



**Women’s Major Series Lacrosse League**

**Operating Policy**

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## **By-Laws**

### **1. Name**

Women's Major Series Lacrosse League Council; herein referred to as "the Council".

### **2. Aims and Objectives**

Shall be responsible for the operations of the Women's Major Series Lacrosse League, herein known as the WMSL, within the framework of the OLA and CLA Constitutions

### **3. Membership and Responsibilities**

3.1 The Council shall consist of one representative from each member Club in good standing and the elected Executive members. Each representative will inform the Commissioner, prior to the meeting, if they are naming a designate in their place.

3.2 All members must be in good standing within the higher governing bodies of Lacrosse; the OLA and the CLA.

3.3 All OLA/WMSL fees and league team fees and fines must be paid in order to be eligible to vote at the AGM meeting.

3.4 Ensure the good conduct of all Club personnel at all League functions.

3.5 New franchises in the League must be approved by 75% of the Council. Once approved, the application must be presented to the OLA Board of Directors for final approval.

a) New club applications must be received by the Commissioner no later than January 1st of the season they wish to join. Applications must be in written form. *(Amended 2020 AGM)*

3.6 In the event of a franchise withdrawing from the Council, the balance of that franchise's league equity shall remain the property of the Council.

3.7 It is the responsibility of the member Club to:

a) Confirm attendance for all League Day and Tournament events by the designated deadline.

b) Provide a qualified scorekeeper and timekeeper for each home event.

c) Ensure that all its players are dressed uniformly in proper team



colours.

- 3.8 All existing members must file a declaration of membership for the following season before the annual OLA SAGM meeting.

#### **4. Voting Powers**

- 4.1 One representative from each Club and members of the Executive Council shall have a vote on matters pertaining to policy. A majority + 1 of all votes cast will carry a motion at any Council Meeting.
- 4.2 Each Council member will only have one vote at any one time.
- 4.3 The method of voting will be in any manner accepted by the Council. If the vote is to be other than a show of hands, it must be requested prior to the vote.

#### **5. Executive Council**

- 5.1 The Women's Major Series Lacrosse League Executive Council shall consist of the following:
- i. Commissioner*
  - ii. Assistant Commissioner*
  - iii. Past Commissioner*
  - iv. Secretary*
  - v. Treasurer*
  - vi. Registrar*
- 5.2 Each Executive Council member will have one vote, except for the Commissioner, who will only vote in the event of a tie.
- 5.3 The Executive Council, as elected by the League Council, shall be vested with the power to conduct the affairs of the Ontario Women's Box Lacrosse League.
- 5.4 Executive Council members may not speak on behalf of any one Club but must speak to the betterment of the entire Council.

## 6. Duties of the Executive Council

### 6.1 WMSL Executive Council:

- a) Shall conduct the general business and activities of the WMSL
- b) Shall ensure the Operating Policy is being followed; the aims and objectives being met.
- c) Shall exercise full control over all matters pertaining to the management of the WMSL, subject to an appeal to the Executive Council as a whole. Such an appeal must be at the written request of a member of the League Council.
- d) Shall be the final authority of decisions regarding any area under its jurisdiction. Any decision may be appealed to the OLA or higher governing body.
- e) Shall appoint members to the Executive in non-voting positions including, but not limited to: Social Media Director, Director of Promotions & Fundraising, Web Master, Referee in Chief and Scheduler.
- f) Should an Executive member miss 3 consecutive meetings (including the AGM or SAGM meetings) that member may be suspended by the Board.
- g) Shall ensure that the Council meets 3 times a year as needed. (*AGM 2019*)

### 6.2 Commissioner:

- a) Shall preside over all Council Meetings.
- b) Shall represent the Council at all OLA Board of Governors Meetings.
- c) Shall conduct the business of the Council & WMSL; as directed by the League Council members.
- d) Immediately rule on the discipline of teams and individuals according to League and OLA guidelines.
- e) Immediately rule on player and team personnel eligibility under the guidelines of the WMSL, OLA and CLA Constitutions.
- f) Set the agenda for all Council Meetings.
- g) Represent the Council in any negotiations pertaining to play in National level tournaments.
- h) Approve all player movement within the guidelines of the OLA and CLA Constitutions.
- i) Receive all new franchise applications and schedule for presentation.
- j) Represent the Council in all matters pertaining to officiating.
- k) Shall attend and represent the WMSL Council at both the OLA AGM and OLA SAGM.



6.3 Assistant Commissioner:

- a) Fulfill the duties of the Commissioner in her/his absence.
- b) Duties as required by the Council or the Commissioner.

6.4 Secretary:

- a) Shall arrange for distribution of the agenda prior to all meetings.
- b) Record and distribute the minutes of all Council meetings in a timely manner.
- c) Book meeting rooms for scheduled WMSL meetings as necessary.
- d) Perform any other duties as required by the Council or the Commissioner.

6.5 Treasurer:

- a) Receive all funds payable to the Council and deposit in the Council Bank Account.
- b) Pay all bills as approved by the WMSL Council.
- c) Notify Clubs of outstanding debts and WMSL fines.
- d) Maintain financial records of the Council and provide updated financial statements at every meeting of the Board.
- e) Prepare a year-end financial statement for presentation to the Council at the AGM.
- f) Make available all financial records to the OLA Audit Committee for review if required.

6.6 Registrar:

- a) Approve all club registration forms and forward appropriate copies to the OLA for approval.
- b) Enter all approved player certificates to the OLA registration database using software supplied by the OLA
- c) Shall publish a list of all club affiliations by May 15th.
- d) Distribute the graduating player lists to all teams in accordance with OLA direction on privacy policy
- e) Publish protected player lists by March 1<sup>st</sup>
- f) Publish a list of all signed players by July 16th



## **7. Election of Executive**

- 7.1 The Commissioner & Secretary shall be elected for a two-year term on even years. The Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer and Registrar shall be elected for a two-year term on odd years. Elections are to be held at the AGM.
- 7.2 All elected positions shall take effect immediately at the AGM.
- 7.3 If an Executive Council position is vacated during the term in office, the remaining members of the Executive Council shall fill the vacancy by appointment until the next AGM where an election can be held.

## **8. Operating Policy Approval**

Women's Major Series Lacrosse League Council Operating Policy approved by the OLA Executive Council at a meeting held on

Acknowledged by:

WMSL Commissioner:

OLA VP Jr to Major:

OLA President:



## Policies

### 9. Duties of the WMSL Council

- 9.1 Expenses for the Commissioner at the OLA Board of Governors meetings to be approved by the Council for reimbursement by the WMSL. (*Amended SAGM 2023*)
- 9.2 Hear, discuss and vote on proposed amendments to the WMSL Operating Policy and bylaws.
- 9.3 Hear applications for League expansion.
- 9.4 Prepare proposed amendments to the OLA Constitution.
- 9.5 Generally be responsible for the operation and conduct of the WMSL. Once the WMSL Operating Policy and ByLaws has been approved, the Executive Committee shall have the sole responsibility of administrating Women's Major Series Lacrosse League.
- 9.7 Approve any changes to a team's name, uniform colours and design.
- 9.8 A quorum constitutes 2/3 of the Clubs in good standing.

### 10. Players & Player Movement

- 10.1 By 12:00 noon on July 2nd each Club must submit to the Registrar their list of players. Included with this list must also be a list of all other players signed and then released during the season. The maximum number of signed players at any given time is twenty-five (25) of which no more than five (5) can be underaged (player must have attained their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to the first day of January in the season the player intends on competing). **If there is an affiliated Girl's U22 team in their municipality, then zero (0) underaged players may be signed.** The final list must be presented **again** by 12:00 noon on July 15th (R6.08, R6.09, R6.14a and R6.14b). (*Amended SAGM 2023*)
- 10.1(a) - Teams can use unaffiliated players for an unlimited number of games including exhibition, league, tournament and provincial games. (*AGM 2018*)
- 10.2 No more than 5 U22 aged (17 to 21 years of age) can be listed on any one game sheet.
- 10.3 If a signed player is released at any time during the playing season, the Commissioner and Registrar must be notified within twenty-four (24) hours.
- 10.4 Clubs within the Council may trade players to another Club within the Council. Confirmation of all trades must be submitted to the Commissioner and Registrar within twenty-four (24) hours of the transaction for approval.
- 10.5 Players must be properly registered as per OLA guidelines. (*Amended SAGM 2023*)
- 10.6 Any player who refuses a card (protected or drafted) may be placed onto a Clubs'

suspended list for that season. A Club may have a maximum of 10 players on their suspended list at any given time during the season.

- 10.7 Should a team fold, the Council shall decide how to disperse the players involved.
- 10.8 OLA Protected Lists – Must be submitted to the Commissioner and the Registrar by 12:00 pm on January 15th
- 10.9 Each year a club may place players on a list designated as “Injured/Maternity Player List.” If the occasion occurs that a club has to exercise this movement, the player, to be eligible for the I/M.P.L. must submit a letter from her family doctor outlining the injury. By being placed on the I/M.P.L. the player thereby will avoid being released. She will be ineligible to play for the balance of the current season and playoffs but will remain the property of the team she was playing for the following season. (*Amended SAGM 2023*)
- 10.10 In order to qualify for Provincials players must play in 50% of their teams’ scheduled League games or 50% of their teams’ total games for the season rounded down. (*Amended AGM 2019*)
- 10.11 By 12:00 noon, 14 days prior to the first scheduled league game, Clubs must submit to the Registrar their initial list of signed players, suspended players and injured/maternity players. (See WMSL Policy 10.1, WMSL Policy 10.6, WMSL Policy 10.9 and R6.23(e))

## **11. Players & Player Movement – Stick Check/House League**

- 11.1 By January 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year players must be re-carded by their home centre prior to participating in any stick check/house league games.
- 11.2 By 12:00 noon on January 8<sup>th</sup> each Club must submit to the Registrar their list of players. Players may participate in a fall or winter stick check/house league season (September – March) outside their own association providing their home association does not provide the same program, and providing they produce written permission from their home association along with their current OLA card to the league president of the fall or winter league, and have received written permission from the WMSL Commissioner. ***\*\*This rule does not apply to the stick check provincial\*\****
- 11.3 A list of all players who have moved in the manner described in section 11.2 will be distributed to the teams involved prior to player participation in any league play.

## **12. Rules of Play – Box**

### **12.1 Game Times – League Games**

i) Under no circumstances shall any official, coach or manager be allowed to change the times of periods or games.

**Game:** 3 x 15 minute periods (running time). Last 3 minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> period are stop time if goal differential is less than 5. Once stop time has started it shall remain stop time until time expires.



**Intermission:** 3 minutes

**Time Outs:** 2 per game (no additional time outs given for overtime)

**Nets:** 4'6" x 4'

- 12.2 If there is a tie for the final playoff position(s), the tie will be broken as per OLA Constitution R1.06 (2012 OLA Constitution).
- 12.3 When a regular season league game is Tied after the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, each team will receive 1 point
- 12.4 **Game Times – Overtime**  
i) Under no circumstances shall any official, coach, manager be allowed to change the times of periods or games
- Regular Season – ties will stand in all regular season games  
Provincial Playoffs – a 3 minute break and then a full 10 minute period will follow the end of regulation time. If the game remains tied, the teams will receive a 3 minute rest period. Teams will then continue to play 10 minute sudden victory periods, with a 5 minute rest after each period until a winner is determined. (R1.07c)
- 12.5 A regular season game shall be considered a complete game if 30 minutes have been played. If 30 minutes have not been played, then the game would be played at a later date, starting with the same time and score.
- 12.6 In a playoff game, a game must be completed in its entirety. If a game must be stopped before it is completed, it would be continued with the score and time remaining and at a time and location to be approved by the Commissioner.
- 12.7 To be eligible to play in provincials each team must play all scheduled league games.

### **13. Rules of Play – Stick Check**

- 13.1 There is to be no body contact. Any minor body contact that is not deemed to be incidental will result in possession being awarded to the non-offending team.
- 13.2 Body contact deemed by the referee to be to be reckless or intentional will result in an Interference penalty.
- 13.3 Stick-to-stick contact is allowed assuming the contact is reasonable and intended only to dislodge the ball. Unreasonable force will be penalized appropriately.
- 13.4 Checking a player's stick before she gains control of the ball will be considered Minor Interference and will result in possession being awarded to the non-offending team.
- 13.5 A player may shoot the ball from anywhere on the floor as long as there is an open lane.
- 13.6 Any player who hits another player with the ball while shooting will be assessed a minor penalty. If a defending player is hit while in the crease or while attempting to block a shot then no penalty will be assessed.

- 13.7 If a shot is deemed by the referee to be careless, or narrowly misses a player, then possession will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- 13.8 If a shot is deemed by the referee to be reckless then a penalty shot can be awarded.
- 13.9 A player who, in the act of passing the ball, hits another player will be assessed a minor penalty.
- 13.10 In the case of a loose ball – possession shall be awarded to the player closest to the ball when it is approximately 12 inches from the boards. This is done to avoid any loose ball battles which may result in body contact. If the referee deems that the ball is travelling at sufficient speed and will bounce off of the boards before any player impact, then play can proceed.
- 13.11 Teams are not permitted to play a zone defence unless the defending team is short-handed.
- 13.12 A seven second possession rule will be applied where a pass or shot must be completed. After seven seconds possession will be awarded to the non-offending team. *\*\*This rule will not be applied in situations where there a player has a clear breakaway\*\**
- 13.13 Players will be given a nine-foot distance from their opponent when being awarded possession.
- 13.14 There is no limit to the number of players that the ball carrier may pass during a possession.
- 13.15 There are no picks allowed. Violation will result in possession being awarded to the non-offending team.
- 13.16 An offensive team ball carrier who deliberately drives into a defending player will be assess a minor penalty.

#### 14. League Standings

If there is a tie for play-off position(s), the following procedure will be in effect:  
(see O.L.A. Constitution Section R 1.06)

1. The record between the Associations is tied.
2. Goals average formula (with each other).  $\frac{GF}{GF + GA} = \text{Goal Average}$
3. Goals average formula (total season points)

- 14.1 Provincial formula for the season to be determined at the SAGM

#### 15. Fines and Suspensions

- 15.1 The League Council will honor all suspensions of all leagues in Canada that are affiliated with the OLA and CLA.
- 15.2 In the event of a suspension that is not covered by the “Automatic Fine Suspension Policy & Guidelines”, the Club will be notified by the OLA or



- Commissioner of the suspension rulings.
- 15.3 When a major infraction requires a ruling, as to the duration of the suspension, the Commissioner will determine the number of games to be served. Each occurrence will be dealt with on an individual basis and the Commissioner will endeavour to speak with the individual involved.
  - 15.4 All fines are due immediately upon receipt of written notification. Fines not paid prior to the AGM and SAGM meetings will result in the team losing their right to speak or vote.
  - 15.5 In addition to and OLA fines and penalties, a major penalty shall be assessed to any player who fights (OLA rule 45). For the first fighting penalty in the season, the player will also pay a \$100 fine prior to their next eligible game. For a second offense in the same season, the player will be suspended for 3 games and pay of fine of \$150. For a third offense in the same season, the player will be suspended for 5 games which carries over to the next season. The player will not be eligible to play until the fine has been paid (WMSL). *(Amended SAGM 2023)*  
 Players not involved in a fight must immediately report to their respective benches. Any player not adhering to this rule will be assessed a game misconduct penalty and \$50 fine (OLA rule) and a \$25 fine (WMSL fine).

The following will be remitted to League Council:

1	Not having a representative at a Council Meeting. To be considered present, the representative must join the meeting within the first 10 minutes and stay until the scheduled end time. (1st Offence per season)	\$50.00
2	Not having a representative at a Council Meeting. To be considered present, the representative must join the meeting within the first 10 minutes and stay until the scheduled end time. (2nd Offence per season)	\$75.00
3	Not having a representative at a Council Meeting. To be considered present, the representative must join the meeting within the first 10 minutes and stay until the scheduled end time. (3rd Offence per season)	\$100.00
4	Not having a representative at a Council Meeting. To be considered present, the representative must join the meeting within the first 10 minutes and stay until the scheduled end time. (4th Offence per season)	\$150.00
5	Not having a representative at a Council Meeting. To be considered present, the representative must join the meeting within the first 10 minutes and stay	TBD

	until the scheduled end time. (5th Offence per season)	
6	Failure to submit player registrations on time (1st offence)	\$50.00
7	Failure to submit subsequent player registrations on time (in the same season)	\$10.00 ea.
8	Failure to send game sheets to Commissioner, Webmaster and OLA electronically within 24 hours of the game being played	\$10.00 ea.
9	Failure to return league trophies to a member of the Executive by July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$100.00
10	Failure to notify Commissioner and Registrar of player release/trade on time	\$50.00
11	Late payment of fees	\$50.00
12	NSF Cheque (plus Bank Charges)	\$50.00
13	Cancel/Forfeit of an approved WMSL game (by the team(s) responsible for the cancellation/forfeiture)	\$500.00
14	Failure to use OLA game sheets for all WMSL games	\$25.00 ea.
15	Original game sheets must be mailed to the OLA office within 24hrs of the game being played.	
16	Missing a deadline that was minuted by the WMSL unless there is a specific fine already named in this policy paper (1st Offence per season)	\$50.00
17	Appeal to the WMSL	Up to \$75.00

## 16. Protests

- 16.1 First level of appeal is to WMSL to be submitted to the Commissioner in writing within 15 days of the date the decision is received by the parties involved.
- 16.2 All appeals/protests WMSL must be in writing to the OLA together with the fee (B7.04 and R15, R16, R17) within 15 days of the date of the decision is received by the parties involved.
- 16.3 A player release meeting at the club level may, at the players request, be done by a phone or video call. Team representation can be by one or up to three team representatives.

## 17. Officials

- 17.1.1 Referee payment will be determined by the OLA/OLRA contract.
- 17.1.2 Referees will be paid prior to the start of the first game of the day.



## 18. Coaches

Coaching staff will be certified according to OLA guidelines and comply with the OLA criminal record check policy.

## 19. Membership Fees

Each Club will pay an Annual League fee, to be determined by the Council at the SAGM meeting

- a) Each year, a team's Membership fee will include a \$50 fee that will go towards the Commissioner's honorarium at the end of that year. *(Amended 2020 AGM)*
- b) Team fees will include equal division contribution towards \$100 honorarium for the Scheduler. *(Amended 2020 AGM)*
- c) Team fees will include equal division contribution towards \$100 honorarium for the Referee in Chief. *(Amended 2020 AGM)*
- d) An individual may only receive one honorarium per year. The honorarium received will be the largest one.

## 20. Awards and Trophies

- 20.1 Each season team MVP awards will be awarded. Each team will submit their Team MVP choice no more than 24 hours after the final league game. The winners will be announced at provincials.

## 21. Code of Conduct

- 21.1 Always be courteous and objective in dealing with other members.
- 21.2 Show respect for the culture, social and political values of all members.
- 21.3 Refrain from behavior which may discredit or embarrass the Council members or the game of lacrosse.
- 21.4 Do not circulate false or malicious statements derogatory to any member of the Council.
- 21.5 Do not wilfully ignore or break the Bylaws, Polices and/or Procedures of the WMSL Council.
- 21.6 Any report alleging a breach of member obligation under this Code of Conduct shall be submitted in writing to any Executive Committee member.
- 21.7 Discipline, if deemed necessary, will be administered by the Commissioner, in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- 21.8 Destruction of property will result in replacement of property, suspension and fines for offending player or team.
- 21.9 Disciplinary actions can be appealed to the OLA.



## 22. Website & Social Media

The WMSL currently recognizes the following websites and social media as official sources for information about the WMSL. The Social Media Director and Webmaster are responsible to ensure any content adheres to the WMSL Code of Conduct and to all Bylaws, Polices and/or Procedures of the WMSL and OLA. All accounts, content and URLs are property of the WMSL and should be returned when the Social Media Director and/or Webmaster roles are changed.

- Website: [womensmajorseries.ca](http://womensmajorseries.ca) & [owbll.ca](http://owbll.ca)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WomensBoxLacrosseLeague>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WMajorSeriesLax>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/womensmajorserieslacrosse/>
- Email: [womensboxlacrosse@outlook.com](mailto:womensboxlacrosse@outlook.com)



Accepted and agreed to by:

<b>Akwesasne Outlaws</b>	<b>Arthur Aces</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Grand River Attack</b>	<b>Hamilton Bengals</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>London Thrashers</b>	<b>Mimico Mountaineers</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Mississauga Badgers</b>	<b>Niagara Turtle Islanders</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Toronto Stars</b>	<b>Whitby Rush</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>OLA VP of JR to Major</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>OLA President</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	