

# Operating Procedures of the US Lacrosse Women's Division Intercollegiate Associates

(Pending USL ratification 2008)

- 1) **Team Membership** - All WDIA members shall complete an application and pay membership dues.
  - a) The WDIA Council shall determine all membership fees and provide that information to all teams by their fall League meetings.
  - b) Dues shall be paid by **December 15<sup>th</sup>** or a late fee will be assessed.
  - c) Teams whose applications and fees are not received by **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** shall not be eligible for:
    - (1) Automatic Qualifying bid to the WDIA National Tournament
    - (2) National Ranking.
  - d) New membership at a reduced fee shall be available to those lacrosse clubs, teams, or organizations affiliated with a college, university or similar institution that are new club teams or teams new to the WDIA.
    - (1) They may join at any time during the spring season.
    - (2) They may be ranked, but may not qualify for:
      - (i) The WDIA National Tournament
      - (ii) Post Season awards.
  - e) A team found to be giving Lacrosse athletic scholarships shall not be eligible to be a member of the WDIA
- 2) **Player Eligibility** - For all WDIA contests, only bona fide players for the member organization shall be entitled to play.
  - a) Players must be enrolled as a student at the college, university, or similar institution with which her team is affiliated.
    - (1) Each player must be a full-time student at her university as defined by each institution.
    - (2) Exception -- Final Term: A player with eligibility remaining may participate in organized practice sessions and play with her team while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies, provided the student is:
      - (i) Enrolled in the term and
      - (ii) She is taking the credits necessary for graduation at the end of the term.
  - b) If a college or university has a policy allowing students in bridge programs, community colleges, sister schools, consortiums, or other such affiliated programs to participate and compete on established teams at its school, then the WDIA will abide by that school's ruling.
    - (1) Students must be verified by the registrar that:
      - (i) They fulfill all university/college requirements as stated and expected for all qualifying teams at that college/university
      - (ii) They fulfill all WDIA rules to be eligible to play on the club lacrosse team.

- c) To be eligible, players must appear on the team roster.
  - (1) The school registrar shall certify that all roster members are full time students.
  - (2) The roster is due to the WDIA by **March 2**.
  
- d) A player may play for only one member during the year in games that are taken into account for national rankings, WDIA, or league standings. This rule is not intended to prevent a player from playing for another team during "fall ball" or other off-season events or for games that do not significantly impact the standings of WDIA teams.
  
- e) A player may only play four regular seasons of college lacrosse at the WDIA (A and/or B), NCAA, NJCAA, NAIA, or similar level combined.
  - (1) There is no clock. A player may have as many years or semesters as she desires to complete her four years of college play.
  - (2) There is no "transfer rule" that forces a student-athlete to sit out a year if she transfers institutions.
  
- f) Hardship Waiver - A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the WDIA for reasons of injury, illness or travel/study abroad.
  - (1) The student-athlete shall not have participated in more than two contests or dates of competition or 20 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition.
  - (2) Only scheduled or competed against outside participants during the playing season prior to the WDIA Championships shall be countable under this limitation. (Fall Ball shall not count.)
  
- g) Conferences and/or teams may have additional eligibility rules/requirements that are more restrictive, as long as those rules do not conflict with WDIA rules.
  
- h) Eligibility rules and other rules and regulations are monitored by the individual conferences. If there is a dispute that the conference can't resolve, it shall be reviewed WDIA Council for a final decision.
  
- i) For good cause, and after notice to the WDIA Council, the Council may grant exceptions to these rules.
  
- 3) **Roster Deadline** -Player rosters shall be submitted to the League Presidents by **February 15<sup>th</sup>** so that US Lacrosse may receive them by **March 2**.
  - a) This is the deadline for players to be eligible for the WDIA National Championship tournament.
  - b) Players must be students in the school they represent.
  - c) Players may not move down to a B level team after this date and be eligible for WDIA National Championship tournament.

d) Failure to submit the roster by the deadline will make a school ineligible to play in the WDIA National Championship tournament.

4) **Automatic Qualification**: A bona fide WDIA league, as approved by the WDIA Council shall receive one automatic qualification bid to the WDIA National Championship Tournament for the team within their league that each league designates as their representative provided that they meet the following qualifications. Each qualifying league shall submit their representative to the Ranking Committee chair and the Council liaison by **9PM PST on April 19, 2009**.

a) WDIA league Qualification:

- (1) There shall be a minimum of eight separate institutions
- (2) The total may not include New members
- (3) Each team shall have their schedule submitted to Laxpower by **February 15<sup>th</sup> or the beginning of their league play, whichever comes first**.
- (4) Each of the eight institutions must play a minimum of 6 games against WDIA teams.
  - (a) Each WDIA teams must pay dues.
  - (b) Each WDIA opponent must play 6 games against WDIA teams.
    - (i) Each WDIA team may play no more than two games against the same opponent counting towards this six game total. Any games added **after February 15<sup>th</sup>** will not count towards league Automatic Qualification bid or ranking. Should games be canceled due to weather, field conditions, or natural disasters, the game(s) against previously scheduled teams may be rescheduled and count towards Automatic Qualification bid requirements.
- (5) Each league shall provide a representative to the Rankings Committee and All-American committee to qualify for an Automatic Qualification bid by **December 1st**. It is recommended that two different people be on these committees.
- (6) **Each league shall have all requirements, not specifically indicated otherwise, in place by March 2 to be eligible for an Automatic Qualification bid.**
- (7) Each league shall have been established and met all requirements for 2 years to receive an Automatic Qualification bid. Established leagues as of the 2007 season shall be grandfathered as necessary.

b) League status shall be pending verification by the Ranking Committee.

c) If that league chooses not to send a representative, the WDIA Council will determine the process for which a substitute team will be determined.

d) Teams whose applications and fees are not received by **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** shall not be eligible for an Automatic Qualification bid to the WDIA National Tournament.

e) This policy shall be reviewed yearly.

5) **Playing Rules** –

- a) All contests between members shall be played under the Official Rules for Women's Lacrosse approved, or promulgated, by the Women's Division of US Lacrosse.
- b) NCAA rules may be used if mutually agreed upon prior to the contest. All US Lacrosse sponsored events shall use the Official Rules for Women's Lacrosse.
- c) All contests between WDIA members for games that are taken into account for national rankings, WDIA, or league standings shall be officiated by umpires certified by the Women's Division of US Lacrosse and assigned by the assigning official for the home team, league, or WDIA.
  - (1) They shall be a minimum of 25 minute running clock halves with a stop clock in the last two minutes of each half.
  - (2) It is recommended that single games in a day be played with 30 minute stopped clock after goals and on whistles in the last two minutes of each half.
  - (3) Each team must be allowed two (2) times out per game

6) **Game Management** – It shall be the home teams responsibility to:

- a) Timely and appropriately notify the visiting team of any league specific rules that will be in effect during cross- league competitions.
  - (1) The home team rules shall prevail. – For example – red card leading to subsequent game suspension.
- b) Timely and appropriately notify the appointing authority to ensure that assigned officials are available to officiate all games.
- c) Have the playing field, including goals and table area, available and appropriately marked.
- d) Provide a score book, visible scoreboard, timing devices, balls, timekeeper and scorekeeper.
- e) Pay all of the agreed fees and costs of the officials unless other arrangements are made.
- f) Provide and continue to provide visiting teams with adequate playing facilities and endeavor to provide appropriate dressing and shower facilities.
- g) In the event a member team is unable to appear and play a scheduled contest, it shall notify the other team as soon as possible.
  - (1) Each team must play each scheduled contest and the failure to do so or the failure to appropriately notify the opposing team of cancellation shall be referred to the members' leagues authorities for play within one league or the WDIA Council for inter-league play.
    - (a) The involved league shall review and determine appropriate action for intra-league play.
    - (b) Review and appropriate action for inter-league play includes, but is not limited to, declaring a forfeit by the WDIA council.
  - (2) If possible, notify the assigning official and the assigned umpires at least twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled time of the contest.

- (a) In the event any home team fails to give proper information to the appointing authority and/or fails to appropriately notify the assigned officials of the time, location or cancellation of a game with sufficient time to avoid travel by the umpires, the umpires shall be paid for the contest by the home team.
  - (b) In the event the problem is due to the visiting team's failure to appear and/or appropriately notify the home team, the visiting team shall be responsible for such costs in addition to any other action deemed appropriate by the WDIA Council.
  - (c) For games that are canceled or postponed due to inclement weather, as long as the umpires are properly notified with sufficient time to avoid travel, there shall be no penalties.
- h) All WDIA teams, coaches, officials, spectators, and administrators will abide by the US Lacrosse Code of Conduct both in and out of the regular season.
- i) Any players coaches, umpires, volunteers, fans and supporters will abide by any rules concerning conduct, use of alcohol/tobacco, parking or other rules required or requested by the host team, host institution, WDIA, or US Lacrosse.
- j) In the event any player team or person associated with a member organization shall commit any act considered excessively unsportsmanlike or otherwise detrimental to the purposes of the WDIA or US Lacrosse, such may be reported by any member team or official to the WDIA Council for investigation and appropriate action.
- 7) **Uniforms** - Each team is responsible to have appropriate uniforms and equipment in accordance with the Official Rules for Women's Lacrosse approved, or promulgated, by the Women's Division of US Lacrosse.
- a) This shall preferably include two sets of numbered game shirts with different colors (dark colors for away games and light colors for home games).
  - b) The teams should coordinate the choice of shirt colors with the opposing teams for each game to avoid similar color shirts for the games.
  - c) In the event of a conflict, the home team shall be responsible for changing shirts to avoid the conflict or shall be responsible for providing numbered pinnies or vests and wearing them.
- 8) **Coaches**- Each team shall make every effort to have an adult non-playing coach, for each game, who shall be designated as the coach for the team. This rule may be considered by the WDIA in determining entry to membership for teams desiring membership in the WDIA.
- 9) **Umpire Recruit** - Each year, each team has the opportunity to recruit at least one person from their respective communities who will attend training for certification as an umpire.
- a) The training shall be conducted by Women's Division of US Lacrosse umpire trainers
  - b) It is preferred that two or more non-playing adult person(s) be recruited.
  - c) The candidate(s) shall be new to the umpiring ranks.

- d) Should the candidate(s) complete the training to become certified umpire(s), the team they represent shall receive a rebate on their WDIA dues.