

SOUTHSIDE
LACROSSE CLUB
of Muskegon, Michigan

**Constitutional By-Laws
& Articles of Incorporation**

Adopted: October 16, 2017

Updated: November 4, 2024

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Todd Conrad – PRESIDENT

Kevin Osterhart – VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Vasquez – TREASURER

Jennifer Finnerty - SECRETARY

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SECTION 1: NAME

- A. The name of this organization shall be **SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE CLUB OF MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN** and shall be referred to as **SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE**. Mona Shores High School will act as the host school of the cooperative program – represented on all official Michigan High School Athletic Association documentation – but **SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE** shall be the common name of all programming.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE shall be to develop the physical, mental, and moral growth of the participating youth, through physical fitness, good sportsmanship and high scholarship, regardless of race, creed, color or sex, always keeping in mind that the welfare of the youth is first and foremost.
- B. SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE was founded in October, 2017 – with participation opportunities beginning in early 2018. The SOUTHSIDE moniker is a nod to the fact that the program will bring an organized version of lacrosse to the southern half of Muskegon County (Michigan). Students in the school districts of Fruitport, Mona Shores, Muskegon Catholic Central and Western Michigan Christian now have an organizational home for boys and girls lacrosse from 2nd Grade through High School. In the spring of 2023, the girls program dropped Muskegon Catholic from and added Reeths-Puffer to the co-op.

SECTION 3: LIABILITIES

- A. SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE'S Board of Directors and coaches shall NOT be held responsible for injuries to participants or damage to property during the season.
- B. Each participant's parent or legal guardian must sign an official club registration form / waiver – absolving the club and its volunteers of any liability – AND present their personal US Lacrosse identification number / certification to the club by their first official team practice, as such documentation must be on file with the club before a child may participate in club activities.

SECTION 4: FEES

- A. There will be a registration fee (offsetting the cost of officials, field usage, coaching pay, busing, and equipment) for all HIGH SCHOOL participants. For participants in 2nd-8th GRADE, there will also be a fee. Cash, checks, money orders, and online credit card payments are available payment options. All checks or money orders must be made payable to SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE. A fee will be charged on all returned checks. There will be a designated time for online registration payments.
- B. Registration fees are non-refundable after the first scheduled game. A written notification of withdrawal, signed by the participant's parent or legal guardian, must be turned in to the Board of Directors along with any equipment or uniforms issued in order to obtain a refund. A FULL refund may be issued for participation up to the first scheduled game.
- C. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to purchase equipment for all participants in 2nd-12th GRADE – including helmet, gloves, shoulder pads, stick and player packs. Items that will be purchased, maintained, and kept by SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE include game jerseys, goals, balls and other team equipment.
- D. Items lost/damaged/not returned will be paid for by the parent/guardian at replacement cost.

SECTION 5: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following officers... President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The Board of Directors shall meet every other month year round – as well as other special meetings as called by the President.
- C. Positions are approved by the Board and are kept until the person no longer wants to be on the board or they are challenged for their position.
- D. No officer shall hold more than one position on the Board of Directors – unless approved by all other members of the Board.
- E. All Board Members must have a child or grandchild participating in the program to be on the Board – unless the Board of Directors votes otherwise.
- F. Any Board member absent more than two meetings consecutively, unless for justifiable reason, shall be removed from the Board of Directors.
- G. Any issue brought before the Board will be decided upon by a simple majority vote. If a Board member is involved in the issue they will not be allowed to vote on the issue. Ties on issues shall be reviewed and decided upon by the collaborative Athletic Directors representing the four school communities.
- H. The duties of the Board of Directors are described in Section 12.
- I. Removal of Board Members: Board members may be removed with a signed petition of the families. One vote per family. A 2/3rds majority of the current membership is needed to remove an officer.

SECTION 6: COACHES

- A. All coaches are responsible for the behaviors and actions of the youth on their team – both positive and negative – and must sign SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE’s “Athletic Code for Coaches”.
- B. The Board of Directors shall select the head coaches for each team. Head coaches are responsible for finding their assistant coaches.
- C. All coaches must abide by all Mona Shores Public Schools Human Resources policies and procedures – including, but not limited to, past criminal convictions. All coaches must complete a background check.
- D. SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE will follow the Lighthouse League (2nd-8th GRADE) and OTTAWA-KENT CONFERENCE policies and procedures at all times.
- E. Coaches may be disciplined by the Board of Directors for failure to comply with the “Athletic Code for Coaches”. The process of discipline will be... 1st Offense – verbal warning... 2nd Offense – one game suspension... 3rd Offense – expulsion from SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE.
- F. All head coaches must attend scheduled Club and League meetings.

SECTION 7: UNIFORM CODE

- A. The colors of the club shall be BLUE and GREEN. All helmets and gloves purchased SHOULD – but not mandatory – be required to be consistent with the team colors, and follow the regulations of the MHSAA at the High School Levels.
- B. The wearing of issued apparel by SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE for anything other than actual games or approved activities is prohibited. Players will be allowed to wear jerseys to school on the day of (or before for weekend games) games with the parent or guardian aware of the rule in Section 4 regarding fees.

SECTION 8: POLICIES AND AMENDMENTS

- A. Policies may be amended with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may amend this constitution. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and read at a regular meeting at least one week before being voted upon.

SECTION 9: EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

- A. Participants will conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times. No swearing at practice or at the games. They will show respect for the coaches and anyone else on their team and any other team. They will not taunt or heckle their own team members or other team members.
- B. Any destruction of the practice fields or football fields will not be tolerated.
- C. The youth must attend practice in order to participate at the games. The coaches are the judges as to whether the child is ready to participate.
- D. If a child is uncooperative, the coach will have the option to bench the child for all or part of the next game after conferring with the Board of Directors. If a child is benched they will still attend the game and sit with the team or face further consequences.
- E. Team members are to stay at the game unless excused by the coach.
- F. Team members are responsible for getting to and from the games and practices.
- G. Coaches will be responsible for punishment if rules are continually broken. The Board of Directors may step in for extreme cases. If the infraction is bad enough, the child may be dismissed without a refund of their registration fee.
- H. Agreement Regarding Risk of Lacrosse – (to be acknowledged via registration on website)
 - i) I/We, the parents/guardians of the above-named child, hereby give my/our approval to participate in the Southside Lacrosse program.
 - ii) I/We understand that Lacrosse will expose my/our child to certain risks including serious injury and protective equipment does not prevent all injuries, I/We do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the organizers, sponsors, supervisors, and participants of Southside Lacrosse from any claim arising out of any injury to my/our child whether the result of negligence or for any other cause.
 - iii) I/We represent that my/our child has no health or physical problems that will interfere with Lacrosse playing and that my/our child has adequate medical insurance.
 - iv) I/We agree that my/our child is responsible for her/his own safety.
 - v) I/We agree to assume and accept the risks of the inherent dangers of the activity of lacrosse playing.

vi) I/We agree that if Southside Lacrosse and/or its members, directors, employees or agents are sued by anyone else because of claimed conduct of my/our child or me/us, I/We will indemnify Southside Lacrosse for all damages and cost.

SECTION 10: FIELD USAGE & TRANSPORTATION EXPECTATIONS

- A. All 2nd-8th GRADE contests will be played at Mona Shores Middle School on their stadium field. All HIGH SCHOOL contests will be played at Mona Shores High School on their stadium field. Practices are to be coordinated by team coaches at various locations throughout the cooperative's fields.
- B. As stated in Section 9, team members are responsible for getting to and from the games and practices. However, busing will be provided to and from Mona Shores High School by Mona Shores Public Schools' Transportation Department for the Varsity / High School level games. An agreement will be made prior to the season as to who will be paying for all trips, the High School Athletic Department(s) or subsequently billed to the treasurer of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE.

SECTION 11: EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS / GUARDIANS / SPECTATORS

- A. Parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times.
- B. Parents, guardians, and spectators shall show respect to all players, coaches, referees, Board members, and opposing teams at all times. Taunting opposing teams or heckling referees is to be considered unacceptable behavior and may result in expulsion from the field.
- C. Any problem with a child, coach or referee will be discussed in a civil, orderly fashion with the league representative or league president. Verbally or physically assaulting coaches will not be allowed.
- D. First offense to these rules will result in a verbal warning from the Board of Directors. No questions asked. No meetings held.
- E. Second offense will result in your child being dismissed from the club for the remainder of the season with no refund of the registration fee. No questions asked.
- F. The Board of Directors has the final judgment in all cases. If it has gotten this far, it has gotten too far. We as parents must set the best example for our children that we possibly can.

SECTION 12: BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUTIES

- A. The PRESIDENT of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE is to schedule and preside over club meetings, call special meetings, authorize all written contracts and financial obligations, handle disputes / complaints from parents about club activities, and preside over each season's registration / informational meeting.
- B. The VICE-PRESIDENT of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE is to be present at club meetings, perform the duties of the president in their absence, oversee field setup / cleanup / maintenance, and attend each season's registration / informational meeting.
- C. The SECRETARY of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE is to be present at club meetings, record / keep / communicate meeting minutes, maintain the club's website, coordinate the registration process, publish program schedules and contact information, and attend each season's registration / informational meeting.

- D. The TREASURER of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE is to be present at club meetings, handle all equipment issues, properly pay all incurred bills upon approval of the president, handle all financial responsibilities of the club, account for all receipts (deposits and expenditures alike), pay officials, submit a financial report at every board meeting, and attend each season's registration / informational meeting.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE CLUB

The undersigned incorporators, who are individuals 18 years of age or older, a majority of whom are citizens of the United States of America and pursuant to the non-profit corporation laws of this state, hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this corporation is "SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE CLUB" of Muskegon, Michigan.

ARTICLE 2: REGISTERED OFFICE

The physical address of the registered office for this corporation is at "1121 SEMINOLE ROAD, MONA SHORES HIGH SCHOOL, NORTON SHORES, MICHIGAN, 49441".

ARTICLE 3: REGISTER AGENT

The name and address of the initial register agent is "JOHN BOOS" who resides at "11681 VAN LOPIK AVE, GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN, 49417".

ARTICLE 4: DURATION

The period of duration is "PERPETUAL" – meaning that the organization will continue to exist even if the directors, officers, and / or members change over the years.

ARTICLE 5: PURPOSE

The purpose of this corporation is two-fold. FIRST, the purpose of the SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE CLUB shall be to develop the physical, mental, and moral growth of the participating youth, through physical fitness, good sportsmanship and high scholarship, regardless of race, creed, color or sex, always keeping in mind that the welfare of the youth is first and foremost. SECOND, as stated on the header of the club website: "The Muskegon Area's SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE CLUB was founded in October, 2017 – with participation opportunities beginning in early 2018. The SOUTHSIDE moniker is a nod to the fact that the program will bring an organized version of lacrosse to the southern half of Muskegon (Michigan) County. Students in the school districts of Fruitport, Mona Shores, Muskegon Catholic Central and Western Michigan Christian now have an organizational home for boys and girls lacrosse from 2nd Grade through High School."

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes – including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE 6: INITIAL DIRECTORS

The number of directors, and the method of selecting directors, shall be fixed by the bylaws of this corporation. The initial directors shall be four in number – whose names and addresses are as follows:

John Boos (President)... 11681 Van Lopik Ave, Grand Haven, Michigan, 49417
Erik Carlson (Vice President)... 1686 Winchester Ave, Muskegon, Michigan, 49441
Todd Conrad (Treasurer)... 2098 Maryland Dr, Norton Shores, Michigan, 49441
Jamie Osterhart (Secretary)... 2034 Easthill Drive, Norton Shores, Michigan, 49441

ARTICLE 7: MEMBERS

The classes, rights, privileges, qualifications, and obligations of members of this corporation are determined by the bylaws of this corporation.

ARTICLE 8: INCORPORATORS

The name and address of the incorporators of this corporation are:

John Boos (President)... 11681 Van Lopik Ave, Grand Haven, Michigan, 49417
Erik Carlson (Vice President)... 1686 Winchester Ave, Muskegon, Michigan, 49441
Todd Conrad (Treasurer)... 2098 Maryland Dr, Norton Shores, Michigan, 49441
Jamie Osterhart (Secretary)... 2034 Easthill Drive, Norton Shores, Michigan, 49441

ARTICLE 9: ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

a) No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of – or be distributable to – its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons... except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the aforementioned articles.

b) No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda (or otherwise attempting to influence legislation) and the corporation shall not participate in (or intervene in – including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

c) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code) OR (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code).

d) No member, officer, or director of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever – nor shall any of the property of the members, officers, or directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

ARTICLE 10: DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code) or shall be distributed to the federal government (or to a state or local government) for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations – as said Court shall determine – which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we the undersigned, being the Incorporators of SOUTHSIDE LACROSSE CLUB executed these Articles of Incorporation on November 03, 2017.

John Boos: Incorporator / President

Erik Carlson: Incorporator / Vice President

Todd Conrad: Incorporator / Treasurer

Jamie Osterhart: Incorporator / Secretary