

# FLAGS & WHISTLES

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## Pregame

Remarks from the National Umpiring Chair  
by Perky Nellissen WDOC chair

Wow, was that convention packed chock full of great umpiring topics or what? My head is still spinning from stretching the extra inch, (and wondering why anyone would try 8 times to make a team - was it stupidity or brilliance in the end?) having a humdinger of a game, to beating the ball out and following it in, to what to do with these darn goggles, to managing space and finally to how do we recruit and retain umpires within our local boards. I dare you to really examine the force these big strong girls are using and to "put a whistle" on it early to keep everyone protected this year. I challenge all of you to pick your interpretators brain on bringing the convention message to an understanding of what it will mean to you to keep the game safer. Forget flow - blow!

Lots of stuff is being looked at by the National Umpiring Committee. We are concerned with the policies of some state associations to not upholding the goals of NFHS to incorporate USL into their structure. We are continuing dialog with the coaching community and have made inroads for more communication with the Collegiate Match Evaluation Form. The new training DVD should be available to assist in training new umpires. The website should be loaded with information including the manual being downloadable. A pilot program for using beautiful Vail as a re-rate session for National umpires is being presented...hmmm lets see...mountains of Colorado or hills of Pennsylvania? Where is my frequent flyer award?

But mostly I want to thank you, all of you for caring about this sport and our part in it. Each of you is a valuable asset to women's lacrosse umpiring. As you grow within your umpiring, involvement on your local board might be a good step up for you. Take action to make the Women's Division Officials Council (WDOC) strong from the grass-roots to the top. Do what you can do, if that means asking a co-worker or neighbor to get involved, mentoring a new official or putting your name forward to the NUC nominating committee; there are many means for you to stretch that extra inch.

Make it a gr8 season!

## New Rules for 2004

### Eye Protection

Recent decisions by the NCAA and the NFHS have caused some confusion about who "must" and who "may" wear eye protection during the 2004 season. It's easiest if players are divided into four groups as follows:

1. College players: the NCAA has mandated the wearing of eye protection during the 2004 NCAA championships but not during the regular season. Play during the season is governed by US Lacrosse rules. College players may wear eye protection during the regular season but are required to wear it during the NCAA playoffs.

## 2003-2004 National Umpiring Committee

Perky Nellissen, Chair

Laura Hebert

Rala Heinen

Dorothy Hirsch

Peter Hyde

Patti Klecha-Porter

Jenny Miriam

Sue Paige

Loretta Pawlowski

Laurette Payette

Jeff Secor

Cheryl Silverman

Fran Trumbo

2. High school players at NFHS affiliated schools: the NFHS has mandated the wearing of eye protection during the 2004 regular season. Players at NFHS affiliated schools must wear eye protection.

3. High school players at non-NFHS affiliated schools: players at these schools may choose to wear eye protection but it is not mandated during the 2004 season.

4. All other players: this category would include youth, intercollegiate associate programs, post collegiate club programs, etc. These players may choose to wear eye protection but it is not mandated during the 2004 season.

Umpires must now meet with each coach prior to the start of the game and the coach must verbally certify to the umpires that any eye protection worn meets the ASTM standards for women's lacrosse at the appropriate level of play (youth or adult). For purposes of the ASTM standard, the adult product must be worn by players at the high school level and above.

### Minimum Space Requirement Behind Goal

After much feedback from coaches, athletic directors and facility managers, a change has been made to the minimum space required behind goal. This minimum space will now be 10 yards measured from the goal line. This change will allow play to take place on a field that is 120 yards in total length (football field dimensions). Goals can be set 100 yards apart with 10 yards behind each. On fields where more space is available the space behind may be anything up to the 20 yard maximum. One reminder – we are speaking of total space not playing space. This total space would include playing space plus the 4m of open space before reaching any fence, obstacle, or change of surface.

### Stick to Body Fouls

A key point of emphasis during the upcoming season is going to be calling stick to the body fouls more quickly. We've added specific examples to Rule 18-A to highlight the type of fouls at issue. Over time, the tendency on the part of umpires has been to see the foul, get the arm out, see the foul again, and then possibly call it. The scenario now should be see this type of foul, call it and possibly card it. This topic was covered extensively at the National Convention.

## Rules Clarification

Within a stick length is defined as being inside a crosses length and arm extended. This means that some part of the body must be inside the crosses length and arm extended to be considered within a stick's length.

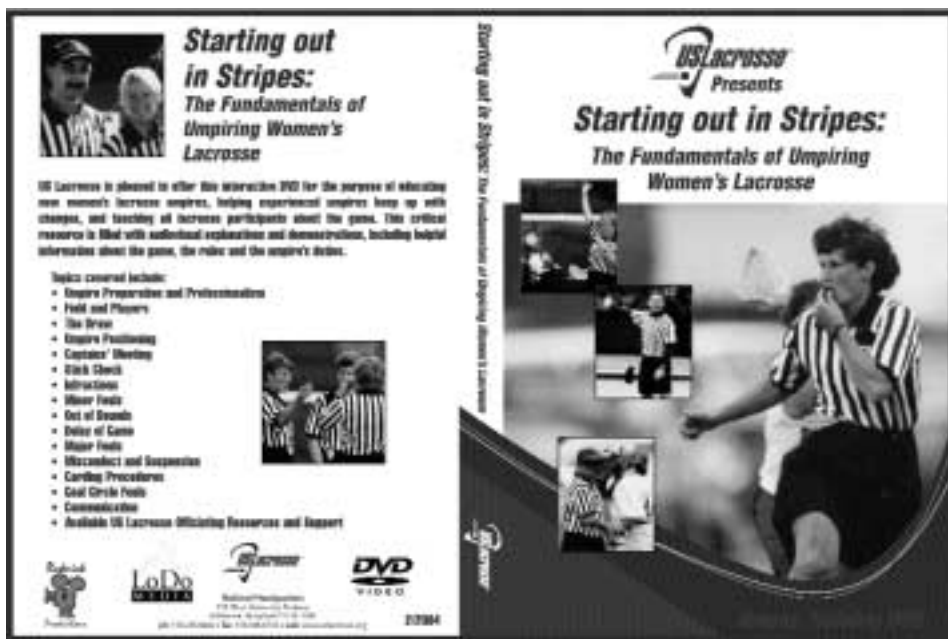
Any check near the head/face area of a player that makes contact with her eye protection must be carded. The eye protection is considered an extension of the head/face area and as such it would be considered an automatic card for a check to the head.

## New Umpiring Training DVD

A New training DVD, "Starting Out in Stripes: The Fundamentals of Umpiring Women's Lacrosse," will soon be available.

Copies will be \$16.00 and can be ordered online from the US Lacrosse gift shop or by calling the toll free number, 866-877-7550.

Order and use your USLacrosse membership discount.



## Umpiring the Goggles

We New Yorkers would like to help the rest of the lacrosse umpiring world by sharing with you some of the techniques we have successfully used umpiring games where the players are wearing protective eyewear, aka goggles.

On the High School level, find out from Athletic Directors, State Associations, and the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) if the schools in question are NFHS members. If they are, they must wear goggles. If not, then you must check farther about NFHS v Non-NFHS schools playing each other. Assign someone from your board to research this.

OK, now we know we are working a game with a HS team that must wear goggles. As you begin your field inspection, the suggestion is to bring both HS coaches to the table or center of the field and ask them "Is your eyewear ASTM approved for women's lacrosse?" answer "yes"...good to go. Answer "I don't know" or "not all of them" or "no". Game over. Pretty simple so far...

On the college level, ask the coach the same question but during the process of introducing yourselves. When all three of you introduce yourselves, have one person be the spokesperson ...maybe the "C's" responsibility. Remember, these teams are not mandated to wear eyewear during this season...so you may have players within a team wearing them and some not. That is ok. If the coach answers the main questions above with the positive...play on

Remember, if either level coach says ok, that is the end of our job. We shouldn't know what are approved or what are not...if we ascertain the goggles are ASTM approved our liability ends. Don't get hung up on model numbers, manufacturers, or the fact you have never seen a pair like that before etc.

The game is on!

- As you start the draw, you notice some of the players have their goggles up on their foreheads. Use preventive umpiring; "put them down" game goes on.
- After a goal, someone takes them off to wipe the sweat off their brow or readjust them...fine.
- When the players substitute after a goal, they sometimes come onto the field and then put on their goggles. This is where the straps usually malfunction. If your league doesn't stop the clock after goals, call timeout and let the player fix her eyewear. Then restart the game with the draw, no foul
- Along with the previous statement, we would encourage the players to have their protective eyewear in place before entering the game after goals.
- A girl is running down the field and the goggles fall off, yes some of those straps come unhooked. Stop the game, allow her to fix it...restart like an inadvertent whistle. (no foul) You must stop play even if she is on a scoring play, if she is mandated to play with goggles, she must have them on all the time.
- Goggles that are correctly fastened do not slosh around, and rarely have we seen goggles come displaced by a head fake. If they are dislodged by going through a double team, it could be a forcing through foul or dangerous play by the defense. A card must be given if an errant swipe or check makes contact with the goggles. The goggles are considered an extension of the head/face and this would fall under the category of automatic card for a check to the head.
- Yikes it's raining or the temp just dropped and the team has the polycarbonate type eyewear. If you feel that the weather, too much rain on the outside or too much fog on the inside, is affecting the safety of the game...call it, finished etc. Use your league rules or USL rules to decide how to start it up again.
- Players might ask you if they can take their goggles off as it begins to rain. If they are mandated to play with them, this is not an option. They must wear them in all games and all situations. As an umpire, pay close attention to see if the skill level of the players and if game is deteriorating.
- A HS player gets frustrated with wearing her goggles and takes them off and throws them to her bench (never have I seen this happen). This is a "delay of game" foul. Minor foul. Call time out and issue the correct card depending on where you are in the delay of game process.
- Just like the mouth guard rule, don't make this a "Gotcha" call. This is now a normal part of our game. We hope this article will ease any of your worries. Use preventive umpiring whenever you can. Have fun with it, by midseason any angst will be water under the bridge.

--Perky Nellissen, Cheryl Silverman

## International Umpire News

US International Umpires Seeking Ranking for World Cup 2005- Applications must be in April 1 to International Umpire Chair Patti Klecha-Porter. World Cup Ranking will take place at National Tournament.

New Procedures in obtaining a International Rating. All US National rated umpires interested must apply and be reviewed by the US International Umpire Committee or NUC. Applications are reviewed January at the US Convention and National Tournament. Written exam must be taken by May 1.

International Calendar:

### **April 1, 2004, Umpires and TD's application deadline.**

Candidates applying for 2005 World Cup must submit application and resume to: Patricia Klecha-Porter, 24 Valley Heights Drive, Middlefield, CT 06455 or email plechaporte@wesleyan.edu

### **May 2004, Ranking of US umpires**

for 2005 World Cup at National Tournament.

### **November 1, 2004, US umpires and TD nominations**

due to Susie Ganzenmuller.

### **June 23-July 4, 2005, World Cup 2005**

at The United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

### **July 12-18 2004, Prague Cup Czech Republic**

this includes the Senior Men's and Women's Prague Cup 2004. This will be the 7th consecutive year of competition in Prague for women and the 5th year of competition for the men. The profile of the Prague Cup continues to rise attracting a good level of competition from various countries.

### **July 13-18, Boys' and Girls' Prague Cup Teens Tournament**

this is an exciting new tournament opens up the possibilities for Junior Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams from around the world.

### **July 24- August 31, 2004, European Championships**

in Prague, Czech Republic. IFWLA Conference following the Tournament.

## International Umpiring Opportunity for All Umpires

Dublinfest, Monday, March 29th and Friday, April 2nd 2004: This is a multi sports tournament for the UK university teams run by Sweet Chariot. It features 12 sports including Women's and Mixed Lacrosse. If interested, contact Susie Ganzemuller at Susieganz@aol.com

## Collegiate Umpires

Collegiate umpires are to file the carding survey with Pat Dillon. The form and further information are available on the website. Just enter [www.uslacrosse.org/wdoc](http://www.uslacrosse.org/wdoc). Remember one form per game.

The Coaches and Umpires Collegiate Lacrosse Committee has formed a College Match Evaluation form. This form is to be used for evaluating everything about a college match. It is to be used by administrators, officials, coaches or anyone involved in the college game. Both kudos and problems can be addressed with this form. The College Match Evaluation Form and Policies are found at: [www.uslacrosse.org/wdoc](http://www.uslacrosse.org/wdoc).

## Attention Local Chairs

The updated Umpiring Curriculum and Training Handbooks are now available through USLacrosse.

## **Umpiring Opportunity in Vail 2004**

Each year this tournament returns a consistent level of play to challenge umpires. The High School tournament is expanding to 24 teams. This will be a great opportunity to rate District Umpires and develop up and coming local umpires. Each umpire will receive \$40 per game and will be assigned 2 or 3 games per day. High School games are tentatively scheduled for June 26-29. Elite games are tentatively scheduled for July 1-4. Come join us for either tournament or both! Contact Jeff Secor @earthlink.net or 719-528-1090.

## **At Large Positions Available**

The Executive Committee of the Women's Division Officials' Council (NUC) has three vacancies for two year terms of Member-At-Large beginning 7/31/2004. Any national or international umpire is welcome to apply. The committee meets three times a year (middle of November, January at the National Rules Interpretation Clinic, and May before and during the National Tournament) plus a considerable amount of time should be given between meetings for various tasks. Consult the front of the Umpires' Manual for a list of current members who you may contact with questions. Please send an application (located in the appendix of the Umpires Manual) to: Rala Heinen, 3405 Noble Ave., Richmond, VA 23222, rheinen@att.net by May 1, 2004. Please indicate whether or not you plan to attend the National Tournament.

## **Umpire Developmental Clinics**

US Lacrosse and the National Umpire Committee are proud to announce the expansion their umpire development curriculum to include three (3) levels of umpire development.

- New Region Umpire Development Clinics: for brand new areas of developing lacrosse programs.
- Developing Area Umpire Development Clinics: for areas that already have umpires but need assistance in strengthen basic umpiring skills.
- Established Board Umpire Development Clinic: for those umpiring boards already established and desiring additional refinement (i.e. umpiring strategies, mechanics and positioning).

Anyone area or board interested in hosting a umpire development clinic should contact: Cheryl Silverman csilver1@nycap.rr.com 518-877-5857

## **National Tournament**

National Tournament will be held at Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA, May 29 and 30. This event will expand to include a High School Senior only division. Consult your local chair for further information.

## **Attention Manual Changes**

2004 Manual changes will be available on the website. Please consult the USLacrosse website at [www.uslacrosse.org/wdoc](http://www.uslacrosse.org/wdoc).

## **NUC Publication Committee**

This committee develops articles for "Lacrosse Magazine" and "Flags and Whistles" as well as updates our council's information on the web site and is involved in any media produced for our council. If you have information to contribute or questions/ideas please contact Perky Nellissen, committee chair, at gr8call@nycap.rr.com; Jeff Secor at jmsecor@earthlink.net or Evelyn Doyle at evmdoyle@hotmail.com.

## **NUC Rules Testing and Interpretation Committee**

This committee address umpire testing, rules, and interpretations for our membership. If you have concerns/questions/ideas contact Laura Herbert (committee chair) at lbhref@aol.com, Kim Basner "National Rules Interpreter" at kbasner@go2USTC.com, or Laurette Payette at lpayette@hb.edu

## WDOC Annual Meeting and Proposed Bylaw Change Vote

The WDOC Annual meeting will be held Friday, May 28, at 7PM at the Registration site at the USLacrosse WD National Tournament, Bethlehem, PA. The agenda will include a vote on the proposed bylaw change. All umpires are encouraged to attend.

### Bylaw Change, WDOC Meeting

The proposed bylaw change will affect Section 3.10 that currently reads: "The Women's Division Officials Council Executive Committee will annually appoint a Women's Division Officials Council member who will act as the National Rules Interpreter and sit on the Rules Committee." We would propose a change so that the WDOC and the Rules Committee collaborate on the selection of the National Rules Interpreter. Therefore, the National Rules Interpreter is not required to be a WDOC member. There would then be the option to use someone out of the umpiring ranks if they are better suited or no one within the umpiring ranks is interested. In September the USLacrosse Women's Division made a bylaw change to the structure of the Rules Committee so that their committee membership could support another member in the event the National Rules Interpreter was not our WDOC representative. Our proposed WDOC bylaw change still recognizes that one seat on the Rules Committee will be filled by the WDOC.

If the National Rules Interpreter is not the same person filling the WDOC seat, then there is space available for someone else to serve on the Rules Committee (could be an umpire or coach or another women's lacrosse representative).

## District Rating Events:

### NUC Approved District Rating Sites

Consult the manual for District Rating Procedures

#### **Super Region I:** [heyref4@juno.com](mailto:heyref4@juno.com)

Springfield College Tournament,  
MIT, Bowdoin College, Babson College, (all in March)  
Fairfield Univ., Harvard Univ. (all in February)  
Trinity, Middlebury  
Daniel Hand Jamboree (March), Madison, CT.  
Boston Tri Match

#### **Super Region II:** [p798hyde@aol.com](mailto:p798hyde@aol.com)

Baldwinsville Games (July)  
Lake Placid Tournament (August)  
Midwest Tournament (May), Buffalo  
Empire State Games  
NYSPHAA Championship (June)

#### **Super Region III:** [paige190@comcast.net](mailto:paige190@comcast.net)

United Sports Training Center, Philadelphia Women's Lacrosse  
Assoc. (June)  
Midwest Tournament (May), Buffalo  
USTC Fall Classic (Oct.)  
National Draw (June)

#### **Super Region IV:** [rheinen@att.net](mailto:rheinen@att.net)

All-Star Express (July)  
South of the Border (Feb)  
MidAtlantic Tournament (May)  
Florida District Jamboree (Feb)  
George Mason, VA (Fall, Div I Play)  
Goucher College, MD (Feb)  
South Florida District Clinic (Feb)  
Spring Fling (D2 and D3 college)

#### **Super Region V:** [lpayette@hb.edu](mailto:lpayette@hb.edu)

Texas District Clinic (Feb)  
Ohio State Univ (Feb) renewals only  
WDIA Championships – renewals only (May)  
Midwest SchoolGirl Tournament (May)  
Minnesota May Playday – if suitable playing time

#### **Super Region VI:** [mzmoses@hotmail.com](mailto:mzmoses@hotmail.com)

Western States (March)  
Vail Shootout (July)  
PNLA (April)

Note: National Tournament Region Tryouts are an excellent opportunity for District ratings. These are listed on the web page. You may use these as additional opportunities.

# Super Region 1 News

## New England District 2004 Service and Renewal Form

All Umpires: Please fill out the service form below and return it by February 1st. Indicate your preference by number "1" & "2." You will be assigned a date, so please put a 2nd choice. Note: **all days** will be **3** people on the field.

**All District Candidates**, Please include your registration form, and payment with this Service and Renewal form, also send your application to your region chair. **For District renewals**, attendance at the field critique portion of a district clinic will count as service. Attending a clinic is required during your renewal term, if you have met the classroom obligation already, please select a non clinic date for renewal. **For new District candidates**, you are encouraged to sign up for any of these service dates to gain additional experience at the college level and in the 3-person system.

**Anyone may offer additional service** to work on your umpiring skills, you will receive \$10/hour.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

1,2	Contact Umpire	Type of day	Date	Schedule	Field type
	Lee Walter lwalter616@aol.com +J. Miriam @ field	District Clinic Registration required	21-Feb	Babson College, Wellesley, MA 9:30 - 12:30 classroom 12:30 - 4 field	Turf
	Janis LeBaron laxlebaron@yahoo.com	Rerates and Service	28-Feb	Middlebury College, Middlebury VT 1:00 - 4:00	Turf
	Lucy Goodridge lucyg_laxref@yahoo + Gibby @ field	District Clinic Registration required	29-Feb	Springfield College, Spfld, MA 9:30 - 12:30 classroom 12:30 - 4:00 field	Turf
	Jenny Miriam heyref4@juno.com +J. Michna @ field	District Clinic Registration required	29-Feb	Bowdoin College, Lewiston, ME 9:30 - 12:30 classroom 12:30 - 4:00 field	Turf
	Sue Kennedy Drrok2@aol.com	Rerates and Service	6-Mar	Trinity College, Hartford, CT 9:30 - 1:30 & 1:30 - 5:30 (2 sessions)	Turf Turf
	Donna Arcudi Rustynicoll@comcast.net +M.L. Thimas @ field	District Clinic Registration required	6-Mar	MIT Cambridge, MA 10:00 - 1 class, 1:00 - 3:00 field	Turf
	Judy Strong jstrong@email.smith.edu	Training and Service	7-Mar	Mount Holyoke College Noon - 4:00 S. Hadley, MA	Indoors
	Cindy Fabian wherescin@yahoo	Rerates and Service	7-Mar	Hand Tournament 10-2:00 Madison, CT	Grass
	Alison Risch rischfam@ncia.net + Deb Martin @ field	Rerates and Service	28-Mar	Boston Tri-Match, Southboro, MA 9:00 - 1:00	Turf
	TBD	Service only (no ratings)	8-May	District Tourney 10:30 - 3 tentatively Longmeadow, MA	Grass (2 fields)

### National Tournament

If you are planning to attend the National Tournament please check all that apply:

New National      Candidate      National District      Service      Re-rate

Return form NO LATER than February 1st to: Jenn Eames, 6 Frank Cutler Drive, Wareham, MA, 02571

## **Super Region 2 News - District Rating Sessions:**

**May 22-23 Midwest Schools Girls Tourney Buffalo, NY**

Contact: Michelle Barczak at MFBarczak@aol.com 716-625-9421

**June 5-6 NYSPHSAA Tournament Cortland, NY (by invitation only)**

Contact: Cheryl Silverman at csilver1@nycap.rr.com 518-877-5857

**July 9-11 Baldwinsville Star Spangled Lacrosse Tournament Syracuse, NY**

Clinic on Saturday for new/apprentice/modified umpires, local umpires, and umpires aspiring to become district umpires.

Contact: Sheila Donahue at smd@twcny.rr.com 315-426-2870

**July 28- Aug 1 Empire State Games Binghamton, NY (by invitation only)**

Contact: Cheryl Silverman at csilver1@nycap.rr.com 518-877-5857

**Aug 12-15 Lake Placid Tournament Lake Placid, NY**

Contact: Rick Nelson at 3csunref@nycap.rr.com 518-644-3664

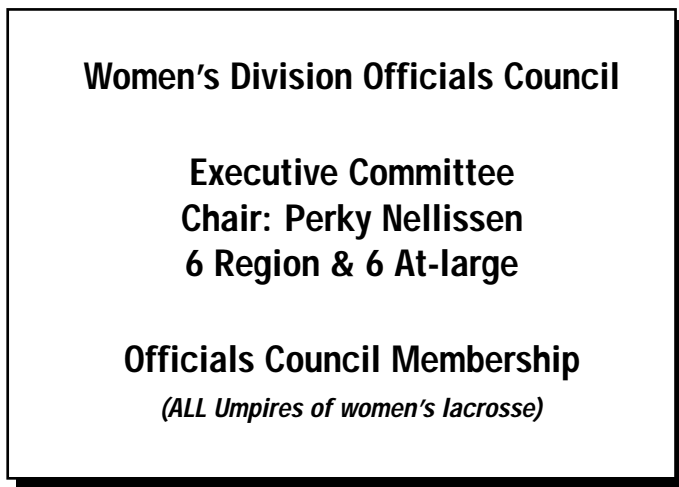
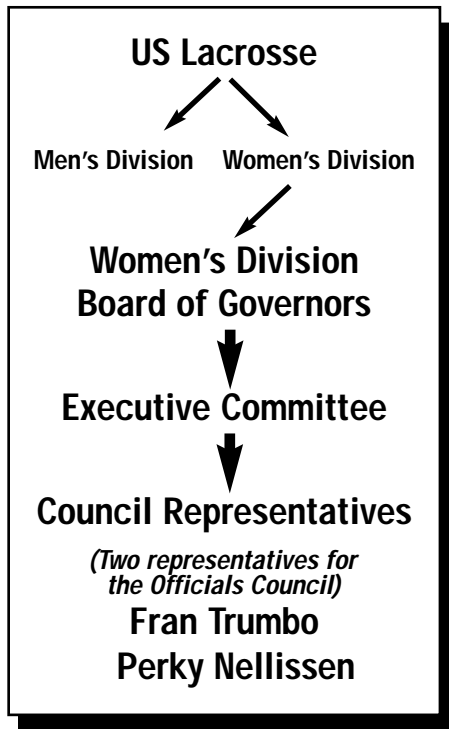
## **Super Region 3 News:**

**March 3, 2004 Philadelphia Super Clinic at William Penn Charter School.** This is a comprehensive rules interpretation presented by the Philadelphia Board. For further information contact Mari-Anne Wilson at mqw2@earthlink.com.

**June 19,** rating session, district and local ratings, USTC Downingtown, PA, contact Mari-Ann Wilson at mqw2@earthlink.net

## **Super Region 5 News:**

**March 6, 2004, U of M playday, Ann Arbor, Michigan,** 1-7pm, local renewals only, contact Elaine Torvinen at ETORVINE@aol.com.



## Visit the Web

Visit the US Lacrosse web site for the latest:

News: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/news/index.phtml>

Events: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/events/index.phtml>

Calendar: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/cgi-bin/suite/calendar/calendar.cgi>

Virtual Museum Tour: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/museum/index.phtml>

Make Your Gift Online: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/giving/index.phtml>

Gift Shop: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/cgi-bin/uslgiftshop>

Coaching Openings: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/coach/coach.phtml>

Program Offerings: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/programs/index.phtml>

## US Lacrosse Affinity Programs

(<http://www.uslacrosse.org/membership/affinity.phtml>)

Confertel: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/membership/teleconference.phtml>

Hertz: <http://www.uslacrosse.org/membership/index.phtml> (scroll down to Herzt info)

MBNA: [http://www.applyonlinenow.com/Usapp/Ctl/redirect?CV\\_sourceCode=AS7V&CV\\_MC=A000000WVH](http://www.applyonlinenow.com/Usapp/Ctl/redirect?CV_sourceCode=AS7V&CV_MC=A000000WVH)

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