

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE LEAGUE

Member Rulebook



2022-2023

Version 23

WWW.THSLL.ORG

1.0	Revision History	5
2.0	Definitions	7
2.1	General Terms	7
2.2	Team Types	7
2.3	Game Types.....	8
3.0	League Introduction	8
3.1	Overview	8
3.2	THSLL Guiding Principles	8
3.3	Zero Tolerance for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct.....	9
3.4	State Structure	9
4.0	League Structure	10
4.1	Member Teams	10
4.2	New Member Teams.....	10
4.3	Classes and Districts	10
4.3.1	Class Structure	10
4.3.2	Sub-Classes	10
4.3.3	Classes.....	11
4.3.4	Districts	11
4.3.5	Authority.....	11
4.4	Member Meetings.....	11
4.4.1	Annual Meetings.....	11
4.4.2	Special Meetings.....	11
4.4.3	Notice.....	11
4.4.4	Quorum – League Play.....	11
4.4.5	Quorum – League Structure	12
4.4.6	Proxy Representation at Meetings	12
4.5	Rule Making.....	12
4.5.1	League Structure.....	12
4.5.2	League Play	12
4.5.3	TSLA Bylaws	12
4.6	Dues & Information.....	13
4.7	Enforcement of THSLL Rules	13
4.8	Rule Governance process.....	13
5.0	Eligibility	16
5.1	Class Participation	17

5.2	New Team Formation.....	17
5.3	ISD Action	17
5.4	District Eligibility Committee.....	18
5.5	Time of Eligibility	18
5.6	Switching Program Enrollment	18
5.7	JV Transfers	18
5.8	Varsity Transfers	18
5.9	Non-Compliance.....	18
5.10	Hardship	18
5.11	Cuts	19
5.12	Varsity Head Coach’s Son Transfer	19
5.13	Eighth Grade Players	20
5.14	Dual Class Programs.....	20
5.15	Exceptions to Eligibility Rules.....	20
5.16	THSLL League Eligibility Waiver for 2023 and 2024	21
6.0	General Rules.....	22
6.1	Coaches	22
6.1.1	Background Check Policy	22
6.1.2	Other Responsibilities.....	22
6.2	THSLL Code of Conduct	22
6.2.1	The role of a THSLL Member School Program Leader	22
6.2.2	The Role of a Coach	23
6.2.3	Reporting Procedures.....	23
6.2.4	League Actions.....	23
6.3	Insurance.....	24
6.4	Team Site Administrator Role	24
6.5	Improper Behavior	25
6.6	Medical Emergency Plan	25
6.7	Referees	26
6.7.1	Rainout Procedures	26
6.7.2	Referee Ratings.....	27
6.8	Rules of Play	27
6.8.1	Non-THSLL Member Team Play	27
6.9	Mandatory Games / Game Play	27
6.9.1	Games Played	27
6.9.2	Allowable Games	27
6.10	Tie Breaking.....	27

6.10.1	Tie Breaking Procedures.....	28
6.11	Team Sideline Policy.....	29
6.12	Use of Technology.....	29
6.12.1	Coach to Player Communication	29
6.12.2	Coach to Press Box Coach Communication	29
6.12.3	Coach to Coach/Fan/Scout Communication	29
6.12.4	Remote Control Flying Camera.....	30
6.13	Post Season Summary	30
6.14	Post-Season Venue Standards.....	30
6.15	Player Honors - THSLL Awards Distribution	30
6.16	THSLL Awards.....	30
6.16.1	Head Coach of the Year	30
6.17	Commissioner’s Award.....	31
6.17.1	Voting Process	31
6.18	All-Americans	31
6.18.1	Area Chair Roles and Responsibilities:	31
7.0	Super Regionals and State Championship	32
7.1	THSLL Class AA and A Playoff Format.....	32
7.2	7.2 Class B Playoff Format.....	36
7.3	Class C Playoff Format.....	38
7.4	Class D Playoff Format	39
8.0	State Championships	40
8.1	State Championship Rotation	40
8.2	State Championship Event Timing	40
	Appendix A – Rule Modifications and Waivers.....	41
	Appendix B – Season Timetable	44
	Appendix C – Additional Files/Information	45

1.0 Revision History

Revision	Changes	Date	Author
1.0	Initial version	8/5/04	M. Barry
1.1	Cleanup after the Aug. 7, 2004 Board Meeting	9/3/04	M. Barry
2.0	Update previous rule changes, delete language related to Girl's programs and add Appendix C, D & E for BoD Meeting July 2006...	7/1/06	D. Hamill
3.0	Rule Changes approved at the Annual Team Meeting – October 21, 2006 for implementation in the 2007 season.	10-21-06	D. Hamill, M. Crimmins
3.1	Housekeeping update of Appendix A: Offside Rule waiver approved at the Annual Team Meeting in 2004 and inadvertently left off THSLL waiver documents until now	2-16-07	D. Hamill
3.2	Rule changes as approved by the majority of the quorum present (in person or by proxy) at the October 20, 2007 Annual Meeting.	10/20/07	Jay Widdig
3.2.1	Rule changes initiated from the floor at the 2007 Annual Meeting	11/13/07	D. Hamill
4.1	Housekeeping update for 2009 season- changes in yellow	9/5/08	N. Powers
	Rule Changes approved at the Annual State Meeting – October 11, 2008 for implementation in the 2009 season.	10/20/08	S. McKay
4.2	Housekeeping update for 2010 season	9/5/09	N. Powers
4.3	Housekeeping update post-State Meeting in yellow Member Team Voting items in red	10/19/09	R. Martin
4.4	Housekeeping update on 8.2 Home School in yellow.	02/03/10	R. Martin
4.5	Housekeeping update on 11.0 Improper Behavior in yellow	3/23/10	N. Powers
4.6	Housekeeping update for 2011 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in RED	08/28/10	N. Powers
4.7	Approved 2011 THSLL Rulebook	09/25/2010	R. Martin
4.8	Housekeeping Update for 2011 season.	09/27/2010	R. Martin
4.9	Housekeeping Update for 11.0 Improper Behavior	03/01/2011	R. Martin
5.0	Housekeeping update for 2012 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	09/26/2011	N. Powers
5.1	Housekeeping update on 2.0 New Member Teams and 8.7.6 Head Coach's Son Transfer	02/07/2012	R. Martin
5.2	Housekeeping update for 2013 season-changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	06/16/2012	N. Powers
5.3	Housekeeping update for 2014 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	09/01/2013	N. Powers
5.4	Housekeeping update for 2015 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	09/01/2014	N. Powers
5.5	Housekeeping update for 2016 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	9/1/2015	N. Powers
17.1	Housekeeping update for 2017 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	9/1/2016	N. Powers
18.1	Housekeeping update for 2018 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	10/1/2017	N. Powers

18.2	Housekeeping update for 2018 THSLL season – THSLL Code of Conduct update by THSLL Board of Directors	1/27/2018	R. Martin
19.1	Housekeeping update for 2019 THSLL Season – Changes in Yellow, Voting Items in Red, Board changes in Green.	10/10/2018	R.Martin, N.Powers
19.2	Updated DII Allocations, fixed typo in section 8.	2/1/2019	C. Shaffer
22.0	Reformatting with new versioning tied to season	6/2021	C. Shaffer
23.0	Housekeeping update for 2023 season	9/2022	N. Powers

2.0 Definitions

2.1 General Terms

Team	A group of lacrosse players within a THSLL Member School Program who pay THSLL dues and assessments and by their participation in the THSLL, players/parents, coaches, and administrators all agree to accept and abide by the current THSLL Rulebook and THSLL Board determinations and decisions as allowed for in the current TSLA, Inc Bylaws and current THSLL Rulebook. A team must be one of the types listed in the Team Types section and “In Good Standing” as defined in General League Rules.
Program	A THSLL Member School Program is a High School or High School Club organization that is the controlling entity of a single team or group of teams.
Safe Shelter	A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls (not a dug out), electrical and telephone wiring, as well as plumbing, all of which aid in grounding a structure.
Flash to Bang	To use the flash-to-bang method, begin counting when sighting a lightning flash. Counting is stopped when the associated bang (thunder) is heard. Divide this count by five to determine the distance to the lightning flash (in miles). For example, a flash-to-bang count of thirty seconds equates to a distance of six miles. Lightning has struck from as far away as 10 miles from the storm center. The THSLL adopts this policy in full and places the responsibility of implementation upon the Site Administrator for the home Team.
LOA	Lacrosse Officials Association
USL	US Lacrosse

2.2 Team Types

Class A, B, C Varsity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A THSLL team In-Compliance with the League’s school-based philosophy or On-A-Path-To-Compliance through a Board agreed upon and approved Class Participation Plan with a timeline, waivers, expectations, and accountability checkpoints. • Pays Varsity dues. • Plays required District schedule.
Class D Varsity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A THSLL team designated as In-Development with a Board agreed upon and approved Class Participation Plan with a timeline, waivers, expectations, and accountability checkpoints • May have seniors on the team but cannot play in JV games. Games must be declared Varsity games when scheduled through agreement by both coaches. • Pays Class D Varsity dues • Competes to qualify for Post-Season Tournaments.
At Large Varsity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A THSLL team (Class B, C or D) In-Compliance with the League’s school-based philosophy or On-A-Path-To-Compliance through a Board agreed upon and approved Class Participation Plan with a timeline, waivers, expectations, and accountability checkpoints. <p>A team outside of District geographic areas. Depending upon their proximity to THSLL teams, may be required to play all away games THSLL schedules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays Class B, C or D dues.
JV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A THSLL team (Class A, B, C, D or At Large) designated as a Junior Varsity (JV) team. • Pays JV Dues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May schedule as many games as desired with any THSLL JV or Varsity teams. • May have seniors on the team but cannot play in JV games. Games must be declared Varsity games when scheduled through agreement by both coaches.
Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Seniors are not allowed to play in JV games. 2) JV games are 10-minute quarters regardless of opponent. 3) 8th graders are <u>not</u> allowed to play in any THSLL event. 4) Scrimmages, out-of-state games, and tournament games will not be listed on the District website schedules.

2.3 Game Types

These game types are used for general-purpose communications, scheduling, and website convention. All THSLL games will be one of the following types:

Class A, B, C or D District	Class 'count' League games, within the THSLL District. Games count towards determination of District record.
JV	All League JV games. Seniors may not play in a JV game. May play seniors in games declared as Varsity when scheduled through agreement by both coaches.
Non-District	Varsity games with any other THSLL team. Games count towards the overall team THSLL season record. Games do NOT count towards the District Playoff record. Non-District games do not include tournament games or games with non-THSLL teams. JV teams may schedule and play Non-District Varsity games with the clear understanding that seniors are allowed to play in Non-District Varsity games.
Out-of-State	An out-of-state game is a THSLL Member School Program team hosting a "guest" team from outside of Texas or the THSLL Member School Program team travels out-of-state to play a team(s). These games are played by THSLL rules when played in Texas. The host team is responsible for informing the visiting team of the rules.
District Playoffs	District level Playoffs and Championship games.
State Playoffs	Class AA final 8, All Class A, Class B final 16, Class C final 8, Class D final 8. The Playoffs are determined as described in section 7.

3.0 League Introduction

This document determines the rules for the Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) and is under strict control of the THSLL Board of Directors (the "Board") and ownership of the Texas Scholastic Lacrosse Association, Inc. (TSLA). The Board is comprised of volunteers throughout the State of Texas.

3.1 Overview

The Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) (the "League") is the governing body and membership association for boys' lacrosse (THSLL Member School Programs) at the high school level in Texas. The high school level is defined as grades nine through twelve.

3.2 THSLL Guiding Principles

- ✓ Creating a structured environment in which student athletes, coaches, administrators, and parents benefit. From membership in an organization that facilitates the growth and rewards of playing lacrosse and achieving competitive fulfillment.

- ✓ Promoting and protecting the health of participating student athletes by establishing uniform rules of play and cultivating the ideals of good sportsmanship, loyalty, and fair play.
- ✓ Honoring the Game of lacrosse by leading by example and interpreting and applying the THSLL rules such that all THSLL players, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, and fans conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for other players, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, and fans.
- ✓ Working in harmony with the interscholastic governing bodies of THSLL Member School Programs, and other concerned Texas constituencies.
- ✓ Establishing and maintaining a process for continuous improvement of the League, by working with THSLL Member School Programs, and other concerned Texas constituencies.
- ✓ Building school-based boy's lacrosse teams in Texas (all players on a team attend the same source high school, and ideally lacrosse is recognized as a school sport by the athletic director, and if a public high school, recognized as a school sport by the independent school district.)

3.3 Zero Tolerance for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct

The Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for all its THSLL Member School Programs' participants' physical, emotional, and social development and ensuring it promotes an environment free from discrimination, abuse, and misconduct. The THSLL has zero tolerance for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct including, but not limited to, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Bullying, Threats, Harassment, and Hazing.

All THSLL Member School Programs participants should refrain from engaging in any form of discrimination, misconduct, or abuse. In the event any THSLL Member Program participant observes inappropriate behaviors, suspected physical and/or sexual abuse, or any other type of abuse or misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each such person to immediately report their observations to a THSLL Board Member as outlined on the THSLL.org website under Site Navigation/Board of Directors, and communicate immediately with a THSLL Board Member via the Contact Us tab.

In addition to reporting within THSLL, such persons should also report suspected THSLL Member School Program participant physical or sexual abuse to appropriate law enforcement authorities as required under applicable Texas law. THSLL Member School Program participants should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

3.4 State Structure

Member Teams consist of Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams. The League is divided into Districts and Classes.

Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
North	North	North	North
Central	Central	Central	Central
South	South	South	South
	San Antonio	San Antonio	San Antonio

THSLL is made up of Member School Program teams that are In-Compliance with the League's school-based philosophy or On-A-Path-To-Compliance with the League's school-based philosophy through a Board agreed upon and approved Class Participation Plan with a timeline, waivers, expectations, and accountability checkpoints. Member teams must have bylaws, procedures, a designated head coach and president or athletic director, reasonable relations with their host school, and city / community support-

At Large Teams are THSLL Member School Program teams, either Class B, C, or D are designated as In-Development and are outside of Districts. At Large teams must have bylaws, procedures, a designated head

coach and president or athletic director, reasonable relations with their host school, and city / community support. At Large teams must have a Board agreed upon and approved Class Participation Plan with a timeline, waivers, expectations, and accountability checkpoints. At Large teams may compete to qualify for Post-Season Tournaments and State Championships, however, depending upon their proximity to THSLL teams, they may be required to play all away games THSLL schedules.

4.0 League Structure

4.1 Member Teams

The League shall be comprised of THSLL Member School Programs made up of one or more teams. THSLL Member School Programs shall include those organizations paying annual League dues to THSLL, and by their participation in the THSLL, players/parents, coaches, and administrators all agree to accept and abide by the current THSLL Rulebook and THSLL Board determinations and decisions as allowed for in the current TSLA, Inc. Bylaws and THSLL Rulebook. A team must be one of the types listed in the Team Types section. All such THSLL Member School Programs, (having paid all required League dues and assessments for, and during, the current THSLL season) will be declared "In Good Standing", will be entitled to vote at any THSLL Member School Program meeting, and will be entitled to participate in League events and play League games during the THSLL Season.

Each THSLL Member School Program team must submit annual dues payments to the Treasurer. If special dues assessments are required, they will be assessed and invoiced on a quarterly basis. THSLL Member School Program teams must submit special dues assessments payments to the Treasurer within 30 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay dues as per the Timetable (See Appendix B) will result in penalties as described in the Penalty Matrix (See Appendix B). The annual dues amount shall be established at the Annual Meeting of the THSLL Member School Programs. Special dues assessment amounts will be established based on the cost of required, ongoing legal fees generated in defense of the THSLL and the TSLA, Inc.

4.2 New Member Teams

New THSLL Member School Program team applications shall be made through the Commissioner, and shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting, a special meeting, or at a Board meeting. The application shall consist of a letter to the Commissioner detailing the new THSLL Member School Program team's startup plan and intentions. The Board will vote to approve or deny membership to the THSLL. New THSLL Member School Program teams will be designated as Class D teams New THSLL Member School Program teams with only a JV team will still be designated as a Class D JV team New THSLL Member School Program teams must follow THSLL rules immediately upon acceptance into the THSLL and must receive Board approved waivers in writing at the time of acceptance for any exceptions.

4.3 Classes and Districts

4.3.1 Class Structure

The League shall be divided into Classes governed by all General Rules outlined herein. The Board will complete an annual evaluation of teams against the Board developed and managed Class Participation / Competition Criteria for use in making these determinations.

4.3.2 Sub-Classes

Classes may be further divided into Sub-Divisions based on the level of competitiveness of teams. Each District, with Board approval, will determine which teams participate in a Sub-Division. The Board will

complete an annual evaluation of teams against the Board developed and managed Class Participation/Competition Criteria for use in making these determinations.

4.3.3 Classes

Classes within the THSLL were created to accommodate developing JV and Varsity THSLL Member School Programs teams, to alleviate scheduling issues, and to create a tier of competition appropriate for such teams. Each Class by District, with Board approval, shall determine the participation process for Class and District by teams. When, and if, to add a new team shall be a Class by District decision and require Board approval. The Board will complete an annual evaluation of teams against the Board developed and managed Class Participation/Competition Criteria for use in making Class Participation determinations. Teams meeting the minimum suggested Class Participation/Competition Criteria should automatically qualify for District and Class participation. Minimum suggested criteria are as follows: To be defined as part of the Class Participation / Competition Criteria.

4.3.4 Districts

Each Class shall be divided into Districts based on factors such as geography, size, and competition. Districts may be further divided into Conferences.

4.3.5 Authority

Each Class and District, with Board approval, also has the authority to establish supplemental rules governing their Class and/or District according to the process defined in Section 5 and Section 6.

4.4 Member Meetings

4.4.1 Annual Meetings

The THSLL will host an Annual Meeting in September or October. These annual meetings will be general meetings and open for the transaction of any League business as specified in the notice of the meeting. Annual meetings may be held in person or electronically at the discretion of the THSLL Board.

4.4.2 Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the THSLL Member School Programs may be held at such time and place, by electronic or other means as may be determined by the Commissioner. No business other than that specified in the notice of the meeting will be transacted at any such meeting.

4.4.3 Notice

Notice of the Annual Meeting or special meetings of THSLL Member School Programs shall be provided by the Board of Directors to each THSLL Member School Program not less than fifteen (15) nor more than fifty (50) days prior to such meeting. Such notice shall state the purpose for which the meeting is called and the time and place where it is to be held, and the proposed agenda.

4.4.4 Quorum – League Play

The presence of 51% of the active, annual fee-paying THSLL Member School Programs, In Good Standing, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the THSLL Member School Programs related to League play, League preseason and postseason events, and directly related activities of the League, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules. Voting matters related to these topics will require a 51% majority vote of all THSLL Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, for adoption. Each THSLL Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

4.4.5 Quorum – League Structure

The presence of 67% of the active, annual fee-paying THSLL Member School Programs, In Good Standing, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the THSLL Member School Programs related to League structure and directly related rules, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules. Voting matters related to these topics will require a **67%** majority vote of all THSLL Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, for adoption. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

4.4.6 Proxy Representation at Meetings

A THSLL Member School Program may designate another THSLL Member School Program to vote on their behalf at any meeting. Proxy authorizations must be submitted in writing to the State Administrator prior to the start of any meeting. The proxy authorization (See Appendix C) must be signed by an authorized representative of the THSLL Member School Program.

4.5 Rule Making

The General Rules of the League shall define the structure of the League, shall define and govern League play, shall define and govern League preseason and postseason events, and shall define and govern any and all directly related activities of the League.

4.5.1 League Structure

The General Rules related to League structure and directly related rules may be revised or amended at any meeting of the THSLL Member School Programs in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 with a 67% super majority vote of all the active, annual fee-paying THSLL Member School Programs, In Good Standing, in person or by proxy. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

THSLL Member School Programs submitting General Rule change proposals related to League structure to be considered at the THSLL State Meeting are required to provide a detailed proposal using the THSLL Rule Change form. Supporting documentation, a signed petition, and/or written acknowledgements demonstrating support by at least 20% of the THSLL Member School Programs, of which 50% must be from outside the submitting THSLL Member School Program's District, must be submitted.

4.5.2 League Play

The General Rules related to League play, League preseason and postseason events, and any and all directly related activities of the League may be revised or amended at any meeting of the THSLL Member School Programs in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 with a 51% majority vote of all of the active, annual fee-paying THSLL Member School Programs, In Good Standing, in person or by proxy. Each THSLL Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

THSLL Member School Programs submitting General Rule change proposals related to League play to be considered at the THSLL State Meeting are required to provide a detailed proposal using the THSLL Rule Change form. Supporting documentation, a signed petition, and/or written acknowledgements demonstrating support by at least 20% of the THSLL Member School Programs, of which 50% must be from outside the submitting THSLL Member School Program's District, must be submitted.

4.5.3 TSLA Bylaws

The Board, according to the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws, Section 3.2: General Powers, has final authority on League Rules related to League play and structure. If rule changes are proposed by THSLL Member

School Programs and in the majority opinion of the Board are in direct conflict with the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws and THSLL Rulebook, the Board may at its option exercise these powers.

TSLA, Inc. Bylaws, Section 3.2. General Powers. The government of the Corporation, the direction and management of its affairs, and the control of its property, shall be vested in the Board, which may exercise all such powers of the Corporation and do all such lawful acts and things as provided by statute or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, including, without limitation, the promulgation of League and Class rules, the appointment of committees or task forces, and the delegation of such management authority to the THSLL Member School Programs or otherwise.

4.6 Dues & Information

Each THSLL Member School Program team must submit annual dues payments to the Treasurer. If special dues assessments are required, they will be assessed and invoiced on a quarterly basis. Assessed THSLL Member School Program teams must submit special dues assessments payments to the Treasurer within 30 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay dues as per the Timetable (See Appendix C) will result in penalties as described in the Penalty Matrix (See Appendix C). The annual dues amount shall be established at the Annual Meeting of the THSLL Member School Programs. Special dues assessment amounts will be established by the THSLL Board based on the cost of required, ongoing legal fees generated in defense of the THSLL and the TSLA, Inc.

4.7 Enforcement of THSLL Rules

The Commissioner shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of THSLL rules. Such penalties may be assessed against a Member School Program, Member Team, Member Program Coach, any THSLL Member School participant, an individual player or all four, and may include but shall not be limited to expulsion, suspension, probation and/or forfeiture of games, and may also include the performance of remedial actions such as letters of apology or attendance at training events in lieu of such action by the Commissioner. A Member School Program and/or team, participant, or player may appeal the penalty to the Board by written submission, to be considered by the Board at its next regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose by the Commissioner. Upon any such appeal, the Board may modify or overturn the penalty or remedy instituted by the Commissioner by a majority vote of all members of the THSLL Board.

4.8 Rule Governance process

The Commissioner shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of THSLL rules, and inappropriate actions and lack of appropriate actions related to THSLL rules and/or THSLL participants' disputes and/or legal challenges. Such penalties may be assessed against a Member School Program, Member Team, a Member School Program participant, an individual player(s) or all four, hereinafter referred to as "THSLL Participants", and may include but shall not be limited to expulsion, suspension, probation and/or forfeiture of games, and/or in the form of annual and/or special assessments, and may also include the performance of remedial actions such as letters of apology or attendance at training events in lieu of such action by the Commissioner. A THSLL Participant may appeal the penalty to the THSLL Board by written submission, within 30 days of the Commissioner's decision, to be considered by the THSLL Board at its next regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose by the Commissioner. Upon any such appeal, the THSLL Board may modify or overturn the penalty or remedy instituted by the Commissioner by a majority vote of the THSLL Board.

It is the intention of the THSLL Board to act expeditiously, fairly, and consistently on all violations of THSLL rules, and/or on THSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges, through a thorough and consistent process with clearly articulated roles and expectations. This process, the THSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process, hereinafter referred to as the "Governance Process", begins with clear ownership of the fact-finding and investigation into suspected rules violations, and/or on THSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges. The guiding principles for THSLL are the presumption of innocence, that being THSLL

Participants are innocent until proven guilty, and taking into consideration what is in the best interests of the THSLL high school lacrosse player(s) involved when making decisions about their health, welfare, and general well-being. These guiding principles are relevant and applicable to this Governance Process.

The Coordinator for the Class and District in which the suspected rules violation(s), and/or THSLL Participants' dispute and/or legal challenge occurred is the owner of the governance process, and will be accountable to the Commissioner and the THSLL Board for all actions towards resolution of the rules violation, and/or THSLL Participants' disputes and/or legal challenges, including the pro-active investigation, proposed penalties, and communication with the involved THSLL Participants before, during, and after the Governance Process. In the event of a conflict of interest, or at the discretion of the Commissioner based on the severity of the matter, the Commissioner may ask the coordinator to recuse him or herself and will appoint another Coordinator to act as the Governance Process owner. The THSLL Coordinator, the THSLL Board, and the Commissioner are all THSLL Participants in the Governance Process.

The coordinator assigned to the matter will be responsible for all communications and interaction with all involved THSLL Participants relating to the Governance Process. The suspected rules violation, complaint, and/or dispute and/or legal challenge must be submitted in writing to establish a written record, and point of origin, of the complaint, suspected rules violation, and/or dispute and/or legal challenge, and to initiate the Governance Process. This process step will help to minimize "he said, she said" or gossip, the chance of possible unfounded accusations receiving serious consideration, threatened legal action and/or litigation, and from having major time and emotional impacts on any and/or all THSLL participants. If the THSLL Board is initiating the Governance Process, a written record of that fact will be established including the reason(s) for taking such action.

From that point, the assigned Coordinator will determine who is to be contacted, when, and how, and what the course of action is regarding the suspected rules violation, and/or dispute and/or legal challenge. The coordinator will determine who the involved THSLL Participants should be based on the issue, the perceived severity of the issue, and the circumstances surrounding it as understood at the time the THSLL Board decides to initiate the Governance Process. If the Coordinator, and/or the Commissioner, believes the matter is politically sensitive, he or she may seek counsel from the THSLL Board on the investigation and the resulting Governance Process. If the Coordinator determines there is a clear rules violation, and no additional investigation or follow up is required, the coordinator may take action as defined in the THSLL Rulebook and will ensure the THSLL Participants provide the signed THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017.

From the beginning and throughout the Governance Process, including any assessment of any penalties and beyond, confidentiality is a foundation principle that cannot be compromised by any THSLL Participant involved in the Governance Process. All THSLL Participants are expected to maintain confidentiality and allow the process to follow its course. An individual when contacted by the coordinator regarding a suspected rules violation, and/or THSLL Participants' dispute and/or legal challenge, immediately becomes a possible THSLL Participant in the Governance Process. As a result, the THSLL Participant must agree to sign and be bound by an MNDA relating to the matter, if there are to be further discussions with that individual about the matter. If the individual refuses to sign the MNDA, the Coordinator will immediately cease discussions with this individual regarding the matter. No THSLL Participant is to disclose any information or discuss any aspect of the matter with anyone who has not signed the MNDA. The coordinator will provide a list of the THSLL Participants who have signed the MDNA so there is no confusion about who can share information with whom related to the matter.

Signing the MNDA means that the individual agrees to become a THSLL Participant in the Governance Process and is then responsible for keeping the matter confidential and not talking to anyone about it unless instructed to do so in writing by the coordinator and/or the THSLL Board. This protects the THSLL Participants in the event the matter was to escalate to threatened legal action and/or litigation by any THSLL Participant.

Any breach in confidentiality by any THSLL Participant will be dealt with in writing by the THSLL Board swiftly and may include penalties for such actions.

The coordinator will be the investigator in the Governance Process and will decide who is to be contacted and when based on the severity and scope of the suspected rules violation, and/or THSLL Participants' dispute and/or legal challenge, and the extent of the investigation that will occur. The coordinator will communicate the Governance Process, the investigation plan, and the timeline to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, as appropriate, and make it clear that no one other than the Coordinator will be investigating the matter and/or making contact with individuals to determine if any inappropriate behavior has occurred, and/or inappropriate actions have been taken. The written agreement provided by the Coordinator to the THSLL Participants will become a part of the MNDA. Any THSLL Participant acting in an investigative capacity outside of the Coordinator and/or discussing the investigation and/or Governance Process with other THSLL Participants or other individuals outside of the governance process will be subject to penalties for such actions.

The coordinator will have two weeks to complete the fact-finding and investigation and to report the findings to the THSLL Board along with a recommendation for resolution, including any penalties and/or warnings. In the event circumstances call for an extended investigation, the coordinator will communicate that in writing to the THSLL Board and to the involved THSLL Participants. In the event the findings do not support any further action; the coordinator will inform the involved THSLL Participants and the investigation will be closed.

During the Governance Process, it is expected that the coordinator will interact with Member School Programs, Member Teams, and possibly players and parents, to determine the facts, to investigate the situation, and to come to a conclusion as to what may or may not have occurred. The THSLL Board is sensitive to the fact THSLL Participants may have mixed emotions about what is going on and that during these kinds of matters emotions are high. All Governance Process contact will be done using the MDNA and be done through the THSLL Board and Coordinator, and all THSLL leadership will do their best to minimize the inconvenience and emotions throughout the Governance Process, however, this is a shared responsibility as everyone involved has a role in managing expectations and emotions in a difficult process.

Once the initial findings are determined, the coordinator will communicate with the THSLL Board and with the involved THSLL Participants in writing regarding his or her findings. If there is a need for clarification or further investigation based on that initial fact-finding and communication, the Coordinator and the Commissioner will determine the appropriate course of action and establish a plan and timeline.

Once the Coordinator has made a determination that sufficient information is available to make a recommendation to the THSLL Board on the matter, he or she will do so in writing followed by a presentation at a THSLL Board meeting or special meeting. The THSLL Board may ask for additional due diligence or may decide there is enough information to make a ruling. If the ruling is no action, that communication will be passed along to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, the ruling will become a part of the THSLL Board meeting minutes, and the matter will be closed. If the ruling is some form of penalty for a Member School Program, Member School Team, or individual player(s), the THSLL Board will charge the coordinator with communicating that to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, the ruling will become part of the THSLL Board meeting minutes, and the matter will be closed. If the matter is of such a nature that it should be held in confidence between the THSLL Participants, that will be noted in the THSLL Board meeting minutes, will be communicated to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, will become part of the THSLL Board meeting minutes, and the matter will be closed.

The THSLL Board will determine the appropriate action, and the THSLL Commissioner will carry out those actions with the involved THSLL Participants. In the event the involved THSLL Participants wish to appeal the decision of the THSLL Commissioner, they may do so through the process outlined in the first paragraph of this section. It should be noted that the entire Governance Process is covered by the MNDA, which the THSLL Participants agree to by participating in the THSLL and signing the MNDA.

The Commissioner and the THSLL Board have as their number one priority and goal in this Governance Process to protect the health, welfare, and general well-being of the involved THSLL high school player(s), and other THSLL Participants through the presumption of innocence, and fair play. Beyond that the Commissioner and THSLL Board will endeavor to treat everyone involved with respect and to minimize the inconvenience associated with the Governance Process. We would ask that all the involved THSLL Participants endeavor to do the same. IF everyone involved, the THSLL Participants, in the Governance Process agree in advance to do what is in the best interests of the THSLL player(s) involved as THSLL Participants, and to accept those decisions, then the outcomes will be fair and reasonable.

The MDNA Form can be downloaded from the THSLL Website.

5.0 Eligibility

Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, enrolled as a full-time day student in high school and having not graduated from high school are eligible to play on a THSLL Member School Program team. Students enrolled in 12th grade are not eligible to play in Junior Varsity games.

The connection between the school the student athlete attends, and the THSLL Member School Program team for which the player is eligible to play is firmly engrained in the THSLL Guiding Principles. The THSLL was founded on the principle that students who attend the same school must play on the same team. This is consistent with the approach used by UIL recognized sports. This concept of school-based teams is repeatedly referenced in THSLL rules, and further clarified in 5.0 eligibility.

It is the responsibility of each THSLL Member School Program to see that student athletes do not compete unless they comply with all THSLL eligibility rules. It is also the responsibility of the student athlete and their family to observe and obey the THSLL rules according to the current THSLL Rulebook.

According to THSLL rules, students are eligible to represent their THSLL Member School Program in THSLL activities during the THSLL Season (as defined in Appendix C of the THSLL Rulebook) if they have not graduated from high school, are full-time, day students in the school, and have been in regular attendance at the school since the 6th class day of the present school year, or have been in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition, or are home schooled, are in compliance with state law and rules of the Commissioner of Education, (see TEA-UIL Side by Side) are enrolled in a four-year, normal program of high school courses, and initially enrolled in the 9th grade not more than 4 years ago nor in the 10th grade not more than 3 years ago, or are home schooled, are not in violation of any THSLL rule, meet the specific eligibility requirements for their THSLL Member School Program, are less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the THSLL Season or have been granted eligibility based on a disability that delayed their education by at least one year, live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance, have not moved or changed schools for athletic purposes, and were eligible according to the district fifteen-day rule and residence rule prior to district certification

THSLL eligibility rules support the THSLL Member School Program driven philosophy of school-based lacrosse. The THSLL Member School Program a student plays for is determined based on THSLL priority order – school, attendance zone, independent school district, and then adjacent independent school district and is determined in the sequence below:

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD. To arrive at a student's THSLL Member School Program based on THSLL eligibility, the paragraphs below must be considered from content and context perspectives collectively and in sequence.

"Closest" here will be defined as the nearest travel distance in miles using Google Maps, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student's home or school he attends to the THSLL Member School Program (school address). Once he makes the one-time decision, he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 5.1 to 5.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 5.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

First: A student who attends a private school or who is homeschooled with no THSLL Member School Program and lives in an attendance zone of a THSLL Member School Program can make a one-time decision to play for that program. If the Program does not allow it then the student can make a one-time decision to play for the second "Closest" THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the private school he attends, within that independent school district.

SECOND: A student who does not attend a school in and does not live in the attendance zone of a school with a THSLL Member School Program but lives in an independent school district or attends a school in an independent school district with a THSLL Member School Program, must play for the "Closest" THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends, that will accept him, within that independent school district.

THIRD: A student who lives in or attends a school in an independent school district that does not have any THSLL Member School Programs must play for the "Closest" THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends.

5.1 Class Participation

Class participation is determined by the established matrix from the State and League Structure (Sections 3.0 and 4.0) with Coaches' Advisory Committee participation and Board approval. Each THSLL Member School Program team will have a Board agreed upon and Class Participation Plan with a timeline, waivers, expectations, and accountability checkpoints.

If a THSLL Member School Program team changes classes, any player on their THSLL Member School Program team's valid, approved roster from the prior THSLL Season will be allowed to continue with the same THSLL Member School Program team until they have exhausted their four-year high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 5.1 to 5.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 5.0 Eligibility to determine his THSLL Member School Program team.

Incoming freshmen to the THSLL Member School Program team that changed classes are also allowed to continue with the same THSLL Member School Program team for their four-year high school eligibility unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 5.1 to 5.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 5.0 Eligibility to determine his THSLL Member School Program team.

Any exceptions to this Class Participation rule must have been considered and approved by the Board at the time of the class change and included in the THSLL Member School Program team's Class Participation Plan.

5.2 New Team Formation

When a new THSLL Member School Program team is formed, incoming freshmen, and existing players that were on the valid, approved roster for the THSLL Member School Program team affected by the new THSLL Member School Program team formation are granted a one-time decision to remain with that THSLL Member School Program team or move to the new THSLL Member School Program team at the time of formation. Once that decision is made, the student remains with their THSLL Member School Program team of choice for the remainder of their four-year high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 5.1 to 5.8 one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 5.0 Eligibility to determine his THSLL Member School Program team.

5.3 ISD Action

In the event of independent school district action (reorganization and/or changes to attendance zones/boundaries), and that action affects one or more existing THSLL Member School Program teams from an eligibility perspective, the THSLL Member School Program team will be protected (current valid, approved roster, incoming freshmen, and current eighth graders), inclusive of and considering Board approved waivers.

If during this two-THSLL Season protection period, additional independent school district action affects one or more of the previously affected THSLL Member School Program teams from an eligibility perspective, the Board will consider those circumstances as separate events.

5.4 District Eligibility Committee

The District Coordinators for a District may appoint an eligibility committee to make recommendations to the District Coordinators regarding eligibility rules and related processes. These eligibility committees are not involved in Board eligibility decisions and communications with affected students and THSLL Member School Program teams.

5.5 Time of Eligibility

The attendance of a student's first high school class determines the start of his THSLL eligibility, his THSLL Primary Member School Program Eligibility, and his THSLL primary family residence. Students (players) have a total of four (4) seasons of THSLL eligibility during high school. The District Coordinator and Commissioner will determine if a player is eligible. A student's Primary Member School Program Eligibility is determined by the THSLL eligibility rules that were in effect at the time of their initial THSLL eligibility determination.

5.6 Switching Program Enrollment

A transfer is a student who moves to another THSLL Member School Program team after establishing Primary Eligibility (see Time of Eligibility). Players who switch enrollment between THSLL Member School Program teams while the THSLL Season is underway, must notify their District Coordinator in writing and must wait two (2) weeks after the change of enrollment notification before participating in THSLL sanctioned events and League games.

5.7 JV Transfers

A transfer student is eligible for THSLL JV events and games when the student's family moves their primary residence, and/or changes the student's school attendance, and provides a signed Verification of Enrollment (VOE) and a ratified signed property rental or purchase agreement, and he complies with all other THSLL rule provisions.

5.8 Varsity Transfers

A transfer student is eligible for THSLL Varsity events and games when the student's family moves their primary residence, and/or changes the student's school attendance, and provides a Verification of Enrollment (VOE) and a ratified signed property rental or purchase agreement, and he complies with all other THSLL rule provisions.

5.9 Non-Compliance

A transfer student that does not comply with all eligibility provisions will be deemed ineligible to play in THSLL sanctioned events and League games. A transfer student that does not comply with other provisions required for switching THSLL Member School Program team enrollment will be ineligible for one calendar year of THSLL Varsity or JV events and games.

5.10 Hardship

Waivers regarding Varsity and/or JV transferring enrollment will be considered for financial hardship, divorce, and distance/safety reasons, and private school curriculum challenges.

A student seeking to change THSLL Member School Programs based on extreme hardship may seek a hardship waiver of the eligibility requirements. A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, and unavoidable condition or event that causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his family. A hardship may include, but is not limited to, financial hardship, divorce, or curriculum challenges.

To be eligible for a hardship waiver the THSLL Member School Program requesting the waiver on behalf of the student must provide the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017 completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian describing the facts and circumstances that give rise to the hardship. The THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017 must be accompanied by documented proof of the hardship circumstance, and all facts to be considered must be submitted at the time of request.

For example, if the reason for the hardship waiver request is divorce, a copy of the final decree of divorce should be submitted with the sworn statement. A copy of the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017 and supporting documentation must be provided to the Member School Program where the student is currently eligible and to the Member School Program where the student seeks to transfer.

Any information provided by a student or the student's family to support a hardship waiver request is confidential and should be disclosed only to those THSLL Member School Program officers or board members necessary to evaluate the request (along with the signed THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017) and should not be disclosed to any third party (whether an individual, corporation, or other entity) without prior written consent of the student's family. If the THSLL Member School Program where the student seeks to transfer accepts or allows the request, the Member School Program shall provide the waiver request form, along with the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017 and supporting documentation, to the THSLL Board for consideration.

A copy of the waiver request form should also be provided to the THSLL Member School Program where the student currently has eligibility at the same time as the waiver request form is provided to the THSLL Board. If the THSLL Member School Program where the student has current eligibility objects to the requested hardship waiver request for any reason, it must provide a written explanation of the basis for the objection and provide any documentation or information necessary to substantiate the objection to the THSLL Board within 30 days after the date the Member School Program received notice of the waiver request from the other THSLL Member School Program. Hardship waiver request shall be considered by the THSLL Board as outlined in rule 5.9 herein.

5.11 Cuts

A Cut/Released player is a student athlete in good standing for the current THSLL Season and is not subject to any current disciplinary actions by his current THSLL Member Team and/or the League as defined in THSLL 11.0 Improper Behavior. The player has been formally Cut/Released from his THSLL Member Team by a written release signed by the Head Coach. A Cut/Released player will be allowed to play for another THSLL Member School Program as per THSLL 8.0 Eligibility guidelines, subject to Board approval.

5.12 Varsity Head Coach's Son Transfer

The son of a THSLL Member School Program Varsity Head Coach may make a one-time decision to play for the THSLL Member School Program his father coaches versus the THSLL Member School Program he is required to play for based on the THSLL 5.0 Eligibility Rule. Once that decision is made, the student athlete must play for that THSLL Member School Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 5.1 to 5.8. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 5.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

5.13 Eighth Grade Players

Players enrolled in the eighth grade are not eligible to play in THSLL sanctioned events and League games. Players in the eighth grade, subject to the approval of the appropriate District Coordinator and Commissioner, may be a member of a THSLL JV Team or new Member Team for practice purposes only and are subject to all of the same rules determining the appropriate Member School Program for which to play as players enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). If a Member Team plays eighth graders in THSLL sanctioned events and League games, the Member Team will be suspended from THSLL for the remainder of the season, and the THSLL future member status will be reviewed.

5.14 Dual Class Programs

Member School Programs with more than one Member Team may compete in both Class A and Class B Classes during a single THSLL season provided that all rules governing Dual-Class Programs have been met. A newly formed Team must apply for membership as required of all new Member Teams by the General League Rules. Players from a Dual Class Junior Varsity Team may play on either the Class A or B Team within the Member School Program. Once a JV player plays on the Class A Varsity team in a THSLL game, he may not play on the Class B Varsity team for the remainder of the season, including post season games. He may not play on the Class B Varsity team as a swing player.

Prior to playing League games or as otherwise required by the District Coordinator, the roster for each Member Team must be submitted to the State Administrator. The District Coordinator will make these rosters available to any Coach or designated Member Team Representative. The Class A and Class B teams will have separate rosters which are not interchangeable.

5.15 Exceptions to Eligibility Rules

Any exceptions to these eligibility rules must be approved in writing by the Board. A Member School Program or player may appeal the decision of the Board to the Commissioner, by sending a written request for a determination to the Commissioner within thirty days after being notified of the Board's decision through the District Coordinator. Such request shall include all information sent with the original waiver request, and any additional information or statement that the Member School Program or player wishes the Commissioner to consider. The ruling of the Commissioner shall be final on all such eligibility matters.

Exceptions to THSLL Eligibility 5.0 rules require formal written THSLL Waiver Requests generated by a THSLL Member School Program. THSLL Waiver Requests cannot be generated and/or submitted by parents of players. THSLL Waivers submitted by the deadline (see Timetable) are considered for the upcoming THSLL Season, and if granted, and the submitting Program is requesting a multiple year waiver, must be revisited annually by the THSLL Board, including consideration for any eligibility status changes.

A THSLL Waiver Request from a THSLL Member School program must be accompanied by a THSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017 (see 22.0 THSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process) signed by the parents of the player(s) involved in the THSLL Waiver Request, and the representatives from the THSLL Member School Program making the request. These affidavits are acceptance by the parents and the THSLL Member School Program submitting the THSLL Waiver Request that they are subject to Deposition and/or Discovery requirements if disputes, legal challenges, and/or litigation arise as a result the THSLL Waiver Request.

The THSLL Member School Program(s) affected by the THSLL Waiver Request, after signing the THSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017, will receive copies of the THSLL Waiver Request and subsequent information.

THSLL Waiver Requests are considered and must be approved by a majority of the THSLL Board, and determinations/decisions are communicated back to the initiating THSLL Member School Program and the

affected THSLL Member School Program(s) in writing. THSLL eligibility determinations/decisions are final, and can be appealed by the THSLL Member School Program submitting a THSLL Waiver Request, or by the affected THSLL Member School Program(s) to the THSLL Commissioner by the appeal process outlined in the THSLL Rulebook

If an appeal is submitted, the affected THSLL Member School Program(s) will receive a copy of the appeal, and the resulting decision, assuming they have signed the THSLL Rules Enforcement & Governance Process Affidavit & Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (MDNA) v1.0_2017.

Decisions by the THSLL Commissioner on appeals are final, unless a majority of the THSLL Board votes to override the decision by the process outlined in the THSLL Rulebook. The THSLL does not govern lacrosse activities other than those associated with the THSLL Season as defined in Appendix C. Consequently, those lacrosse activities cannot be used to justify or dispute THSLL eligibility.

THSLL 5.0 Eligibility rules are not subject to interpretation by considering one rule or combinations of rules without regard for the school-based lacrosse philosophy of the THSLL and totality of the THSLL rules. A Board majority decision is required for THSLL Member School Programs and their players/parents on all THSLL eligibility matters, including requests and conflicts.

All player eligibility is subject to annual review by the THSLL Board according to the timeline and required actions in Appendix C.

The one-time decision rule in the THSLL 5.0 Eligibility rules on remaining eligibility are subject to review and change as per 5.0 Eligibility if a player's eligibility circumstances change according to 5.0-5.8.

Legal challenges to the TSLA, Inc. and THSLL are proceedings against the THSLL Member School Programs themselves, as the THSLL is a non-profit, voluntary membership association. Any legal fees, costs, or expenses required to defend the THSLL or TSLA, Inc. from any claims, demands or litigation, must be passed along to the THSLL Membership School Programs in the form of annual dues and/or special assessments. THSLL and TSLA, Inc., at their sole discretion, may elect to assess any such legal fees, costs and expenses between THSLL Member School Programs as is deemed equitable considering the reason THSLL/TSLA, Inc. was required to incur the legal fees, costs and expenses. If a THSLL Member School Program initiates legal action against THSLL or TSLA, Inc., or involves THSLL or TSLA, Inc. in any legal proceedings between THSLL Member School Programs, THSLL and TSLA, Inc. has the express right to suspend or terminate the THSLL Member School Program's participation in THSLL events. Additionally, any THSLL Member School Program which asserts legal claims or litigation against another THSLL Member School Program which requires THSLL or TSLA, Inc. to incur legal fees, costs and expenses shall indemnify the THSLL and TSLA, Inc. including the THSLL current and former Board Members, Directors and Officers from all attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses incurred as a result of the litigation.

5.16 THSLL League Eligibility Waiver for 2023 and 2024

Teams that fall below the required Team Participation % have a choice between one of the two options:

1. The THSLL program can remain in their current class and Team Participation%, participate in District Games within their Class and District, but will be ineligible for State Playoffs.

Or

2. The THSLL program can move up to the next THSLL Class and remain eligible for State Playoffs for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

The deadline for teams to make this choice is November 1, 2022.

In consideration for playing in Class A (highest competition), teams that are not compliant with the Team Participation% will be waived for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

New teams that are within the first five years of participating in the THSLL can remain in their existing Class and are eligible for THSLL State playoff events.

If approved, this waiver will expire at the end of the 2024 season. The THSLL Coaches can vote again to either renew the waiver, allow it to expire or implement something else.

The THSLL Board reserves the right to revoke this waiver to any team that benefits from this waiver and creates a competitive disadvantage to teams within their competitive Class.

6.0 General Rules

6.1 Coaches

All Member Teams must have a designated full-time coach. All THSLL coaches are required to be active members of U.S. Lacrosse and comply with the then current THSLL Rulebook, and the THSLL Code of Conduct (See section 9.2). All Member Team (home Team) coaches are to submit game reports including the official game score via the THSLL website within 48 hours of the end of the game. These reports post the scores and report critical referee ratings to the league.

6.1.1 Background Check Policy

THSLL Member School Programs are responsible for their coaches. The Board strongly recommends that each Member School Program run a background check on all coaches.

6.1.2 Other Responsibilities

NCAA Rulebook_Rule 2-5/Game Personnel/Home Coach's Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the home coach to see that the playing field is in proper condition for play; that a timekeeper and scorer are on hand with working equipment required; that balls and ball retrievers (or balls on the end line) are provided; and that the assigning authority has received timely, accurate and adequate information so that officials will be on hand for the game.

When a contest is played at a neutral site, one team must be designated as the home team. This shall be done in writing, before the day of the game. The designated team and its coach assume all the responsibilities of the home team as outlined in the rules.

6.2 THSLL Code of Conduct

THSLL Member School Program Leadership & Coaches are in positions of leadership that present opportunities to leave lasting impressions on their players; therefore, it is in the best interest of THSLL that there be a uniform code of conduct that our coaches are required to follow at all times during the THSLL Season, and while participating in and/or attending any THSLL sanctioned event and/or game.

6.2.1 The role of a THSLL Member School Program Leader

All THSLL Member School Program Leadership must keep in mind that they are representing themselves, their Teams, and their Member School Programs at all times. Their words and actions, including social media posts and other forms of online communications, come under close scrutiny from students, parents, faculty and the community, and will reflect positively or negatively on them, their Team, and their Member School Program.

All THSLL Member School Program Leadership must keep in mind that they are representatives of the THSLL and responsible for providing a safe and positive environment for all their players' physical, emotional, and social development and ensuring they promote an environment free from discrimination, abuse, and misconduct. The THSLL has ZERO TOLERANCE for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct including, but not limited to, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Bullying, Threats, Harassment, and Hazing, and they are held to a high standard in ensuring that this commitment is upheld for all THSLL participants.

6.2.2 The Role of a Coach

Coaches are entrusted with a great responsibility every time a contest begins. Our professional and moral responsibility is to provide THSLL participants quality coaching and a sense of safety and fair play at every THSLL contest.

Sensible, organized competition under proper control provides benefits for THSLL participants. Anything other than that only dramatizes coaches and distracts from the focus and purpose of high school athletics.

All THSLL coaches must keep in mind that they are representing themselves, their Teams, and their Member School Programs at all times. A coach's words and actions, including social media posts and other forms of online communications, come under close scrutiny from students, parents, faculty and the community, and will reflect positively or negatively on them, their Team, and the Member School Program.

All THSLL coaches must keep in mind that they are representatives of the THSLL and responsible for providing a safe and positive environment for all their players' physical, emotional, and social development and ensuring they promote an environment free from discrimination, abuse, and misconduct. The THSLL has ZERO TOLERANCE for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct including, but not limited to, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Bullying, Threats, Harassment, and Hazing, and they are held to a high standard in ensuring that this commitment is upheld for all THSLL participants.

There are two documents that outline the expectations of lacrosse coaches. These include the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rulebook Rule 2-4 and THSLL rulebook section 6.5 Improper Behavior

6.2.3 Reporting Procedures

Every THSLL unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, incident, or ejection report shall be in writing and sent to the District Coordinator by the local LOA Assignor/Head Official after the particular game. The District Coordinator will forward the report to the appropriate members of the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee, and the respective offending Program President/Athletic Director.

To report the incident, give brief but concise information. The incident report should be brief and concise including date, time, place and individuals involved. Events leading up to the incidents as well as the actual incident and any follow-up actions are essential. This report should be detailed enough to give someone who was not present a clear picture of the incident.

6.2.4 League Actions

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

1. Receives 1 in one game: will be reported to the Coordinator and be subject to a potential reprimand from THSLL after a report is made to the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee.

2. Receives 2 in one game: The coach and Member School Program President/Athletic Director will meet with the Coordinator. The Coach may miss the next scheduled THSLL game defined as a game on the THSLL schedule at the time the incident occurred, and the game cannot be scheduled after the incident.
3. Any coach that has an accumulation of 4 USCs in THSLL games, will serve a one game suspension for the next scheduled THSLL game as defined as a game on the THSLL schedule at the time of the 4th USC. USCs reset after the game suspension.

A coach who is ejected from a game may be suspended pending an expedient review by the District Coordinator

An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, and must be supervised by the Member Team program. An ejected individual, who is serving his one game suspension, cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline. or anywhere in the spectator area.

A coach who is ejected may not coach remotely via electronics.

A coach will receive a reprimand if he/she does not control the team. Upon a second notification, a coach may receive a game suspension. Lack of control can include, but is not limited to, a fight, a bench-clearing brawl, or repeated occurrences of excessive penalties. The explanation of such events by the following will be considered by the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee:

- The game officials
- The coach
- His Member School Program President/Athletic Director.

The above in no way limits the ability of the THSLL Board of Directors to act in what it perceives to be in the best interests of the League.

6.3 Insurance

All Member Teams must carry comprehensive liability insurance. Member Teams will not be allowed to participate in THSLL activities without appropriate liability insurance. Each Member Team must provide a Certificate of Insurance to the State Administrator prior to participation in any THSLL activity.

6.4 Team Site Administrator Role

Each Member Team shall have at least one person designated as a Site Administrator (for both home and away games). Site Administrators must wear the THSLL Site Administrator badge at home and away games and introduce themselves to the other Team's site administrator.

The home Team Site Administrator shall be the governing Site Administrator. The function of this role is to address any crowd control, security and/or medical issues. The Site Administrator should be familiar with and know how to implement any emergency plan or procedures that may be required or set by their school or Member School Program. This person is also the contact for any last-minute or emergency issues concerning the game itself. This person should carry a mobile phone to the field so that they can make or receive any emergency contacts.

The Home Team Site Administrator and Away Team Site Administrator must greet the referees as they arrive to the field to discuss any issues and check in with the table 10 minutes prior to game. The Home Site Administrator or designated security is responsible for escorting officials off the field at the end of the game. The Site Administrators should walk through the fan area throughout the game.

6.5 Improper Behavior

Egregious behavior (abusive, profane, or violent) by THSLL administrators, representatives, coaches, players, or fans that is not in keeping with the League's Guiding Principles, safety, and/or sportsmanship and code of conduct may result in such administrator, representative, coach, player or fan being suspended or expelled from the League and/or prohibited from attending League functions. This includes behavior and/or actions not in conformance with the Purpose of the Texas High School Lacrosse League as stipulated in the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws and/or current THSLL Rulebook.

Suspension and/or expulsion determinations will result from THSLL Board of Director investigations into alleged improper behavior and/or actions and subsequent follow-up discussions with both THSLL Member School Programs' leadership and LOA leadership. This process covers any alleged improper behavior and/or actions deemed by the THSLL Board of Directors not to be in conformance with the purpose and principles of the Texas High School Lacrosse League as stipulated in the current THSLL Rulebook, the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws, and the current NCAA Rulebook.

Repeat occurrences with no noted change of behavior and/or actions can be cause for expulsion. The THSLL Board of Directors will make all suspension and/or expulsion determinations. The parties affected by the determinations will have the right to appeal THSLL Board of Directors' determinations to the THSLL Commissioner, who will have the final say by decision on the appeals.

The NCAA Lacrosse Rulebook, the THSLL Rulebook, and the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws do not have specific "defenseless player" language or rules around it in them. For THSLL safety and sportsmanship reasons, the THSLL has instructed the officials to manage this through the definitions and interpretations in the NCAA rules around egregious and vicious hits and associated penalties as appropriate in individual THSLL game situations.

A player ejected from a game due to Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Targeting the Head/Neck, or Unnecessary Roughness, and/or any combination of these fouls that lead to Fouling Out (five accumulated penalty minutes in a THSLL game for Personal Fouls), will serve a one game suspension. The game suspension served will be the next scheduled game on the THSLL website at the time of the ejection.

A player who plays on both JV and Varsity will serve the THSLL game suspension in the next THSLL Varsity game he is eligible to play in on the schedule. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the THSLL season, or the final THSLL Post Season game, the player will serve the game suspension in the first scheduled THSLL District game the following THSLL season.

An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, or spectator area, and must be supervised by the THSLL Member School Program's leadership.

6.6 Medical Emergency Plan

Each Member Team will have and be prepared to implement an emergency plan as described with the following requirements. The home Team will have an emergency plan on file with THSLL.

1. The home Team must provide immediate, on the spot, first aid by a licensed athletic trainer, team physician or health care professional (hereinafter referred to as "Trainer"). THSLL games will not be played without a Trainer on the sidelines.

2. Prior to the start of any contest, the Home Team Site Administrator shall be identified, in person, to the Officials as part of field preparations.
3. Prior to the start of any contest the Home Team Trainer shall be identified, in person, to the Table personnel. If the home Team fails to provide a Trainer due to extenuating circumstances, the game may be rescheduled. If the home Team trainer is delayed, this will result in a 30 second conduct foul, delay of game. If the Home Team Trainer is not present within 5 minutes of game start, the Home Team will be assessed an additional 30 second conduct foul. If the Trainer is not present within 15 minutes the game may be cancelled and the Home Team is responsible for payment of the officials. If the game is rescheduled, the conduct penalties will carry over to the rescheduled game.
4. The Emergency plan must include procedures for:
 - a. A telephone or other communication device to contact a doctor, ambulance or emergency clinic.
 - b. A designated emergency vehicle. If an ambulance is not available, another suitable vehicle should be available for quick utilization.
 - c. Notification of parents of injured player.
 - d. Proper arrangements at a hospital or clinic to insure complete care of the player.
 - e. The medical emergency plan will be the responsibility of the home Team site administrator and may be requested at any time by a game official. The site administrator will brief the visiting team on any unusual specifics of the emergency plan prior to the beginning of each game.
5. Lightning Policy: THSLL recommends Member Teams use lightning detection meters and follow the UIL Policy.

6.7 Referees

During the THSLL season, all games shall be officiated as assigned through the established League scheduling process and as described in agreements with approved League officials. Except for District and Class Championship games so designated by the Board, payment of official's fees shall be the sole responsibility of each Member Team. Failure to pay official's fees may result in forfeiture of League games.

6.7.1 Rainout Procedures

Weather-related game-day cancellations/suspensions should be made by a phone call and email to the regional LOA Referee assigned to work the game and the THSLL Administrator at least four hours prior to game time.

Game fees and administrative charges for weather-related game-day cancellations/suspensions shall be paid as follows:

- A. More than four (4) hours prior to game start time= No game fees incurred. No travel fees incurred. No administrative fees incurred. This is a simple "rainout" scenario, which does not incur any costs if the required actions are taken in time.
- B. Four (4) hours or less prior to game start time= 100% of each official's highest game fee that was cancelled/suspended. Thus, each official will receive only one game fee (no travel fees though).
- C. If more than one game was affected for the affected officiating crew, each official will be paid for only one game, which is the game with the highest game fee for that official.

- D. Even if officials have arrived at the playing facility or begun to travel to the game, no travel fees are permitted for weather-related cancellations/suspensions, regardless of the timing. A game must have commenced for travel and game fees to kick in.

6.7.2 Referee Ratings

Official ratings are obtained during the coach's game report submittal process. These ratings are pivotal to the league working with LOA to convey coaches' concerns and are used in assigning officials for post-season.

6.8 Rules of Play

Games will be played in accordance with all NCAA lacrosse rules, with waivers approved at the THSLL Annual Meeting of Member Teams. Waivers are listed in Appendix A.

6.8.1 Non-THSLL Member Team Play

During the THSLL season through and including the date(s) of the State Championships, no THSLL Member Team shall play, including scrimmages, a non-THSLL team without the prior written consent of the THSLL Board. Violators of this rule may be subject to sanctions, to include, but not limited to, game forfeiture, ineligibility for Playoffs and State Championships, and coach and/or Team probation or suspension.

6.9 Mandatory Games / Game Play

Each District will determine the requirement for mandatory games.

6.9.1 Games Played

At the beginning of every THSLL season, each District and Class i.e., North Class B) along with their District Class Coordinator decides the number of and format for their required season games. These games must be designated as their appropriate District game types (ex-Class B District) at the time they are scheduled. These will be considered the "count" games towards the District standings. Each Team is required to play the same number of District ("count") games.

6.9.2 Allowable Games

During the THSLL season, Member Teams will schedule all games within Texas according to the game types described elsewhere in this document. They will be scheduled through the approved League scheduling process and in conjunction with agreements between the League and approved officials. Opponents may only be other THSLL Member Teams or out-of-state "guest" teams otherwise considered sanctioned by the League's representative through the approved scheduling process. All allowable games count in a Member School Program's overall record.

Scrimmages of all forms are not 'allowed games' and may not be reported as such to any entity. Any scrimmage played during the THSLL season will be considered a situational practice and does not result in a final score regardless of the presence of officials.

6.10 Tie Breaking

Seeding for post-season activities will be determined using the following procedures.

- A district game is defined in the schedule with a game type of “District”. District teams may play each other more than once, but only games designated as “District” on the schedule will count towards seeding.
- Seeding is calculated by the number of wins against teams in the same Class, District (North, South, etc.), and conference (East, West, etc.).
- Teams will be sorted by wins in descending order.
- A tie will not count towards a win or a loss.
- Forfeited games result in a winning score of 1-0 with the win being given to the team not initiating the forfeit. BoD reserves the right to adjust forfeited game scores or alternative method in extreme cases.
- All district games must be played. Any district games not completed by the deadline will be given a 0-1 loss for both teams. *BoD reserves the right to adjust as needed in extreme cases.*
- The top X¹ teams will be selected in descending order starting with the most wins.

¹The number of teams being seeded may be different between districts. The number of teams selected is decided pre-season during the district breakout sessions.

6.10.1 Tie Breaking Procedures

In every situation possible, head-to-head results are primary.

- a) The tied teams will be placed in a subgroup. The process outlined in steps 1 through 4 in b) below will be utilized for each seeding position. In a Multi-way tie, the process will first determine the highest seed in question and then be repeated again for the next seed and continue until all tied teams are seeded.
- b) The following steps are used, in order, to break ties for each seeding position:
 1. The highest seed is determined by District wins against Teams within the subgroup.
 2. If a tie remains after step 1, teams will be ranked by Head-to-Head competition within the subgroup. In the event of a Three-way tie within any subgroup; the selection will also be based on a head-to-head comparison.
 3. If all of the Teams have one win over the other teams in the tie (Team A has defeated team B, team B has defeated team C, and team C has defeated Team A etc.) then the selection shall be based on the difference in scores between those three games:
 - i) The winner will receive a plus for each goal above the goals by the other team, and the loser will receive a minus for each goal below the goals for the other team.

For example – Team A defeated team B by the score of 8 to 5, team A would receive a plus 3 and Team B would receive a minus 3.
 - ii) The difference in goals for the remaining two games (B Vs C and C Vs A) would be calculated likewise, and the Team with the largest positive value would be selected.
 4. Should step 3 not break the three-way tie, there will be a coin flip. All 3 head coaches meet, and coins will be flipped. They flip and odd side out wins. The remaining two go back to step 1.
- c) Once steps 1 through 4 have been completed, there will be one clear winner from the subgroup. If two teams remain tied, steps 1 through 4 are used to break the remaining tie. If more than two teams remain, steps 1 through 4 are used to identify one clear winner per iteration until all ties are resolved.
- d) To seed any remaining tied teams, the tiebreaker process will be repeated recreating the subgroup with the remaining teams.

For example, there is a three-way tie to determine the #3 and #4 slots in a district. Team A, B, and C are all in a three-way tie each having one win over the other. We calculate the point differential for the three teams. Team A has -2, Team B has 5, and team C has 4. Since Team B has the highest differential, they are awarded the #3 slot. The three-way tie is used to solve for one slot and then the process is repeated for #4. The two remaining teams have the same record, but Team A has the head-to-head tie breaker over Team C. So, Team A is awarded the #4 slot.

A three-way tie differential will not be used to award more than one slot at a time.

6.11 Team Sideline Policy

The field and all limit lines should be marked in accordance with the NCAA rulebook. All spectators shall be on the opposite side of the field from the team benches. The team box should contain a maximum of 4 coaches in the coaching box in front of the players. 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the sidelines behind the players. Only players in uniform may be on the sidelines, non-participating players must wear game jerseys. 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the team side, but not in the team box.

1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the team side, but not in the team box.

The score table shall not contain more than 5 people, including 3 from the home Team and 2 from the visitors' team. The home Team is the official scorekeeper, game timer, and penalty timer at the score table. The visiting team has a scorekeeper and assistant at the score table. The home Team site administrator has full access to the facility and should have communication with the score table.

It is the responsibility of the home Team and home Team site administrator to manage this policy. The home Team and away Team site administrators must check in with the score table and officials and wear the site administrator identifying badges.

The delayed start of a game due to the field not being ready for play, at the contracted starting time or failure of the home Team Site Administrator to introduce himself/herself to the Officials, will subject the home Team to a technical foul (6-6q) with the in-home serving 30 seconds and the ball awarded to the visitor to start the game.

6.12 Use of Technology

6.12.1 Coach to Player Communication

Teams and coaches may not use any form of electronic communications with players in accordance with NCAA Lacrosse Rule Section 7-A.

6.12.2 Coach to Press Box Coach Communication

Some field locations contain football headsets for communication with the press-box. Coaches may use EXISTING communication headsets if provided by the facility to communicate with coaches in the press box provided both teams cannot hear each other. This is only allowed if the same communication method is available to both the home and away teams. If the offer is presented to the away team, the away team can choose to use the communication or not. If the offer has been made to the away team, the home team shall be allowed to use the communication regardless if the away team elected to use the communication.

6.12.3 Coach to Coach/Fan/Scout Communication

Coaches may communicate with additional team personnel (not players) present in the stands or press box via non-facility provided communication methods. (Cell phone, 2-way radio, etc.). Because the

communication device is not part of the facility, there is no requirement to offer the technology to the other team.

6.12.4 Remote Control Flying Camera

The use of remote-controlled flying cameras (i.e. drone, helicopter, etc.) is prohibited during THSLL events.

6.13 Post Season Summary

Subject to THSLL Eligibility Rules, Class A teams with 100% of their players from their THSLL Member School Program’s single school attendance zone, inclusive of and considering Board approved eligibility waivers, and Class B, C, and D teams with 70% or more of their players from their THSLL Member School Program’s single school attendance zone, inclusive of and considering Board approved eligibility waivers, are eligible to participate in State Championships. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved in writing by the Board.

6.14 Post-Season Venue Standards

The THSLL asks member programs to host Super Regionals, Regionals, and State Championship and Semi-Finals. If interested, the requirements for a hosting venue can be obtained by contacting the state administrator.

6.15 Player Honors - THSLL Awards Distribution

At the conclusion of the regular season, each district and class will select All-State, All-District and Honorable Mentions awards per Table 1.

Table 1 THSLL Awards (not including At Large Positions)

Class A (All State, All District & HM)	Class B (All State, All District & HM)	Class C (All State, All District & HM)	Class D (All State, & All District)
(3) Attack	(3) Attack	(3) Attack	(3) Attack
(3) Defense	(3) Defense	(3) Defense	(3) Defense
(3) Midfield	(3) Midfield	(3) Midfield	(3) Midfield
(1) Goalie	(1) Goalie	(1) Goalie	(1) Goalie
(1) Long Stick Midfield	(1) Long Stick Midfield	(1) Long Stick Midfield	(1) Long Stick Midfield
(1) Faceoff	(1) Faceoff	(1) Faceoff	(1) Faceoff
(1) Short Stick Defensive Midfield			

Players must receive All State to be eligible for All American.

6.16 THSLL Awards

6.16.1 Head Coach of the Year

This award honors those coaches who exemplify the ideals of the game within the THSLL. These awards are intended to recognize the individuals overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins — although they may be considered.

Each District (Central, North, San Antonio and South) shall select an honoree during their respective District THSLL Awards Selection Meeting at the conclusion of the THSLL season. These honorees will automatically be candidates for the Texas Area US Lacrosse Head Coach of the Year to be voted on by the Texas Area All-American Selection Committee.

Criteria for consideration:

- This award is only available to Varsity Head Coaches
- The winner must be a member in good standing with US Lacrosse
- Nominees must always demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field.
- Nominees must demonstrate excellent rapport with officials, other coaches, and his or her own players at all times.
- Co-Varsity coaches from an area will not be recognized.

6.17 Commissioner's Award

These awards honor-THSLL players who exemplify the ideals of sportsmanship, competition, and character both on and off the field, and shall be selected by the THSLL Commissioner. Any senior player in the THSLL is eligible. These awards are strictly THSLL awards and are not affiliated with US Lacrosse. These awards may be handed out at select time and may not be awarded every year.

The THSLL Drew Webb and Earl Bill Commissioner Awards are given at the discretion of the Commissioner and are not necessarily annual awards.

6.17.1 Voting Process

- Nominations for each of the District level awards are submitted to the League Administrator per the timeline.
- League Administrator submits to each District Coordinator the nominations for their District
- Nominations are presented to the District Coordinators for each Class per the timeline.
- The District Coordinators meet and select the awardees
- Any tie-breaker necessary within a District would be broken by the District Coordinator
- The THSLL League Administrator will immediately notify the THSLL Board of the awardees and publish their names to the league website.

6.18 All-Americans

Each year, US Lacrosse informs the THSLL of the number of High School All-Americans it may award. US Lacrosse All-Americans are the best players from their area. They exhibit superior skills and techniques, possess exceptional game sense and knowledge, and embody good sportsmanship.

6.18.1 Area Chair Roles and Responsibilities:

- Chairs shall support and encourage US Lacrosse membership and be supportive of the US Lacrosse mission and vision.
- Chairs shall be a current or former interscholastic coach or administrator within the area they are serving.
- Chairs shall represent and serve as the liaison for their coaching organization to US Lacrosse.
- Chairs shall administer and oversee the awards process for their area. This includes:
 - A. Complete the annual Contact and Allotment Form.
 - B. Compile and submit to US Lacrosse the list of ALL High School Varsity and approved Scholastic Club Head Coaches within their area via the electronic process.
 - C. Communicate with all head coaches concerning the deadlines and procedures for the awards process.
 - D. Distribute a ballot to all eligible head coaches in an area on all the awards, prior to the meeting where voting will take place.
 - E. Maintain the confidentiality of the awards process and final results.
 - F. Distribute awards to recipients in a timely manner

- G. If needed, Chairs are encouraged to contact US Lacrosse for guidance with extenuating circumstances.
- H. Distribute all communication from US Lacrosse Staff or the Men's and Women's Coaches Subcommittees.
- Chairs should attend the annual US Lacrosse National Convention or participate in a USL Webinar for the Recognition Chairs at a minimum once during their tenure.

7.0 Super Regionals and State Championship

7.1 THSLL Class AA and A Playoff Format

THSLL Class AA and A Playoff Format, Coaches Playoff Selection Committee and Seeding Selection Criteria.

1. All Class A teams participate in THSLL post season playoffs.
2. The top eight Teams from Class A are selected for the Class AA THSLL State playoffs.
3. Teams not selected for the Class AA playoffs are eligible to participate in a 16 team Class A Super Regional playoff.
4. Central, North and South District A Champions automatically qualify for the Class AA Playoffs.
5. After the three District Champions, the remaining seeds for the Class AA playoffs are to be selected from five best remaining Class A teams, regardless of district.
6. A Coaches Playoff Selection Committee (Committee) will rank the top twelve teams in THSLL Class A. The Committee is to be formed by three Class A Coaches (South, North & Central) from teams out of contention for the AA Playoffs.
7. The ranking process shall rank the twelve teams from strongest team to weakest team. This includes District Champions, who are not guaranteed a top four seed position or home field advantage for the first round.
8. Each district shall nominate a coach to serve on the Committee no later than ten days before Super Regional weekend indicated the THSLL Timeline (Appendix J).
9. One THSLL Board member will chair the Committee and will serve as non-voting member unless there is a three-way tie, in which that case the THSLL Board member will place the tiebreaker vote.
10. The Committee members shall impartially select the best and most deserving teams to participate in and shall put aside home district considerations.
11. The Team selections must be decided upon no later than the Sunday before Super Regional weekend.
12. Lax Numbers or other quantitative team ranking systems can be used for informational purposes during the evaluation process, however the Committee is not obligated to rigidly conform to the systems ranking. Coaches Playoff Selection Committee will provide feedback to the THSLL on ways the ranking system can be improved to meet eventual ranking criteria to be approved and voted on by the League Coaches.
13. District Ranking - Each district is required to rank each team before the Coaches Playoff Selection Committee meeting. The Committee will evaluate a team's performance against the other teams within the district.
14. Teams that participate in inter-district games will be more strongly considered during this process, even if the result of these games were a loss or losses, than a team who did not participate in inter-district

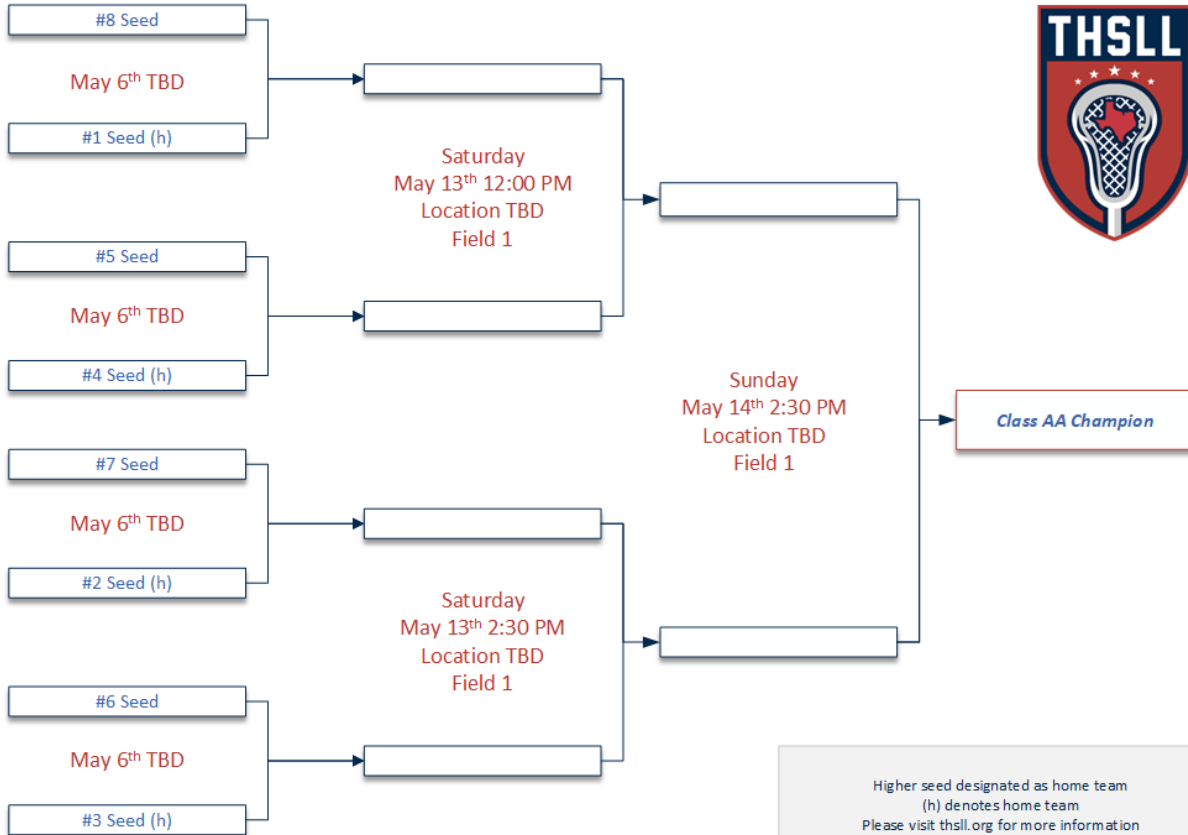
games. Inter-district games against more difficult opponents will carry more weight than games against weaker opponents.

15. Inter-district games will be used to evaluate how a team would fit into the top 1-12 ranking. The Committee will evaluate a team’s performance against inter-district opponents to evaluate how a team might perform against other teams being considered for the top twelve spots.
16. Team ranked 9-12 will be the top four seeds (1-4) for the Class A Super Regionals
17. Coaches committee will also provide guidance on seeding teams 5-16 for Class A Super Regionals. Some seeds may be selected based on limiting travel, keeping a Super Regional host team within their own district or other considerations.
18. The THSLL reserves the right to seed or reseed a Class A Playoff team who hosts a Super Regional Class A playoff to ensure their team remains at home for the Super Regional playoffs.
19. The top four seeds in Class AA will host the bottom four seeds in the first round (see bracket).
20. Class AA and Class A Playoff Teams will not be reseeded for subsequent playoff rounds.
21. The Class AA & A Championships and Class A Super Regional locations will be located as follows

Year	Class AA & Class A State Championship Location	Class A Super Regional 1 Location	Class A Super Regional 2 Location
2023	North	Central or South	Central or South
2024	South	Central or North	Central or North
2025	Central	North or South	North or South
2026	North	Central or South	Central or South

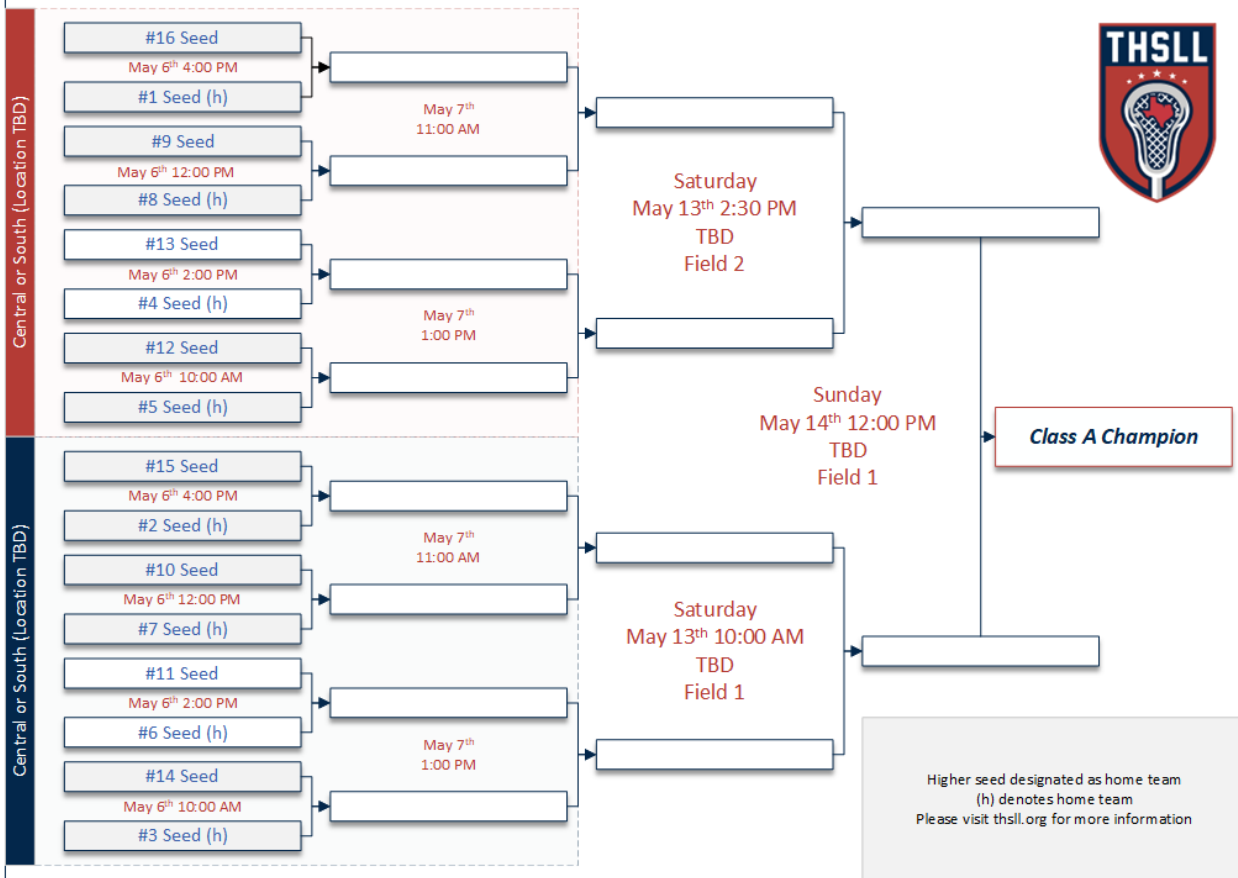
22. Teams seeded will advance per the “THSLL AA Super Regional” and “THSLL A Super Regional” brackets below and will not be reseeded in subsequent rounds.

THSSL Class AA 2023 Championship



Higher seed designated as home team
(h) denotes home team
Please visit thsll.org for more information

THSSL Class A 2023 Championship



7.2 7.2 Class B Playoff Format

16 Teams from Class B are to be selected for THSLL State Playoffs and will split into two Super Regional events to be played on Super Regional weekend established in Appendix B League Timeline.

Teams from Central, North and South advance based on an allocation percentage based on the number of teams within the district divided by the total number of Class B teams.

2023 Class B Allocation

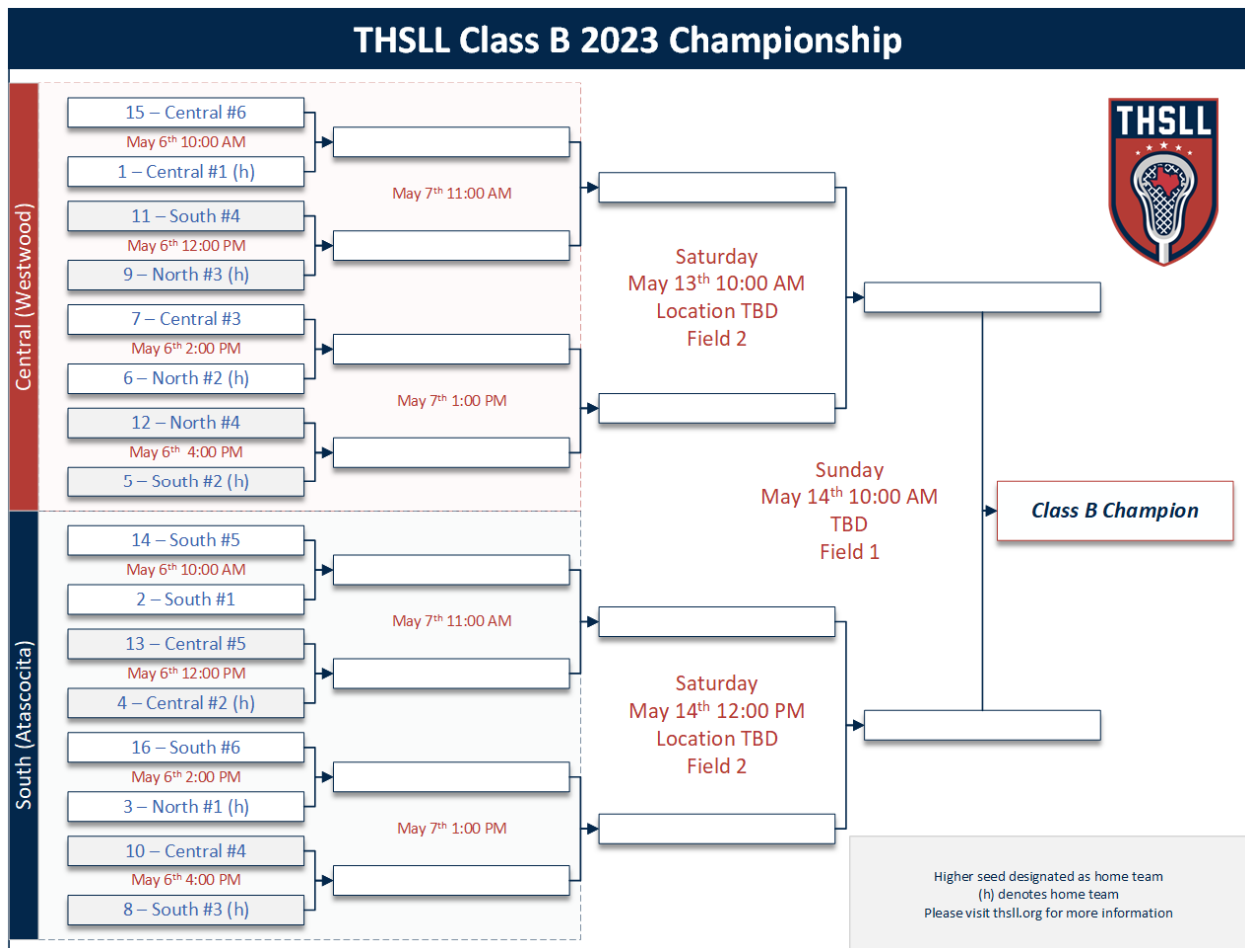
	# Teams	Eligible Teams	% of Teams	Slots on %	Final Slots
North	7	6	27.27%	4.36	4
Central	8	8	36.36%	5.82	6
South	9	8	36.36%	5.82	6
San Antonio	0	0	0.00%	0	0
		22	100.00%		16

	2022	2023	2024	Matchups	
State Location	Central	North	South	Super 1	Super 2
Slot A	South	Central	North	1	14
Slot B	North	South	Central	15	2
Slot C	Central	North	South		
Seed	2022	2023	2021	11	13
1	South 1	Central 1	North 1	9	4
2	North 1	South 1	Central 1		
3	Central 1	North 1	South 1	7	16
4	South 2	Central 2	North 2	6	3
5	North 2	South 2	Central 2		
6	Central 2	North 2	South 2	12	10
7	South 3	Central 3	North 3	5	8
8	North 3	South 3	Central 3		
9	Central 3	North 3	South 3		
10	South 4	Central 4	North 4		
11	North 4	South 4	Central 4		
12	Central 4	North 4	South 4		
13	South 5	Central 5	North 5		
14	North 5	South 5	Central 5		
15	South 6	Central 6	South 5		
16	North 6	South 6	TBD		

1. A district with a Calculated Allocation with a modulus (or remainder) <.5 will have the District Allocation rounded down to the nearest whole number. Example: In the sample Calculation, Central's Calculated Allocation of 4.307 is rounded down to 4 playoff teams.

- A district with a Calculated Allocation with a modulus $\geq .5$ will have the District Allocation rounded up to the nearest whole number. Example: In the sample calculation, North's Calculated Allocation 4.92 with the allocation rounded up to 5 playoff teams.
- If this process results in a total District Playoff Team Allocation greater than 16, the district with the lowest modulus $\geq .5$ will have their allocation reduced to bring the total to 16 teams.
- If two districts have identical Calculated Allocations, the two lowest seeded teams with these districts will schedule a play in game to participate in the Super Regional. The team with the higher district winning percentage will host.
- Districts will submit their final District seedings to the League by 6:00 pm Sunday before the Super Regionals.
- Class B District Playoff Teams Allocations will be based on the total number of teams within the District at the "Beginning of Season" date established in Appendix B.

Teams seeded will advance per the "THSLL B Super Regional" brackets below and will not be reseeded in subsequent rounds.



7.3 Class C Playoff Format

1. Eight Teams from Class C are to be selected for THSLL State Playoffs to be played at single site during Super Regional weekend established in Appendix B League Timeline.
2. The top two seeds from the Central, North, San Antonio and South Districts will participate.
3. If a district team does from the scheduled hosting district does not volunteer to host the Super Regional, the League reserves the right to place the event at THSLL program outside of the scheduled Class C Super Regional location.
4. A,B,C,D will rotate per the Class C Rotation Schedule

	A	B	C	D
2022	South	North	San Antonio	Central
2023	Central	South	North	San Antonio
2024	San Antonio	Central	South	North
2025	North	San Antonio	Central	South

5. Teams seeded will advance per the “THSLL C Super Regional” bracket below and will not be reseeded in subsequent rounds.



7.4 Class D Playoff Format

- Four Teams from Class D are to be selected for THSLL State Playoffs to be played during Super Regional and Championship weekends established in Appendix B League Timeline.
- The Central, North, San Antonio and South District Champions will participate.
- Seeds 1-4 will be slotted A-D based on the rotation below.

	2022	2023	2024
State Location	Central	North	South
Slot A	South	Central	North
Slot B	North	South	Central
Slot C	Central	North	South

- If a district does not have a Class D teams, the fourth seed will come from a Board Vote of the Class D #2 Seeds.
- The format will be A vs D and B vs C. Where A and B are the hosting home team.
- Teams seeded will advance per the “THSLL D Super Regional” bracket below and will not be reseeded in subsequent rounds.



8.0 State Championships

8.1 State Championship Rotation

The State Championship will rotate between the three districts with Class A teams with the following schedule.

2023	North
2024	South
2025	Central

8.2 State Championship Event Timing

The Class AA, A, B, C and D State Championships weekend shall be on or about the second weekend in May, as the Board shall determine. As this event is the highlight of the THSLL season it is imperative that the host Districts begin planning for the State Championship weekend as early as possible to ensure their success.

Appendix A – Rule Modifications and Waivers

The current valid NCAA Lacrosse Rulebook will be used unless a specific modification is listed on this sheet. Parentheses indicate the section of the NCAA Rulebook, which pertains to the modification.

PLAYING FIELD (1-2)

- Home Teams will make all possible efforts to provide a field which meets NCAA specifications as outlined in the section entitled “The Field”, (Rule 1-2 through 1-15). Local conditions may require field size modifications.
- A Unified field can be an alternative to NCAA field requirements. The Unified Field is defined as follows: Field Length- 120 yards, Midfield Area- 40 yards, Restraining Line to Goal Line- 25 yards, Goal Line to End Line – 15 yards, Goal Circle/Crease Radius- 9 feet, Width- 53 1/3 to 60 yards.
- Required field markings shall be the responsibility of the home team and every possible effort should be made to mark the field accordingly.
- Acceptable markings can be in the form of but not limited to paint, chalk, washable paint/chalk, tape, or any other removable material (ex: portable crease).
- No penalty shall be assessed for a home team unable to mark a turf playing field, as long as there are existing football markings, due to school or city guidelines.
- Additionally, it is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team of any known field issues within three days of the scheduled game date. Both coaches must agree on the field before the game can be played. If the visiting coach does not agree on the modified playing surface, it is the responsibility of both the home and away coaches to come to a compromise, reschedule, or change home/away status with the home team being responsible for official and venue expenses. Failure to do so should be reported in the game report to the local coordinator for escalation.

LIMIT LINES, SPECTATOR & MEDIA RESTRICTIONS

- Limit lines are not required; however, spectators and media are not allowed behind the end lines or immediately behind the bench or table areas.
- The Team benches and table are to be on the opposite side of the field from the spectators.
- If the home Team does not move the spectators or team benches to comply with this rule in a reasonable time (as determined by the officials), the home Team receives a non-releasable 3-minute penalty at the start of the game to be served by the in-home player.

TEAM SIDELINE POLICY

- The team box should contain a maximum of 4 coaches in the coaching box in front of the players.
- 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the team side, but not in the team box.
- Only players in uniform may be on the sidelines, non-participating players must wear game jerseys.
- The score table shall not contain more than 5-people, including 3 from the home Team and 2 from the visitors’ team. If the shot clock is run at the table, an additional home team person may sit at the score table to operate the shot clock.
- The Home Team is the official scorekeeper, spotter, game timer, and penalty timer. The Home Team site administrator has full access to the facility and should have communication with the score table.
- All spectators shall be on the opposite side of the field from the team benches.
- It is the responsibility of the home Team and home Team site administrator to manage the team sideline policy. It is at the discretion of the officials to assess any game-time penalties resulting from this policy.

LENGTH OF GAME (3-1)

The regulation playing time of a game shall be 48 minutes, divided into (4) 12-minute periods, JV games are (4) 10-minute periods.

NCAA 2023 Rules Waived:

Goal Mouth

Officials- 3 officials are not required for JV games.

Shot Clock- RULE 4- 15 is hereby waived or modified as follows:

- A. The home team should endeavor to maintain a visible shot clock(s) in accordance with Rule 15. A single shot clock is permissible. In the absence of a shot clock or functioning shot clock, the shot clock shall be managed in accordance with Rule 15(b) utilizing the procedures in Rules 2-12 and 4-15-a;
- B. All references to a 60 second reset of the shot clock shall be read as an 80 second reset of the shot clock. See Rule 4-15-a (1), (3), (5), (6), (7), 15-d. All shot clock resets will be to 80 seconds.

TRAINER

- THSLL games will not be played without a licensed athletic trainer, team physician or health care professional (hereinafter referred to as "Trainer") on the sidelines.
- Prior to the start of any contest, the Home Team Trainer shall be identified in person to the Table personnel. If the Home Team fails to provide a Trainer due to extenuating circumstances, the game may be rescheduled.
- If the Home Team trainer is delayed, this will result in a 30 second conduct foul, delay of game.
- If the Home Team trainer is not present within 5 minutes of game start, the Home Team will be assessed an additional 30 second conduct foul.
- If the Home Team trainer is not present within 15 minutes of game start, the game may be canceled, and the Home Team is responsible for payment of the officials. If the game is rescheduled, the conduct penalties will carry over to the rescheduled game.
- The Trainer will be considered a neutral participant and will provide medical care to players on both teams. The Trainer can be paid or a volunteer.
- Pre-game readiness (taping, etc.) of players is the responsibility of each team's coach and support staff.
- Visiting teams may waive assistance from the home Team trainer if they have their own adequately trained individual, but the team must notify the site administrator and home Team Trainer that they do not want assistance. This notification will waive responsibility for emergency medical care by the home Team Trainer provided, other than normal cooperation and assistance.

SITE ADMINISTRATOR

- The Home Team Site Administrator shall be identified, in person, to the Officials as part of field preparations.
- The delayed start of a game due to the field not being ready for play, at the contracted starting time or failure of the home Team Site Administrator to introduce himself/herself to the Officials, will subject the Home Team to a technical foul (6-6q) with the in-home serving 30 seconds and the ball awarded to the visitor to start the game.
- The Home Team and Away Team site administrator must check in with the score table, officials and wear the site administrator identifying badge.
- It is the responsibility of the Home Team and Home Team site administrator to manage the team sideline policy.

GAME BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

- If the game is stopped by officials for improper behavior on the field or in the stands, the officials will ask the on-site administrator or head coach to control or eject the offending fan from the premises.
- If the fan is not controlled, or does not leave the premises, the game will be stopped, and the offending team will lose the game.
- A player ejected from a game due to Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Targeting the Head/Neck, or Unnecessary Roughness, and/or any combination of these fouls that lead to Fouling Out (five accumulated penalty minutes in a THSLL game for Personal Fouls), will serve a one game suspension. The game suspension served will be the next scheduled game on the THSLL website at the time of the ejection.
- A player who plays on both JV and Varsity will serve the THSLL game suspension in the next THSLL Varsity game he is eligible to play in on the schedule. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the THSLL season, or the final THSLL Post Season game, the player will serve the game suspension in the first scheduled THSLL District game the following THSLL season.
- If player (s) is ejected from a THSLL game, the player must leave the site of the THSLL game. The player may not remain on the sideline or in the stands. It is up to the Head Coach to comply with these rules or his team will forfeit the game. (The team of the ejected player is responsible for supervising that player when needed.)
- If a player or coach receives 2 unsportsmanlike penalties in a game, the player or coach is automatically ejected from the current game and suspended from the next League game.
- A currently suspended or ejected player or coach cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, sightline or anywhere in the spectator and must be supervised by the Member Team Program's leadership.
- If a personal foul as per Section 11 EXPULSION FOULS occurs at the end of the last game of the THSLL season, as defined in Appendix J, so that the player incurring the foul does not serve penalty time, the penalty will carry over to the Team's next THSLL season game. If the player has graduated, the in-home shall serve the penalty.

UNIFORM LOGO

- A team's uniform may include one visible sponsorship mark or logo (the "Sponsorship Mark"). The Sponsorship Mark may be no larger than 9 square inches (3" x 3"). The Sponsorship Mark may be located on either (i) the front shoulder; or (ii) the sleeve of the jersey, or in the case of a sleeveless jersey or pinnie, on the sleeve of a shooter shirt. The Sponsorship Mark must be consistent for all players.
- The Sponsorship Mark is in addition to any jersey manufacturer trademark/logo (Nike Swoosh, Adidas stripes, etc.) made as part of the uniform. The Sponsorship Mark is in addition to any commemorative patch or stickers and in addition to the US or Texas flag made part of the uniform.
- The Sponsorship Mark may not promote an adult-oriented business or alcohol or tobacco.
- Any sponsor information or logo that is not visible during gameplay (such as on a shooter shirt covered by pads or a jersey) is permissible. The THSLL District Coordinator will approve the logo.

Appendix B – Season Timetable

District Meetings	September 6-19, 2022
State Meeting- Remote meeting	September 24, 2022
District deadline to submit District playoff format with dates	September 30, 2022
LOA invoices issued to Member Teams	November 1, 2022
THSLL invoices issued to Member Teams	November 1, 2022
Super Regionals and State Hosts Selected	December 2022
THSLL and LOA dues to THSLL Treasurer	December 1, 2022
Game schedules submitted	December 23, 2022
Last day to submit eligibility waivers if required for players or team. Waivers require a 2-week review.	January 5, 2023
Team Information due: Valid/Up to Date Rosters, Emergency Plan, Proof of Insurance	January 13, 2023
Beginning of THSLL season. Games may not be played before this date.	January 13, 2023
End of THSLL season. Games must be completed by end of day.	April 29, 2023
Districts to submit District Seedings with dates	April 30, 2023
Coaches' selection committee meeting for Class AA playoffs	April 30, 2023
All-State/All District Selection, District Wrap-up, Team Photo and Rosters due	Wednesday, May 3, 2023
All-State, All-District, Honorable Mention posted Wednesday 10 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 2023
AA/AAA nominations, supporting document deadline submission to District Area Chair	Contact Area Chair for deadline
Super Regionals in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio	May 6 & 7, 2023
State Championships	May 13 & 14, 2023 in Dallas
THSLL Executive Board Meeting	July 2023
2024 Season Rule Change Proposal Discussion Due	July 1, 2023

THSLL Required Information Penalty Matrix

Required Information	On Time Date	Penalty
LOA Dues	December 1, 2022	\$25 per week per Team (V or JV) until December 31, if still not paid games will not be assigned
THSLL Dues	December 1, 2022	\$25 per week per Team (V or if still not paid the Team is disqualified)
Initial Roster	January 13, 2023	\$100 per Team (V or JV)
Valid / Up-To-Date Roster	First District Game	Any District game played without a Valid / Up-To-Date Roster will be forfeited and \$100 per program.
Emergency Plan	January 13, 2023	No League game may be played without an Emergency Plan
Proof of Insurance	January 13, 2023	\$100 per Program; no League game may be played without a Valid Proof of Insurance

Appendix C – Additional Files/Information

TSLA/THSLL State Meeting Proxy Voting Form

(A proxy is a power of attorney given by one person to another to vote in his stead and it is also used to designate the person who holds the power of attorney.)

To State Administrator, THSLL

I, _____ hereby give _____

with Program _____ the authority to vote as my proxy at the THSLL State meeting on _____ on all matters that require a vote.

Absent Head Coach/Club President/Athletic Director:

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Program: _____

Title: _____

Attendee to vote as proxy:

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Program: _____

Season:

Rule Change Proposal Form

This is a New Rule:

This is a Rule Change:

This is a Rule Clarification:

If applicable enter the current rule number and wording here:

Proposed Rule:

Reason for Proposal:

Benefits of Proposed Rule:

-