions (attack, midfield, defense, goalie) as well as specialty positions LSM & face-off specialist as determined by the conference (a.k.a. FOGO).

All-State and All-American honors will be selected by the conference representatives at the end of the season meeting on the Saturday of the State Championship game. All-State teams will include student athletes in common positions (attack, midfield, defense, goalie) as well as specialty positions LSM, SSDM, and face-off specialist. Nominated individuals must be in good standing within their team at time of nomination, meet all school district and OSAA/OHSLA guidelines for eligibility and have displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season. Coaches and student athletes with multiple USC penalties during the season, need to make a case for consideration. It is the position of the OHSLA that individuals that have displayed a pattern of unsportsmanlike behavior during the season should NOT receive post season honors.

**30. Unmanned/Drone Aircraft Policy:** If a vehicle of this type is “within sight or sound” at any game; game officials are instructed to halt the game. The game can only be restarted once this vehicle is no longer within sight or sound of the field.

#### Appendix I. Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) Excerpts Rule 3 & 5 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control

**3.2.** When a festival, meet, contest or championship is in progress, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules governing such activities shall apply, except for specific deviations as approved by the Executive Board.

**3.3. Sportsmanship Responsibility.** The high school administration, coach and other responsible officials of each member school shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school's coaches, student athletes, students and spectators maintain a sportsmanlike attitude at all events so that events may be conducted without unreasonable danger or disorder. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. Discriminatory harassment and bullying behavior will not be tolerated. Discrimination is defined as (OAR 581-021-0045(1)(a) "any act that unreasonably differentiates treatment, intended or unintended, or any act that is fair in form but discriminatory in operation, either of which is based on age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, and sexual

orientation." Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which include use of cell phones or the internet; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Examples include but are not limited to hazing, intimidation, taunting, bullying, cyberbullying, or menacing another, or engaging in behavior deemed by the member school to endanger the safety or well-being of student's employees, self or others. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent, so as to interfere with or limit the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. This includes the use of, or engagement in, abusive verbal expression or physical conduct, especially if that conduct interferes with the performance of students, staff, event officials or sponsors of interscholastic activities.

**3.4. Spectator Conduct.** The following expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided. Those violating or threatening to violate the following Association rules or site management spectator conduct expectations, may be ejected from the premises, issued a trespass citation, excluded from sanctioned activities temporarily or permanently and/or referred to law enforcement officials.

**3.4.1.** All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments, or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Some examples of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to disrespecting student athletes by name, number or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the playing surface; use of derogatory or racially explicit language; discriminatory harassment or conduct that creates a hostile environment that is disruptive to the educational environment.

**3.4.2.** Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action.

Any school whose coaches, student athletes, students, supporters, rooters or partisans take part in riots, fights, pilfering, painting or any other unsportsmanlike conduct shall be subject to penalty.

**3.6 Sportsmanship Violations/Penalties.** When the coaches, student athletes, students, staff or spectator of any member school engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, discriminatory harassing behaviors, act in a manner disruptive to the school environment, or cause disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contest or championship sponsored by this Association, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school of the Rules of the Association and the school shall be subject to penalty. Penalties may vary depending on the actions taken by the school and/or school district during and after the event as it relates to trespassing spectators involved, removing student athletes/coaches from the team for a period of time, requiring additional education/training etc. Upon a ruling by the Executive Director or by the Executive Board the member school may be subject to probation, mandatory appearance before the Executive Board, required plan of action, forfeitures, fines, lack of institutional control penalties, suspension of membership or expulsion from the Association as determined by the Executive Board. The Board may determine that no penalties are necessary when an incident has been handled appropriately.

## **Rule 5 – Violations of Regulations – Penalties**

**5.1.** Upon a ruling by the Executive Director or by the Executive Board that a student athlete is ineligible, the school shall forfeit all meets, contests or championships in which that student participated during that student's ineligibility, either before and/or after such ruling. As determined by the Executive Director, the student may be disqualified for the remainder of that sport season. Upon a ruling by the Executive Director or by the Executive Board that an uncertified coach has coached students in a meet, contest or championship, the school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the Board.

**5.2.** For violation of any Regulation of the Association and in addition to game forfeitures provided in 5.1 of this rule, the Executive Board may impose any one or more of the penalties set forth in this Rule. Upon a ruling by the Executive Director or by the Executive Board that a violation of any Regulation resulted from conduct of an employee or representative of a member school, the Executive Director or Executive Board may require the employee, representative and/or member school administrator to appear before the Executive Board and show cause why the employee, representative and/or member school should not be subject to sanctions under Rule 5 for such conduct. The Executive Board may impose any form of penalty set forth in Rule 5 that the Executive Board finds appropriate to punish or deter such conduct. A member school may be subject to penalties under Rule 5 based on the conduct of its employees or representatives.

**5.2.1.** Probation. When a school is on probation, it shall suffer no impairment of rights of membership, but probation shall be a factor in determining the penalty for any violation during probation.

3. **5.2.2.** Forfeitures of festivals, meets, contests, championships, titles, awards, prizes as the Executive Board may direct.

4. **5.2.3.** Fines, in such amounts as the Executive Board may determine, to a maximum of \$2,500 for one violation. Violations involving a lack of institutional control are not subject to the \$2,500 maximum.

5. **5.2.4.** Suspension of the right to participate in such festivals, meets, contests and championships as the Executive Board may direct.

6. **5.2.5.** Suspension of rights of membership, for such period as the Executive Board may direct, to a maximum of two years. During suspension, a school may not participate in any festivals, meets, contests or championships.

7. **5.2.6.** Expulsion from membership in the Association.

8. **5.2.7.** The Executive Board may direct that any or all penalties provided in this Section are to be imposed only if certain conditions are not met, or that any such penalties are to be relieved if certain conditions are met.

9. **5.2.8.** Suspension of a member school's employee(s) or representative(s) from coaching or other participation in Association activities.

10. **5.2.9.** Forfeiture of any meets, contests or championships in which the member school's employee(s) or representative(s) have participated or which have been affected by the prohibited conduct, as determined by the Executive Board at its sole discretion.

**5.3.** Suspended or expelled schools may be reinstated by the Executive Board. Reinstatement may be subject to such conditions as the Executive Board may direct.

**5.4.** A member school (except an associate member school) that engages in a meet, contest or championship with a non-member school, or with a school that has been suspended or expelled, shall itself become liable for suspension or expulsion by the Executive Board.

**5.5. Responsibility.** If a school employee or representative declared to be in violation of any Regulation or if a student who has been declared ineligible is permitted to participate in Association activities or interscholastic competition because of a temporary restraining order, preliminary

injunction, permanent injunction or court or administrative agency determination, and if such restraining order, injunction, or determination is subsequently vacated, dismissed, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts to not justify the relief granted, one or more of the penalties outlined in this rule may be assessed in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member schools.

**5.6. Penalties of Officials.** Upon a ruling by the Executive Board that an official has violated any Regulation, the Executive Board may impose any of the following penalties that the Executive Board finds appropriate to punish or deter such conduct:

**5.6.1. Probation.** Probation may be imposed for such period as the Executive Board may direct. When an official is on probation, he or she shall suffer no impairment of certification as an OSAA official, but probation shall be a factor in determining the penalty for any violation during probation.

**5.6.2. Suspension.** Suspension of certification as an OSAA official for such period as the Executive Board may direct, to a maximum of two years. During suspension, an official may not officiate over any OSAA sponsored festival, meet, contest, or championship.

**5.6.3. Revocation.** Revocation of certification as an OSAA official.

## II. Coaches Code of Ethics

The following was copied from the National Federation of High Schools Coaches Code of Ethics page <https://www.nfhs.org/nfhs-for-you/coaches/coaches-code-of-ethics/>

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success.

Each student should be treated with the utmost respect, and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

- The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

- The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with student athletes.
- The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.
- The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.
- The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite student athletes or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or student athletes is unethical.
- The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student special consideration.
- The coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

The following was copied from the USA Lacrosse Coaches Code of Conduct - [USA Lacrosse Code of Conduct | USA Lacrosse](#)

- [USA LACROSSE CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

Student Athletes, coaches, officials, parents and spectators are to conduct themselves in a manner that "Honors the Game" and demonstrates respect to other student athletes, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and fans. In becoming a member of the lacrosse community an individual assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to the

game of lacrosse and its participants. The essential elements in this "Code of Conduct" are HONESTY and INTEGRITY. Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these elements will bring credit to the sport of lacrosse, themselves, their team and their organization.

It is only through such conduct that our sport can continue to earn and maintain a positive image and make its full contribution to amateur sports in the United States and around the world. USA Lacrosse supports the following behaviors for those who participate in the sport or are involved in any way with USA Lacrosse. 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 student athletes are of primary importance.**
- **Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their student athletes. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as adults.**
- **Coaches should always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforce them to student athletes, parents, officials and spectators alike. Student athletes should be specifically encouraged and positively reinforced by coaches to demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, officials and spectators.**
- **Student athletes should always demonstrate positive behavior and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.**
- **Coaches, student athletes, parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials and reinforce that respect to student athletes/teammates. Coaches are also expected to educate their student athletes as to the important role of lacrosse officials and reinforce the ideal of respect for the official to student athletes/teammates.**
- **Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play in view of spectators or participants.**

- **Officials are professionals and are therefore expected to conduct themselves as such and in a manner that demonstrates total impartiality, courtesy and fairness to all parties.**
- **Spectators involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass or threaten an official, coach, student athlete or opponent.**
- **Coaches must be able to demonstrate a solid knowledge of the rules of lacrosse and should adhere to the rules in both the letter and the spirit of the game.**
- **Coaches should provide a basic knowledge of the rules to both student athletes and spectators within his/her program. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct, is considered unacceptable conduct.**
- **Eligibility requirements, at all levels of the game, must be followed. Rules and requirements such as age, previous level of participation, team transfers, etc., have been established to encourage and maximize participation, fair play and to promote safety.**