

# WNY Summer Lacrosse League Rules

*Last Modified June 2024*

**Divisions:** All grade levels will be determined by the player's CURRENT school year they just completed in the prior school season . Their grade level shall not be their "rising" grade level for the next school season.

Grade levels are as follows:

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3/4
- Grades 5/6
- Grades 7/8

## **Division Advancement**

A player is allowed to move up one division if both affected Coaches and the parents agree. Eligible players must exhibit advanced skills, maturity and physical development needed for the elevated group to be considered for advancement.

## **Teams**

WNYSLL teams are essentially B level teams comprised of house team level players. Travel & A level teams are comprised of players that have the skill level to play, or are playing travel or tournament level lacrosse, and should be playing at that level. Game schedules will match team levels.

## **Playing Fields**

Grades K-4 playing fields will be approximating 40 x 70 yds. This is typically referred to as a "Youth Playing Field". Grades 5-8 will play on regulation fields approximating 110 yards long and between 53 and 60 yards wide. Full fields can be used as youth fields if they are painted (different color) with the youth boundaries within the full field or are reduced to youth size using cones.

## **Game Times**

All attempts should be made to have games start at approximately 6:15pm and 7:30pm for grades K-4 and grades 5-8, respectively. However, modifications to these times due to field availability are acceptable. There will be two 25-minute running clock halves with a 5-minute halftime. Games shall start in mid-June and will consist of one game per week until mid-July when two games per

week may be scheduled. All games occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays should be completed by the last Tuesday or Thursday in July.

### **Equipment**

Required: All players are required to wear gloves, NOCSAE regulation lacrosse helmet and shoulder pads, arm pads, and mouth guard. Goalies are required to have a throat guard, helmet, gloves, mouth guard, and NOCSAE certified chest protector. A cup, while not required, is recommended for all players but mandatory for goalies.

### **Fair Play**

Coaches should not allow game scores to become excessively lopsided (no runaway games). Stronger teams should pass more before attempting to score. Remember this is a recreational summer league.

### **Spectators**

Spectators are required to watch from an area on the side of the field safe from any balls which may leave the field of play. Teams may wish to dedicate viewing areas for parents based on field layout. No spectators are allowed on the field at any time.

### **Schedule Changes**

Any change (LOCATION/TIME/CANCELATION) needed to a game listed on a division's final schedule are to be handled by between the teams, making sure the scheduled team and official's scheduler are notified.

### **Weather Policy**

Go to the scheduled game site and let the referees make the decision on whether the scheduled game will be played, or not, based on weather and field conditions. If a lightning strike during game, wait 25 minutes until the storm passes. Another strike usually cancels a game after that initial wait period. Games that are canceled can be rescheduled on Tues/Thurs in the last week of July if agreed upon by both teams

### **Officials**

Each divisional game will have 2 officials. This assures officials will be available at each scheduled game site, especially for the second game time @7:30pm. K-2 will be officiated by coaches only. Payment of officials occurs on site by each coaching staff.

### **Tie Scores**

Games ending in a tie score will stay a tie score unless the officials allow a sudden death overtime depending on time situations for officials and field availability.

### **Delay of Game Count**

There will be no 20-second or 10-second failure to advance counts at the K-6 levels, but teams are still required to advance the ball toward the offensive zone in a timely manner. If a team is deemed to be intentionally stalling the game, by not advancing the ball in a timely manner, the official will issue a warning. On subsequent violations, the possession will be awarded to the other team at the midfield line.

### **Goalie Count**

The goalie count of 5 seconds is in effect at the Grade 5-8 levels but not the Grade K-4 levels.

### **Body Checking**

It is acknowledged that incidental contact happens in the sport of lacrosse and an amount of leeway will be allowed in this to “let the players play”. Players going for groundballs or making plays at both ends will, at times, be at the receiving and/or giving end of contact. It is the intention of this league to teach the sport of lacrosse in a safe and fun environment. With that in mind, only at the Grades 5/6 and 7/8 divisions is intentional contact allowed. Defining legal levels of contact is, in general, very difficult. The following minimum guidelines are hereby established as a basis for judging the legality of contact in a game:

1. An official’s judgment will be the first and foremost determining factor. They are there to ensure a safe, fun and fair competition. An official’s obligation to maintain the safe and controlled play of the game overrides any and all other guidelines.
2. All players must make a conscience effort to play the ball at all times.
3. Players must lay off anyone in a vulnerable position (i.e. on knees, has head down going for a groundball, blind side hits, where a head shot is unavoidable, etc.)

4. Any more than 3 steps prior to contact are considered to be excessive. This includes areas around the crease. Players who have taken more than 3 steps are usually on the verge of “out of control” with their bodies.
5. Body checking in the “open field” is not allowed. “Open field” will be loosely defined as any time a player is not within 10-15 yards of the crease. An official’s judgment of “open field” may vary and it is recommended that the official clarify what his criteria are.
6. Any contact must be from the front, waist to shoulder and not extending hands or the stick in a cross-checking motion prior to contact.
7. No player may “spear” (initiate contact with their helmet) an opposing player. This will be called and automatic flagrant penalty.
8. The offensive player must have the ball and be making a motion towards the goal, or a player must be making a play on a loose ball and be within 2 steps of the ball.
9. Special care should be taken with any contact close to out of bounds, as there may be obstructions close to the sidelines (parents, netting, benches, etc.).

## **Divisional Rules**

### **Grade K-2 Division**

*Rules: All Rules per NYS Modified High School rules with the following exceptions:*

- Play will occur with 6 versus 6 using the entire full field. When a goal occurs, the scoring team backs up to midfield and the ball is taken out of the net for the new offensive team. The team that just scored may not play the ball until it is brought over the midfield line.
- Faceoffs occur after every combined four goals between the two teams.
- Play will occur on a youth sized field (approximately 40x70 yds.). Foldable creases can and should be used to determine goalie creases.
- All attempts should be made to have a player play the position of goalie, but “defenders” can be used if no play is able or willing to play goalie.
- No long poles are permitted
- No body checking is allowed.
- No penalties shall be called. Players are given instruction as to what they did incorrectly to learn the game and are not removed from the game for “penalty time”. However if flagrant penalties occur, the player shall be removed from the remainder of the half, but can be

substituted for. If a player has two flagrant penalties in one game, he will be suspended for the remainder of that game and be subject to any team/organization penalties.

- Stick checking must be two handed and is allowed only on the gloves holding the stick or the stick itself, and checks must be under control.
- Goalie ball - when the goalie is clamped on the ball with at least one foot in the crease, it is the goalies

### **Grade 3/4 Division**

*Rules: All Rules per NYS Modified High School rules with the following exceptions or clarifications*

- Play: 8 versus 8 using 3 midfielders, 2 attacks, 2 defense and a goalie. The field will be reduced in size to a youth sized field (approximately 40x70 yds.)
- All teams must play with a goalie.
- Officials will call all penalties and time shall be served in the penalty box resulting in “man-up” and “man-down” situations. All teams must keep 2 defenders and 2 attack in their zones at all times.
- Faceoffs occur after every goal
- No long poles are permitted
- No body checking is allowed.
- Stick checking must be two handed and is allowed only on the gloves holding the stick or the stick itself, and checks must be under control.
- Goalie ball - when the goalie is clamped on the ball with at least one foot in the crease, it is the goalie

### **Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8 Divisions**

*Rules: All Rules per NYS Modified High School rules with the following clarifications*

- Play occurs with 10 versus 10 format using 3 midfielders, 3 attacks, 3 defense and a goalie on a regulation-sized field. Long poles are allowed and there may be 4 on the field at any one time.