

ROSEMOUNT YOUTH LACROSSE (RYL)

BYLAWS

Approved by resolution of the RYL Board October 9, 2023

Contents

ARTICLE 1	Affiliations
ARTICLE 2	Bylaws and Authorities
ARTICLE 3	Membership
ARTICLE 4	Teams
ARTICLE 5	Evaluations
ARTICLE 6	Players
ARTICLE 7	Coaches
ARTICLE 8	Parents
ARTICLE 9	Team Managers
ARTICLE 10	Board of Directors
ARTICLE 11	Parliamentary Authority
ARTICLE 12	Changes to Bylaws

ARTICLE 1

Affiliations

- A. Rosemount Area Athletic Association (RAAA). Rosemount Youth Lacrosse (RYL) is a program offered within RAAA.
- B. USA Lacrosse. USA Lacrosse is the national governing body for amateur lacrosse in the United States. RYL is a member of the MN Chapter of US Lacrosse, choosing to align our policies with Minnesota State High School League Policies and cooperating with the Rosemount High School Code of Conduct.
- C. Youth Lacrosse Minnesota (YLM). RYL is a member of Youth Lacrosse Minnesota (YLM). YLM is the association that RYL boys participate in during the lacrosse season. YLM is the governing body for the boy's season and coordinates games, referees, and end-of- season tournaments.
- D. Great Northern Lacrosse League (GNLL). RYL is a member of the Great Northern Lacrosse League (GNLL). GNLL is the association that RYL boys participate in during the lacrosse season. GNLL is the governing body for the boy's season and coordinates games and referees.
- E. Minnesota School Girls Lacrosse Association (MSLAX). RYL is a member of Minnesota School Girls Lacrosse Association (MSLAX). MSLAX is the association that RYL girls participate in during the lacrosse season. MSLAX is the governing body for both seasons and coordinates games, referees, and end-of- season tournaments.

NOTE: Rosemount Youth Lacrosse does not have an affiliation with any club lacrosse organizations as a policy. Although, Rosemount Youth Lacrosse may promote clinics/player development activities/coaching clinics that are organized by club lacrosse organizations. Rosemount Youth Lacrosse will not promote prospect days, evaluation days, etc for club lacrosse organizations.

ARTICLE 2

Bylaws and Authorities

- A. RYL is governed by the Bylaws and policies set forth by RAAA that reside on the website (<https://rosemount-aaa.org/about>). RYL is also governed by the program-specific Bylaws contained herein.
- B. The governing authority of RYL shall be its Board of Directors, whose powers and responsibilities are described in these Bylaws. All members, including the board members, players, coaches, and parents and guardians shall abide by these Bylaws and all RYL policies.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

- A. Members. A member is defined as a player currently participating in RYL and his or her parent or legal guardian who is in good standing. In addition, any adult who acts as a program board member, or head coach and/or assistant coach shall also be a member of the Association. A member shall be considered in good standing provided he or she is abiding by all RYL rules and policies, including the Parent and Player Codes of Conduct, all RAAA designated policies and is current on registration fee payments.
- B. Registration and Fees. The Board shall have the right to determine the fees or other payments to be made by the members.
 - 1. Registration. The parent of any player who wishes to participate in RYL must register their player through the registration process defined by RAAA. All players, excluding those in the Initiation Program (IP), must be registered with USA Lacrosse and membership must be active. No player will be allowed to participate in RYL activities until registration is complete. Notice of registration shall be published in a medium easily accessible to the membership, including the RAAA or RYL websites and other social media communications.

2. Registration Fees. At the time of registration for any RAAA program, all outstanding balances in family accounts must be paid in full before any player in that family will be accepted. Fees for registration are set each year according to budget. Fees may increase or decrease as deemed necessary by the Board to maintain a financially sound association.
3. Late Registration Fees. Each season has a registration deadline. Any individual missing the scheduled registration will be considered a late registrant. Late registrants will be charged an extra fee. The RYL Board will determine a late registration fee each year. Late registrations may not be accepted at the discretion of the RYL Board. Late registrations occurring after team formation will only be accepted if space on rosters allow for additional players. Exceptions will be made only for players who have moved into the Rosemount area more recently than one month prior to the last registration or for players waived in from another association.
4. Refunds. Refunds or partial refunds will be granted after the registration deadline and up to team formation. After the teams are formed, no refunds will be given. All refunds are subject to the following conditions: All RYL equipment has been returned to RYL in good condition; any outstanding money due to RYL will be subtracted; any fundraising monies will be subtracted.

No refunds on any type will be given to any family until the RYL Program Director, Age Group Coordinator, or Treasurer has verified the above conditions. Exceptions to the non-refundable registration fee rule may include: Player moves outside of Rosemount geographic area; Financial hardship; Pre-season injury with a doctor's written report and recommendation.

Dissatisfaction with team placement or deciding to join a club team is not an acceptable reason for refund of registration fee. The RYL Board will discuss all other situations involving refunds on an individual basis at the next monthly board meeting following the receipt of a written request.

Refunds must be requested in writing and approved by the RYL Board. Any refund request must be submitted to the RYL Board, as posted on the RAAA website. The RYL Board must approve all refunds and may determine a reduced refund in order to cover expenses, deposits, or other circumstances.

5. Scholarships. Scholarships are available for players whose family incomes are below a certain level. If your family qualifies for the Department of Health and Human Services Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (welfare) or District 196 Free or Reduced Lunch Program, you qualify for a scholarship. Scholarships are also available to families who have experienced extenuating circumstances such as loss of job, divorce, catastrophic medical challenges within the family, to name a few. Scholarship applications are taken online during the registration process and handled discreetly by the RYL Board and authorized RAAA representatives. All requests to the RYL Board, as posted on the website, will be reviewed and handled on a case-by-case basis.

C. Player Eligibility

1. Individuals participating in RYL shall abide by the RAAA Code of Conduct signed electronically as part of the registration process on the website.

B. Discipline, Suspension or Termination of Membership

1. All disciplinary matters involving Members shall be governed by the RAAA Code of Conduct.
2. The RAAA Board of Directors, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, shall have the authority to discipline, suspend, or terminate a member when the conduct of the member is considered detrimental to the best interest of the Association. The impacted Member shall have the right to contest any such discipline in accordance with the Association's Grievance Policy. [See the RAAA Grievance](#)

Policy.

3. The disciplining of a member of the Association does not affect the status or rights of any relative of the individual, either youth or adult.

C. Player Ineligibility

1. All persons participating in the RYL program will be ineligible and will be suspended for the remainder of the playing season without refund of registration fee for the following actions:
 - i. Use of an assumed or incorrect name;
 - ii. Giving an incorrect age, grade, or address;
 - iii. Playing on a team not assigned to that player;
 - iv. Inappropriate/unsportsmanlike behavior that results in a serious injury.

ARTICLE 4

Teams

- A. Age Levels. All players participating in the lacrosse program, under USA Lacrosse sanction, will be eligible by age based on birthdate ranges provided by USA Lacrosse. This chart is used for play occurring between Sept 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. Special circumstances may exist for players to be moved up to fill open spots at higher age levels. See Move Up Policy in Section B. The RYL Board reserves the right to make any adjustments necessary to properly fill each team. Rostered players cannot play at a younger age level.

Team	Birthdate
IP Boys and Girls	Born between 9/1/2017 - 8/31/2018
8U Boys and Girls	Born between 9/1/2015 - 8/31/2017
10U Boys and Girls	Born between 9/1/2013 - 8/31/2015
12U Boys and Girls	Born between 9/1/2011 - 8/31/2013
14U Boys and Girls	Born between 6/1/2009 - 8/31/2011*

*The current cutoff date of 6/1 is for 8th graders only. Players in 9th grade are not eligible to play 14U.

- B. Move Up Policy. At the discretion of the RYL Board of Directors, move-ups may be necessary to fill open spots on higher age teams due to meeting the minimum team size requirement. If the Board of Directors determines move-ups are necessary, then the move-ups may be granted based on the following process:

Once player registration is complete and the RYL Board of Directors has determined that a specific number of players are needed to be moved up to a higher age level to adequately fill a roster, an email will be sent to parents of participants who are one grade or age group lower, or who have shown the ability to play at a higher grade or age level, inviting them to participate in the evaluation process for the higher grade or age level. All younger players will be evaluated alongside the older players and will be judged based on their skill and physical ability. The RYL Board's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

- C. **Move Down Policy.** The RYL Board will consider a request to move a player down an age division based on a request from the parents. An Age Division Waiver Request must be completed by the parents. Applications must meet the following criteria 1) The player must have a date of birth between August 1st and August 31st and 2) The player must be new to the sport of lacrosse. All applications to move down require board approval via a majority vote. Players that are approved to move down shall not be eligible to play on an A team.
- D. **Team Composition.** RYL's governing associations have strict team composition guidelines and, in some cases, require a formal evaluation process to determine team strength.
1. **YLM Boys 8U and 10U Team Composition.** If an association has multiple teams at the level, teams must be divided equally.
 2. **YLM Boys 12U Team Composition.** If an association has ONE team at the level, they must register as a B team. If there are TWO teams at the level, they must create two equal B teams or they can register as one A team and one B teams. If there are THREE or more teams at the level, they must register one A team and the remaining teams must be equal B teams.
 3. **YLM Boys 14U Team Composition.** If an association has ONE team at the level, they must register as a B team. If there are TWO teams at the level, they must register as one A team and one B team. If there are THREE or more teams at the level, they must register one A team and the remaining teams must be equal B teams.
 4. **MSLAX Girls 8U, 10U, and 12U Team Composition.** If an association has multiple teams at the level, teams must be divided equally.
 5. **MSLAX Girls 14U Team Composition.** If an association has ONE team at the level, they must register as a B team. If there are TWO teams at the level, they must register as one A team and one B team.
- E. **Team Formation.** In an effort to abide by RYL's governing associations (YLM, GNLL, MSLAX) Team Composition guidelines have been developed for team formation of the following age levels:
1. **Initiation Program.** No player evaluations.
 2. **Boys 8U and 10U Team Formation.** The ideal team size is 10 to 15 players. However, based on registrations, team sizes may be fewer than 10 or more than 15 players and is determined by the RYL Board. When there are adequate players registered to form multiple teams, teams shall be composed of equal skill levels. The school that the player attends is considered at the time of team formation. Teams are formed by the Age Group Coordinator and Program Director.
 3. **Girls 8U and 10U Team Formation.** The ideal team size is 10 to 15 players. However, based on registrations, team sizes may be fewer than 10 or more than 15 players and is determined by the RYL Board. When there are adequate players registered to form multiple teams, teams shall be composed of equal skill levels. The school that the player attends is considered at the time of team formation. Teams are formed by the Age Group Coordinator and Program Director.
 4. **Boys 12U and 14U Team Formation.** The ideal team size is 18 to 22 players and 1 goalie. However, based on registrations, team sizes may be fewer than 15 or more than 25 players and is determined by the RYL Board. Player evaluations are conducted at the beginning of the season in support of team formation. The A team is selected by the evaluators with oversight from the Program Director, Age Group Coordinator, and on additional board member.
 5. **Girls 12U Team Formation.** The ideal team size is 15 to 25 players and 1 goalie. However, based on registrations, team sizes may be fewer than 15 or more than 25 players and is determined by the

RYL Board. When there are adequate players registered to form multiple teams, teams shall be composed of equal skill levels. Teams are formed by the Age Group Coordinator and Program Director.

6. Girls 14U Team Formation. The ideal team size is 15 to 25 players and 1 goalie. However, based on registrations, team sizes may be fewer than 15 or more than 25 players and is determined by the RYL Board. Player evaluations are conducted at the beginning of the season in support of team formation. The A team is selected by the evaluators with oversight from the Program Director, Age Group Coordinator, and one additional board member.
- E. Team Tournament or Training. Beyond sanctioned YLM end-of-year jamboree or State Tournaments, RYL registers individual boy's teams for one tournament, which is included in the registration fee. Any additional tournaments or outside training activity during the season are the responsibility of the coach and/or manager. In order to participate in any additional tournaments or training:
 1. The team must have a parent meeting to discuss how many tournaments or training sessions are planned and how much the additional cost will be per player.
 2. All additional costs will be the responsibility of the players participating.
 3. If additional players are needed for tournaments during the season, the following options must be utilized by the Age Group Coordinator:
 - i. First come, first serve;
 - ii. Lottery - open for 3 days and then players are selected randomly

ARTICLE 5

Evaluations

A. Evaluation Process.

Boys 12U and 14U evaluations are conducted by the Rosemount High School Boys Coach. Evaluations are conducted over two sessions. Players are scored on a combination of skills with a score range of 1 through 5. The player's average score during the course of the evaluations is used to determine the team formation.

B. Inability to Evaluate.

1. Medical Absences

Players who are unable to be evaluated because of health or medical reasons must notify the Age Group Coordinator in writing before evaluations begin. If a player is unable to finish evaluations, he/she must contact the Age Group Coordinator immediately. A player must verify his or her medical problems in writing from a medical doctor. The Board may request documentation or proof at their sole discretion. The Evaluation Committee will review each player's case and decide on a placement for the player. The Committee's decision will be based on:

- i. Past abilities of the player;
- ii. Interviews with past coaches;
- iii. Severity of injury/sickness, and availability to return to play within 2 weeks of the conclusion of tryouts;
- iv. The player's ability to play (with Doctor's approval) within 3 weeks from the conclusion

of evaluations at their level

If it is determined from the criteria above that the player would fall on an “A” or “B” team, a position would be left open for a period of two weeks from the end of the tryouts at that level. That player, when healthy enough to resume playing would play with each “A” and “B” team for two hours each. The “A” and “B” head coaches would then have to decide at what level that player belongs. The “A” and “B” head coaches would then be required to fill their remaining open rosters with player(s) from the next level team.

If a player cannot resume playing within two weeks of the conclusion of tryouts at that level, then the player would not be eligible for an “A” level team. If, however, he/she can resume playing in three to six weeks a roster spot would be left open on the “B” level team(s) and the same process as described in the above paragraph would apply with the exclusion of the “A” level coach.

2. Failure to Attend Evaluations

Evaluations are mandatory, players must attend BOTH days of evaluations. If a player is only able to attend one session, the score from the attended session will be used for the missed session with a possible maximum score of 3. If a player does not attend evaluations, they will be placed on the B team.

Example 1: Player 1 scores 3.5 on session 1 and misses session 2. Session 1 score 3.5 + Session 2 score 3 (max score allowed for missed session) for an average final score of 3.25 for Player 1.

Example 2: Player 2 scores 2.85 on session 1 and misses session 2. Session 1 score 2.85 + Session 2 score 2.85 for an average final score of 2.85 for Player 2.

ARTICLE 6

Players

A. Participation Guidelines. Participation at practice and games is necessary for the development of everyone on the team. When players miss practices and games, it negatively affects or impacts the entire team. All players should:

1. Be respectful of other players, coaches, parents and managers by attending all practices and games;
2. Understand that by not participating in practices or games, players are negatively affecting their teammates and coaches, and hindering development of the team;
3. Communicate via email, text, or phone call to the coach and/or manager prior to the game or practice that you will not be attending (24 hour notice for practices, 48 hour notice for games);
4. Attend association practices and games / tournaments over other sports, including club lacrosse.

In the event of a planned family vacation or obligation, communicate with the coach and/or manager at the beginning of the season and let them know the length of time that will be missed.

RYL realizes there are many options for camps and other sports during the lacrosse season. If, however, a player chooses to miss association lacrosse practice or games due to the attendance of practice/games/camps for other sports, the player may lose playing time in the subsequent game. In order to be fair to all team members, lacrosse activities should be considered their primary athletic commitment during the lacrosse season.

RYL also realizes that family takes a priority in any person's life. So unless the absence for a vacation is extremely long, RYL does not see a reason to sit players during games. However, if the player has missed a significant number of practices where certain team plays and strategies have been developed, play time may be impacted depending on the development and needs of the team upon the player's return.

- B. **Playing Time.** Every player is a contributing member of the team. Players are challenged in practice sessions and are given opportunities in game situations to display their skills. All players get playing time, but some players may get more playing time than others. Playing time is determined by several things, including:
 - 1. Lacrosse skill/knowledge
 - 2. Penalty trouble
 - 3. Match-ups
 - 4. Attitude
 - 5. Attendance
 - 6. Attitude and effort

Coaches should provide players and parents/guardians with communication if playing time will be reduced for disciplinary reasons. Coaches should be clear in their communication with players and parents/guardians about expected playing time so that expectations can be managed.

- C. **Equipment.** Equipment requirements are set by USA Lacrosse. RYL furnishes goalie equipment consisting of a throat guard, stick, chest protector, and shin guards. Other equipment may be provided as determined by the RYL Board. Minor repairs of RYL-owned equipment is the responsibility of RYL. The Board should be contacted if major repairs or replacement is necessary.
 - 1. **Boys Required Equipment.** Lacrosse helmet, colored mouth guard, arm guards, shoulder pads, NOCASE-certified chest protector, supporter with cup, lacrosse gloves and boys lacrosse stick. Goalie requires a throat guard and goalie stick. Cleats are recommended.
 - 2. **Girls Required Equipment.** Eye guard / goggles, colored mouth guard, girls lacrosse stick. Goalie requires a lacrosse helmet, throat guard, gloves, and chest protector. Cleats are recommended.
- D. **Uniforms.** An official uniform consisting of jerseys and shorts will be provided to each 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U player. These official uniforms must be worn at all games, scrimmages, and tournaments. IP players will receive t-shirts.

ARTICLE 7

Coaches

- A. A coach is responsible for the operation and conduct of his/her team. He/she is the teacher of skills and a developer of players socially, morally, psychologically and physically. All coaches report directly to the RYL Board of Directors – Coaches Coordinator. Coaches will be chosen based on 1) experience, 2) survey feedback, 3) level of play, and 4) coaching philosophy. All paid coaches will be required to complete an application.
- B. **Administrative**
 - 1. All coaches must be a member of USA Lacrosse and be level 1 certified.
 - 2. All coaches must be registered with RAAA as a coach.

3. All coaches shall submit to a background check and undergo concussion training. Recertification is required every three (3) years.
4. Head coaches must complete PCA training.
5. Paid coaches must complete all required forms necessary to facilitate payment.

C. Coaching

1. Coaches shall take all reasonable safety precautions including but not limited to field conditions, and availability of first-aid kits.
2. Coaches and assistant coaches shall act in accordance with the RAAA Code of Conduct in interactions with participants, officiating personnel, or other coaches and players. This is inclusive of all social media venues as well.
3. Coaches shall adequately emphasize to members that their conduct at sporting events must be in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
4. Coaches shall ensure that all participants shall have an equal opportunity at participating in sporting events.
5. Coaches shall properly maintain all program-furnished equipment and return all equipment at the end of the season.
6. Coaches shall provide participants with written schedules of practices and games, contact information, and information regarding uniforms and equipment.

D. Coach Selections and Compensation

1. All 12U and 14U teams may have a paid head coach with previous/current collegiate or high school playing experience.
2. Coaches are selected based on previous lacrosse experience and coaching experience.

ARTICLE 8

Parents

A. All RYL parents must agree to the parent responsibilities:

1. Respect coaches, officials, other parents, and players (team and opponents)
2. Ensure your players are on time to all practices and games
3. Have a positive attitude before the games and after. The coaches will critique their play. Coaches need you to ENCOURAGE AT ALL TIMES.
4. If you want to talk to the Coach about your player, NEVER on game day. Please do so at a practice day at a time mutually agreed upon by you and the coach. Remember that many of the coaches are volunteers.

B. Grievance Procedures

In the event you, as a player or parent, have a complaint regarding an incident or believe you have been infringed on according to RYL and/or USA Lacrosse policies, you may file a formal grievance. Please be advised parties must wait 24 hours after an incident has occurred to allow for a “cooling off” period to prevent action solely out of anger. In the event a formal grievance is filed, please use the following

guidelines:

1. Any individual with a grievance not previously resolved in a personal conversation with the Head Coach shall present a signed and dated letter, detailing the incident to the Head Coach and Team Manager. The Head Coach shall respond within 2 days of receipt of the grievance. The Head Coach will schedule a meeting, which will include the individual that submitted the grievance and the Team Manager, at a time convenient for all. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and make a best effort to resolve the issue. The Head Coach shall keep and submit a copy of the original grievance and notes from the meeting to the appropriate Level Director.
2. In the event that resolution is not achieved at the meeting indicated in Step 1, either the individual or coach will forward the grievance to the appropriate Level Director. A signed and dated letter detailing the outstanding issues within 2 days of the meeting with the Head Coach and Team Manager must be provided by the Head Coach or Team Manager. The Level Director shall schedule a meeting with the Head Coach, Team Manager, the individual's parents, and the individual that filed the original grievance within 1 week of receipt of the grievance. The Level Director shall keep detailed notes of the meeting and submit a copy of the original grievance letter, outstanding issue letter and notes from this meeting to the RYL Program Director.
3. In the event that resolution is not achieved in the meeting indicated in Step 2, the Level Director shall request the RYL Program Director appoint one (1) Board member (appointed on a case by case basis to avoid conflict of interest) to act as mediator to hear the outstanding issues and determine a resolution. The mediator shall schedule a meeting with the Level Director, Head Coach, Team Manager and the individual initiating the grievance. The mediator shall keep detailed notes as a record of this meeting. Resolution reached at any step of the Grievance Procedure will be considered final and a signed statement by all parties will be required. Every effort will be made to process a grievance within 15 days.

ARTICLE 9

Team Managers

A parent volunteer from each team will be asked to volunteer as a Team Manager. The team manager is the liaison between the coaches and the parents at a team level. The manager will support the coaching philosophy of the team in order to foster good communications among all participants and will generally manage the business of the team along with any responsibilities the coach may assign. If at any time, the team manager witnesses any breach of the Coaches, Player's and/or Parent/Spectators Code of Conduct, it is their responsibility to address the issue on-site if possible and/or report the incident to the appropriate age group coordinator or the Program Director.

The team manager is also responsible for updating the RYL team page and calendar. They are also responsible for accessing and updating the affiliation website (YLM, GNLL, MSLAX) with the team roster information, game scores and ensuring all coaches and the team manager are registered, as needed, for the affiliated league. The team manager should obtain access to the website/calendar and make necessary updates.

ARTICLE 10

Board of Directors

- A. Participation Guidelines. Participation at board meetings is necessary for the execution of the RYL program. Board members should attend a minimum of 3 meetings per year to remain an active member.

ARTICLE 11

Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure" shall govern this Association in all

parliamentary situations that are not provided for in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 12

Changes to Bylaws

These Bylaws shall be amended by a majority vote of the members of the entire Board of Directors at any regular Board meeting or any meeting called for that purpose, providing notice of the proposed changes is given to each member of the Board of Directors two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The amendment(s) shall become effective immediately upon adoption subject to any provisions included in the amendment(s).