

OHIO SCHOOLGIRLS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION



ARTICLE I - NAME

1-1-1 The name of this organization shall be the Ohio Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association (OSLA).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

2-1-1 The purpose of this non-profit association shall be to regulate, supervise and administer women's lacrosse in and among its membership by encouraging sportsmanship, goodwill and growth of the sport in and throughout Ohio schools.

2-1-2 In order to fulfill the purposes of the OSLA, the association shall encourage the development of intramural lacrosse programs in Ohio schools, assist in the development of school teams in Ohio schools, elevate high school "club" teams to "school-sponsored" teams and develop the organizational and regulatory groundwork to fulfill the requirements of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) in order to become a sanctioned or recognized sport in Ohio by the OHSAA.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

3-1-1 Membership in the OSLA is voluntary. Membership shall be open to any "team", regardless of whether said "team" is sponsored by an Ohio high school, a "club", or an Ohio parks and recreation department, so long as the "team" has a designated administrator other than the coach.

3-1-2 Membership in the OSLA requires that persons affiliated with the team, be they the member schools, clubs, coaches, or players, acquiesce to and comply with the bylaws and sports regulations of the OHSAA and the bylaws and playing rules of the OSLA, as amended from time to time, as a condition for membership and participation in OSLA meetings and sponsored events. The OSLA reserves the right to refuse or revoke a team's membership for failure to comply with OSLA Bylaws, Constitution and Lacrosse Regulations; OHSAA Bylaws, Constitution and General Sports Regulations; or US Lacrosse Regulations.

3-1-3 The building principal of the Ohio high school sponsoring the member team or, in all other cases, the athletic administrator for sponsoring agent for all other teams, shall have the right to vote on behalf of his/her respective member team in all matters for which there is a vote of the membership.

3-1-4 Initial Membership

Application for membership in the OSLA must be made in writing, on the form approved by the Board of Directors of the OSLA, by an authorized agent on behalf of the sponsoring agent (school, club or recreation/parks department) which application shall be submitted to the Commissioner's Office of the OSLA. Upon approval for acceptance into the OSLA for membership, the "team" shall pay the annual dues of membership.

3-1-5 Continuing Membership

a) Each year following the initial year for membership, the “team” shall renew its membership in the OSLA by submitting a resolution renewing its membership in the OSLA, along with its annual dues as determined by the Board, which resolution and dues shall be received by March 1 of each calendar year.

b) The school, team or club shall conform to all bylaws and regulations of the OHSAA and OSLA in the preceding year.

3-1-6 Membership in the OSLA shall be for a period of one year (unless renewed in accordance with Article 3-1-4) beginning March 1 and continues until the last day in February.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP DUES

4-1-1 The Board of Directors shall have the authority to levy any dues deemed necessary for the operations of the OSLA including, but not limited to, the operation and maintenance of the Commissioner’s Office, participation in local and National conventions for the sport of lacrosse, tournament operations, coach’s education and officials recruitment, training and retention.

4-1-2 In addition to the annual dues as set forth herein, the Board of Directors may, if in its sole discretions it deems it necessary, authorize any additional assessment to the membership in order to offset any deficits incurred by the OSLA during a given calendar year.

ARTICLE V - GOVERNANCE

1. Board of Directors

5-1-1 The OSLA shall be governed by a Board of Directors that shall direct the Commissioner and establish policy for the efficient operation of the OSLA.

5-1-2 The Board of Directors shall consist of 9 voting members representing an equal number of regions throughout the State of Ohio. In addition, there shall be three *ex-officio* members, with voting privileges, on the Board of Directors, one such person selected by an Ohio Lacrosse Coaches Association (“OLCA”), one selected by the Ohio Lacrosse Officials Association (“OLOA”) and one person selected to serve as liaison from the OHSAA.

2. Qualifications

5-2-1 The regional representative to the Board of Directors shall be a principal, assistant principal, athletic director, assistant athletic director, or team administrator of an OSLA member team.

5-2-2 The *ex-officio* representatives shall be appointed by the executive board of the respective Association that they are to represent with upon approval by the voting members of the OSLA Board of Directors.

3. Term of Office

5-3-1 The regional representatives to the Board of Directors shall serve full terms of three (3) years beginning August 1 of each calendar year.*

5-3-2 The *ex-officio* representatives to the Board of Directors shall serve full terms of two (2) years beginning August 1 of each calendar year.*

*Note: the term of office for the initial Board of Directors members shall be staggered so as to permit a rotation on elections that no more than 50% of the Board positions shall be open for election in any given election cycle.

5-3-3 The term of office for a Board of Director ceases immediately when the representative no longer meets the applicable qualifications for the position to which he/she was elected/selected to serve.

5-3-4 No person, elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms on the Board of Directors.

5-3-5 The Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint member(s) to the Board should a position become open on the Board of Directors.

4. Powers and Duties

5-4-1 The powers and duties of the Board of Directors include, but are not limited to:

- a) Employ the Commissioner and such other personnel as the Board deems necessary and appropriate.
- b) Determine contest rules and regulations for competition in the sport of high school girl's lacrosse.
- c) Organize and conduct state-wide tournaments and set entry fees for the same.
- d) Hold hearings on appeals of decisions of the Commissioner.
- e) Determine all issues of membership in the OSLA.
- f) Make regulations to promote the purpose of the OSLA.

5. Officers

5-5-1 At the first annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the first order of business shall be to elect the officers of the Board. The officers of the Board shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

5-5-2 The duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors, to supervise and assist the Commissioner in carrying out the business of the OSLA, to assume the duties of the Commissioner in the Commissioner's absence.

5-5-3 The duties of the Vice-President shall be to assume the duties of the President in the President's absence.

5-5-4 The duties of the Secretary shall be to record the minutes at all Board meetings, to serve as records custodian of all Board-related documents and records, to keep current the membership directory.

- 5-5-5 The duties of the Treasurer shall be to oversee the finances of the OSLA, to prepare an annual budget, to prepare quarterly financial statements (Statement of Financial Position, Income Statement, Balance Sheet etc.) and to insure annual billings are sent to members by January 1 of each year.
- 5-5-6 In addition to the aforementioned officers, the immediate past president shall serve as mentor to the current President.

6. Meetings

- 5-6-1 The regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be determined by the Board of Directors. There shall be a minimum of 3 meetings of the Board of Directors each year including the annual meeting held in the fall of each year.
- 5-6-2 Special meeting of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or Commissioner.
- 5-6-3 All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order unless otherwise specified by these Articles.
- 5-6-4 Meetings may be conducted in-person, via standard or video conference call, or by other means available to the Board of Directors. Meetings may be conducted using a combination of the aforementioned methods.

7. Quorum

- 5-7-1 In order to constitute a quorum for any meetings of the Board of Directors, at least 50% of the voting members of the Board must be present at and throughout the meeting.

8. Coaches Association Advisory Board

- 5-8-1 The Ohio Schoolgirls Lacrosse Coaches Association (OSLCA) shall act in an advisory capacity to the OSLA Board. The OSLCA may make recommendations to the OSLA Board, for the Board's consideration, for actions that may assist in the operations and growth of the sport.

ARTICLE 6 – COMMISSIONER

- 6-1-1 The Commissioner shall be the chief executive officer of the OSLA and shall take the initiative in enforcing the Bylaws, rules and regulations of the OSLA and promoting the purpose of the OSLA.
- 6-1-2 The Commissioner shall be the chief financial officer of the OSLA and render reports as requested by the Board of Directors.
- 6-1-3 The Commissioner shall provide the Board of Directors with data pertinent to any and all phases of the OSLA's work and perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

6-1-4 In addition to the foregoing, the Commissioner shall:

- a) Be responsible for the day to day operations of the association.
- b) Plan, schedule, and preside over all meetings of the association.
- c) Insure the successful operation of the association according to its bylaws and operating policies.
- d) Serve as liaison between association member teams, coaches and athletic directors and US Lacrosse officials and umpires.
- e) Serve as liaison between the association and the national governing body.
- f) Serve as liaison between the association and the Ohio High School Athletic Association staff and Board of Directors.
- g) Supervise the regional and state tournaments, in conjunction with local tournament directors.
- h) Cause OSLA information to be available on the internet.

ARTICLE VII - REGIONS

1. Division of State into Regions

7-1-1 The Board of Directors shall divide the state geographically into three (3) regions: the Greater Cincinnati/Dayton Region, the Greater Columbus Region, and the Greater Cleveland/Akron/Toledo Region.

2. Elections of Regional Representatives

7-2-1 The administrative representative from each member "team" shall elect a representative from the geographical regions in which they are located as their Regional Representative to serve on the Board of Directors.

7-2-2 Nominations for Regional Representatives shall be by petition, signed by at least six member-representatives within the respective region.

7-2-3 The nominating petition shall be obtained from the Commissioner and shall contain the name of the individual, the team represented by the individual and the position the candidate is being nominated.

7-2-4 In order to be valid, the nominating petition must be received by the Commissioner's office by 5:00PM on the first Friday of December of each year.

3. Duties of Regional Representatives

7-3-1 The duties and responsibilities of the Regional Representatives shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) Be responsible for the successful operation of their Region's organization for teams in their respective Divisions.
- b) Be the liaison between the members of their Region and the executive board.
- c) Organize and schedule an annual scheduling meeting within their districts.
- d) Coordinate with other representatives in their Region to organize a Regional tryout for the GLA National team at least one week prior to the GLA National team try-outs.
- e) Organize, schedule, and operate the regional tournament seeding meeting for their Region in conjunction with other representatives in their region for their division.

ARTICLE 8 – STANDING COMMITTEES

8-1-1 The standing committees of the OSLA and their purposes shall be:

- a) **Competition Committee:** Shall annually review the rules and policies effecting divisions, eligibility of athletes, play of the game, and compliance with appropriate OHSAA rules and policies and make recommendations for any changes to the Board and general membership.
- b) **Budget and Finance Committee:** Review the annual OSLA budget and financial statements to be submitted to the Board. Recommend Commissioner's compensation. Recommend annual dues structure.
- c) **Tournament Committee:** Shall review and recommend tournament procedures and policies, assist the Commissioner with tournament site selection and local, regional, and state tournament operations.
- d) **Long-term Planning Committee:** Shall review OSLA rules and procedures and determine requirements to be met for the recognition of high school girls lacrosse by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. In addition the committee shall work with representatives of the OHSLA (Boys High School Lacrosse Association) to develop the frame work for one association to govern both boys and girls high school lacrosse in the state.

8-1-2 The Board of Directors and the Commissioner shall, from time to time, establish the purpose or purposes of each standing committee, the composition of the same, and determine how the chairperson shall be selected.

ARTICLE 9 – AMENDMENTS

9-1-1 The Constitution and Bylaws of the OSLA may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors.

9-1-2 Voting on any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall occur at the annual meeting held no later than December 1 of each year. Voting may take place by proxy in accordance with the rules established by the Board of Directors.

9-1-3 Proposed amendments must be received by the Commissioner's Office no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the membership.