

# TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE LEAGUE

## Rulebook

*Texas High School  
Lacrosse League*



# 2011

*Fourth Edition*

4.9

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## THSLL General Rules

### 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

## 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.

### 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.

### 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.
- 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.
- 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.)

### THSLL Member Teams

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

<b>DI</b>	<b>DII</b>	<b>DIII</b>
<b>North</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>North</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Central</b>
<b>South</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>South</b>
	<b>San Antonio</b>	<b>San Antonio</b>

Division I is made up of Member School Programs that are more established lacrosse programs and Teams. Division II is targeted at development of lacrosse programs. Division II Member School Programs generally have bylaws, procedures, a designated head coach and president, reasonable relations with their host school and/or city / community, and at least JV and Varsity high school Teams. Division III is made up of new or relatively new lacrosse Teams, still working towards critical mass of players, coaches, funding, fields, administrative support and school / city / community support.

### Definition of Terms

**Team** A group of lacrosse players within a THSLL Member School Program who pay THSLL dues and abide by the rules of THSLL. A Team must be one of the types listed in the Team Types section.

**Program** This is the High School or High School Club organization that is the controlling entity of a single Team or group of Teams that pay dues and abides by the rules of THSLL.

#### Team Types

##### DIII Team

- Generally a new Team

- Might not play a full schedule
- Can schedule a game with any THSLL Team that they feel they can match up with competitively
- Can have seniors on the Team but can't play the seniors against any JV Teams
- Seniors can play in games against Varsity or modified JV/Varsity Teams
- Pays DIII Varsity dues

#### **JV Team**

- Pays JV Dues
- Plays a JV schedule.

#### **DI or DII Varsity Team**

- Pays Varsity dues
- Plays a DI or DII Varsity schedule.

#### **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:

<b>JV</b>	All League JV games. These games do not include tournament games or games with non-THSLL teams. Varsity Teams in Programs without a JV Team may schedule and play a JV game with a JV Team, provided that no seniors play.
<b>DIII</b>	Games count toward THSLL season standings.
<b>DII District</b>	Division II 'count' League games, within the THSLL District. Games count towards District Playoff record.
<b>DI District</b>	Division I 'count' League games, within the THSLL District. Games count towards determination of District record. Best THSLL season District records determine District Champions.
<b>Non-District</b>	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.
<b>Out-of-State</b>	An out-of-state game is when a THSLL Team is hosting a "guest" team from outside of Texas or when a THSLL 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.
<b>District Playoffs</b>	District level Playoffs and Championship games.
<b>State Playoffs</b>	Division I State final twelve; Division II State final four; and Division I and Division II State Championship games. The Division I Playoffs are determined as described in Appendix H and N.

- Notes:**
- 1) Seniors are not allowed to play in JV games.
  - 2) JV games are 10-minute quarters.
  - 3) 8th graders are not allowed to play in any THSLL game as defined in Section 8.5
  - 4) Scrimmages and tournament games will not be listed on the District website schedules.

## General League Rules

### 1.0 Member Teams

The THSLL shall be comprised of Member School Programs made up of one or more Member Teams. Member School Programs shall include those organizations paying annual League dues to THSLL. All such Member School Programs, in good standing (having paid League dues for the current THSLL season), will be entitled to vote at any Member School Program meeting.

### 2.0 New Member Teams

New Member 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 that details the new Member Team's startup plan and intentions. Only Member Schools Programs in the Division or District for which THSLL Board nomination is being submitted will vote to approve or deny membership to THSLL Board nominee. New Member Teams must be prepared to be in compliance with THSLL rules immediately upon being voted into the League.

### 3.0 Divisions and Districts

#### 3.1 Divisions

The League shall be divided into Divisions governed by all General Rules outlined herein. Each District, with Board approval, will determine which Member Teams participate in a Division.

#### 3.2 Sub-Divisions

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

#### 3.3 Divisions

Divisions within the THSLL were created to accommodate developing JV and Varsity Member School Programs, to alleviate scheduling issues, and to create a tier of competition appropriate for such Programs. Each Division by District, with Board approval, shall determine the selection process for promoting a Member Team from Division III, to Division II, then ultimately to Division I. When, and if, to add a new Member Team shall be a Division by District decision, and require Board approval. Teams meeting the minimum suggested criteria should automatically qualify to move to Division I. Minimum suggested criteria for election from DII to DI are as follows:

1. Head Varsity Coach
2. Regular Practice Schedule
3. Field availability for games and practices
4. Feeder System-viable middle school program
5. High Degree of success within DII
6. Established and Active Booster Club or Association

#### 3.4 Districts

Each Division shall be divided into Districts.

#### 3.5 Authority

Each Division and District also has the authority to establish supplemental rules governing their Division and/or District according to the process defined in Section 5 and Section 6.

### 4.0 Championships

Subject to THSLL Eligibility Rules (Section 8.0), Division I Member Teams with 100% of their players from their Program's single school attendance zone, inclusive of and considering Board approved eligibility waivers, and Division II Member Teams with 50% or more of their players from their 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.

#### 4.1 District Championships

District champions for each Division and District shall be determined by each of the District Coordinators and the corresponding Division and District coaches (See Appendix H and Appendix I). District tournament hosts shall follow District Tournament Standards, (See Appendix G).

#### 4.2 State Championships

##### 4.2.1 DIII State Championships

- There will be no DIII State Playoffs or State Championship

##### 4.2.2 DI State Championship

- The Division I State Championship finalists will be determined through a 12 Team DI Playoff.
- Teams 1-4 will get first round byes.

- Two Super Regional Tournaments will be conducted on a Saturday and Sunday format.
- Super Regional Tournament locations will rotate annually (See Appendix N).
- The State Championship will follow on the next weekend with Semifinals on Saturday and Finals on Sunday.
- State Championship hosts shall follow Championship Tournament Standards, (See Appendix D).

#### 4.2.3 DII State Championship

- The Division II State Championship finalists shall be determined through a playoff format determined by each of the District Coordinators and the corresponding Division coaches.
- The final four Teams will be comprised of the champions of each District.
- Teams will be seeded by the DII Coordinators.
- Teams will be seeded so that Teams from the same District should not have to play each other in the semifinals.
- State Championship hosts shall follow Championship Tournament Standards, (See Appendix D).
- Semifinal Games – Saturday: #1 vs. #4; #2 vs. #3
- State Championship – Sunday

#### 4.3 State Championship Host District Venue

The combined DI and DII State Championship weekend host location shall rotate among the three DI Districts. This rotation of host Districts shall continue unless amended (See Appendix N).

#### 4.2 State Championship Event Timing

The Division I and Division II 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.

#### 4.3 Tie Breaker

For District and State Playoff purposes, tiebreaker rules shall be followed if required (See Appendix I).

### 5.0 Member Meetings

#### 5.1 Annual Meetings

The District hosting the State Championships in the upcoming season shall host the THSLL Annual Meeting of all Member School Programs. These annual meetings will be general meetings and open for the transaction of any League business as specified in the notice of the meeting.

#### 5.2 Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the 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.

#### 5.3 Notice

Notice of the Annual Meeting or special meetings of Member School Programs shall be provided by the Board of Directors to each Member School Program not less than fifteen (15) nor more than fifty (50) days prior to such meeting. Notice shall be sent to their last known address as it appears on the books or records of the League. 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.

#### 5.4 Quorum

The presence of 51% of the active, annual fee paying Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the 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 Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, for adoption. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

The presence of 67% of the active, annual fee paying Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the 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 Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, for adoption. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

#### 5.5 Proxy Representation at Meetings

A Member School Program may designate another 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 must be signed by an authorized representative of the Member School Program.



## 6.0 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.

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 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 person or by proxy. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

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

## 7.0 Dues & Information

Each Member Team must submit annual dues payments to the Treasurer. Failure to pay dues as per the Timetable (See Appendix J) will result in penalties as described in the Penalty Matrix (See Appendix J). The dues amount shall be established at the Annual Meeting of the Member School Programs.

Required Information: Member Teams are required to provide final valid Team rosters, an emergency plan, proof of insurance, Team contacts, THSLL season schedules, approved eligibility waivers, and coaches U.S. Lacrosse member numbers in accordance with the Timetable in Appendix J. Penalties will be assessed for non-compliance (See Appendix J).

## 8.0 Eligibility

Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to play on a THSLL Member School Program Varsity Team. Students enrolled in grades 9 through 11 are eligible to play on a THSLL Member School Program Junior Varsity Team.

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

**FIRST:** A student who attends a public or private school with a THSLL Member School Program must play for that Program.

A student enrolled in a home school or correspondence school is defined as a private school student for THSLL eligibility purposes, per 8.2, Home School.

A student who attends a private school with no THSLL Member School Program and lives in an attendance zone of a DI THSLL Member School Program can make a one-time decision to play for that DI Program, if the DI Program allows it. If the DI Program does not allow it then the student can make a one-time decision to play for the “Closest” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the private school he attends, within that independent school district. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or private school to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address), in that independent school district.

A student who attends a private school with no THSLL Member School Program and does not live in an attendance zone of a DI THSLL Member School Program can make a one-time decision to play for the “Closest” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the private school he attends, within that independent school district. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or private school to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address), in 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 that Program, if it is a DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program. If the independent school district has more than one THSLL Member School Program the student must play for the “Closest” DII or

DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends, within that independent school district. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility.

**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” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or school he attends to the DII or DIII 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.

**8.1 Matriculation**

If a Division II Member Team matriculates to Division I, any player on their Member School Programs’ valid, approved roster from the prior THSLL season will be allowed to continue with the same Member School Program until they have exhausted their four-year high school eligibility. Incoming freshmen to the Division II Member Team are also allowed to continue with the same Member School Program for their four-year high school eligibility.

If the newly matriculated Division I Member Team does not allow it, the student must play for the “Closest” DII/DIII Member School Program to the school he attends or to where he lives, within that independent school district. If there is not a DII/DIII Member School Program in that independent school district, then the student plays for the “Closest” DII/DIII Member School Program to the school he attends or to where he lives. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or school he attends to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address). Once that decision is made, the student remains with their Member Team of choice for the remainder of their four-year high school eligibility.

**8.2 New Team Formation**

When a new THSLL Member Team is formed, incoming freshmen, and existing players that were on the valid, approved roster for the DII or DIII Member School Program affected by the new Member Team formation are granted a one-time decision to remain with that Member Team or move to the new Member Team. Once that decision is made, the student remains with their Member Team of choice for the remainder of their four-year high school eligibility.

**8.3 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 Programs from an eligibility perspective, the THSLL Member School Program 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 Programs from an eligibility perspective, the Board will consider those circumstances as separate events.

**8.4 District Eligibility Committee**

The District Coordinators for a District may appoint an eligibility committee to make recommendations to the District Coordinators regarding eligibility questions.

**8.5 Home School**

A student enrolled in a home school or correspondence school is defined as a private school student for THSLL eligibility purposes, and must provide written notification of their academic status to the THSLL Board of Directors through their District Coordinator. The notification must include dates of enrollment, home address used for determining public school attendance zone, a copy of the THSLL Member School Program roster, and the signature of the parent or legal guardian. If the student was previously on a THSLL Member School Program roster, the notification should include the name of the THSLL Member School Program and dates the student played for the THSLL Member School Program.

**8.6 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.

**8.7 Switching Program Enrollment**

A transfer is a student who moves to another THSLL Member School Program after establishing Primary Eligibility (see Time of Eligibility). Players who switch enrollment between Member School Programs 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.

**8.7.1 JV Transfers:** A transfer student is eligible for THSLL JV sanctioned events and League games, JV games, and non-THSLL season League games when he complies with all other rule provisions.

- 8.7.2 Varsity Transfers: A Transfer student is eligible for THSLL Varsity events when the student's family moves their primary residence to a new school district and he complies with all other rule provisions.
- 8.7.3 Non-Compliance: A Transfer that does not comply with all eligibility provisions will be deemed ineligible to play in THSLL sanctioned events and League games. A Transfer that does not comply with other provisions required for switching Member School Program enrollment will be ineligible for one calendar year of THSLL Varsity events.
- 8.7.4 Hardship waivers regarding Varsity transferring enrollment will be considered for financial hardship, divorce and inability to handle private school curriculum.
- 8.7.5 Cuts: A Cut player is a student in "good standing" that has been released from a Division I Member Team. A Cut player will be allowed to play for the Closest Division II or Division III Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends, within that independent school district, provided that the player is accepted by the Member School Program

8.8 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).

8.9 Dual Division Programs

Member School Programs with more than one Member Team may compete in both DI and DII Divisions during a single THSLL season provided that all rules governing Dual-Division Programs have been met. A newly formed Team must apply for membership as required of all new Member Teams by the General League Rules.

- Prior to playing League games or as otherwise required by the District Coordinator, the roster for each Member Team must be submitted to the District Coordinator. All players must be placed on one of the Division Member Teams. Once declared, players may not be moved down between Division Member Teams. The District Coordinator will make these rosters available to any Coach or designated Member Team Representative.
- Players from a Junior Varsity Team may move to either a DI or a DII Team within the Member School Program. Players from a DII Varsity Team may move to a DI Team within the Member School Program. However, if a player is on the active roster for a Member Team in a League game, he will thereafter be declared a member of that Team and may not then be moved down to the other Division Team.
- Personnel associated with the Member Teams are responsible for promptly notifying the District Coordinator of any additions/changes to the Team rosters as they occur and prior to player activation on a Team within the Program.
- Dual Division Programs must have (and maintain at all times) DI, DII and JV rosters with 21 unique individuals on each roster.

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.

9.0 Coaches

All Member Teams must have a designated fulltime coach.

All THSLL coaches are required to be active members of U.S. Lacrosse, and comply with the THSLL Code of Conduct (See Appendix F).

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.

10.0 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 their District Coordinator prior to participation in any THSLL activity.

11.0 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 safety and/or sportsmanship principles 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.

A player who is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will serve a one game suspension. The game 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 suspension in the next Varsity game he is eligible to play in on the schedule. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the THSLL season, or post season, the player will serve the suspension in the first scheduled District game the following THSLL season.

No alcoholic beverages or any intoxicating substances or intoxicated individuals are allowed at any League functions. Punishments shall be decided by the Board, and may include sanctions, penalties, suspensions or expulsions of individuals, Teams, or Programs from the League or any combination of any of the foregoing.

#### 12.0 Scouting

Coaches of Member Teams may attend games between fellow Member Teams. Acceptable actions include scouting a future opponent by taking written or tape-recorded notes. No person with an affiliation of a Member Team is allowed to videotape a game in which said Member Team is not participating. This includes coaches, players, parents and/or outside commercial firms. Coaches may trade videotapes of their own games with one another for the purpose of scouting future opponents.

#### 13.0 Medical Emergency Plan

Each Member Team will have, and be prepared to implement, an emergency plan as described in Appendix E.

#### 14.0 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 Division 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. Rainout Procedures - Game Day cancellations should be made by a phone call to assignor and coaches. In the event games are cancelled less than two (2) hours prior to game time, Member Teams are responsible for paying officials for such scheduled games. If two (2) games are scheduled, the officials will be paid the higher of the fees. Officials will also be paid for suspended games.

#### 15.0 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.

##### 15.2 Non THSLL-Member 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.

#### 16.0 Mandatory Games

Each District will determine the requirement for mandatory games.

16.1 Games Played: At the beginning of every THSLL season, each District and Division (i.e. North DII) along with their District Division Coordinator; decides the number of and format for their required season games. These games must be designated as their appropriate District games types (ex DII 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.

16.2 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.

## 17.0 Player Honors

Each District awards All-State and All-District Honors within Divisions I and II. Each group includes thirteen (13) players, comprised of: three (3) attackmen, four (4) midfielders, one (1) face-off, one (1) longstick, three (3) defensemen, and one (1) goaltender. It is the responsibility of the Divisional District Coordinator to inform the appropriate person in the Host District of the State Championships (DI or DII), and the Commissioner, immediately of the honored players indicating: name, position, Team, grade, mailing address, and telephone number.

### 17.1 THSLL Awards

#### 17.1.1 Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year

These awards honor those coaches who exemplify the ideals of the game within the THSLL. The award is intended to recognize the individuals overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins although they may be considered. Each District will name one (1) each of Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year. For eligibility requirements, nominating, and selection process see Appendix K.

#### 17.1.2 Person of the Year

This award honors that individual whose dedication, commitment, and support of lacrosse and its ideals extend beyond his/her specific Member Team. Each District will name one (1). For eligibility requirements, nominating, and selection process see Appendix K.

#### 17.1.3 Commissioner's Award

This award honors that THSLL player who exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship, competition, and character both on and off the field. Any senior player in the THSLL is eligible. For all player eligibility requirements and the nominating and selection process, see Appendix K.

### 17.2 US Lacrosse Awards

#### 17.2.1 All-Americans

Each year, US Lacrosse informs the THSLL of the number of High School All-Americans it may award. For all player eligibility requirements, nominating, and selection process see Appendix L.

#### 17.2.2 Academic All-Americans

Each year, US Lacrosse informs the THSLL of the number of High School All-Americans it may award. This award is for academic excellence. For all player eligibility requirements, nominating, and selection process see Appendix L.

#### 17.2.3 Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year

These awards honor those coaches who exemplify the ideals of the game. This award is intended to recognize the individual's overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins — although they may be considered. The list of nominees comes from the THSLL District Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year awardees. For eligibility requirements, nominating, and selection process see Appendix L.

#### 17.2.4 Person of the Year

Nominees can be active coaches, but overall contribution to lacrosse beyond his/her Program is the primary criteria for selection; Nominations should include a biographical sketch, including years of lacrosse involvement and his/her contributions to the game. Nominees may be male or female. The list of nominees comes from the THSLL District Person of The Year awardees.

## 18.0 Enforcement

The Commissioner shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of these rules. Such penalties may be assessed against a Member School Program, Member Team, an individual player or all three, 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, Member Team, 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.

## 19.0 THSLL - 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. This position cannot be a sideline coach.
- 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 at the field so that they can make or receive any emergency contacts.
- The Home Team Site Administrator and Away Team Site Administrator should greet the referees as they arrive to the field as discuss any issues, and check in with the table 10 minutes prior to game.
- The Home Team Site Administrator is also responsible for referee payment by voucher or check before the game.
- The Home Site Administrator or designated security is responsible for escorting officials off the field at the end of the game.

20.0 THSLL Recognized Tournaments

THSLL recognizes tournaments that meet certain minimum requirements. Only those tournaments recognized by THSLL will be listed on the League website. (See Appendix M)

## Appendix A –2011 THSLL BOYS RULE 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 modifications, but not elimination of required field markings. Prior to the start of any contest, the home Team Site Administrator, who is not a Team coach, 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 (6-6g) with the in-home serving 30 seconds and the ball awarded to the visitor to start the game. 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.

**GOALS & NETS (1-3 & 1-5)** ~ The goals & nets at game sites shall be legal as they are, regardless if they comply with NCAA rules. The NCAA rules as to the color, size and type of pipe shall not apply; however, the home Team should make every effort to comply with the NCAA rules & specifications

**LIMIT LINES, SPECTATOR & MEDIA RESTRICTIONS (1-14)** ~ Limit lines are not required, however, spectators and media are not allowed behind the end lines or immediately behind the bench or table areas.

**PERSONAL EQUIPMENT (1-21)** ~ Gloves may vary in color. Baseball shoes (metal / hard plastic cleats) are not permitted.

**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.

**CROSSE CONSTRUCTION (1-18, Note 2)** ~ A hollow Crosse handle may not be filled with any substance such as sand, bb's, etc... End Caps are required for all hollow shafts. The end cap must be visible and not be completely covered with tape.

**CROSSE SPECIFICATION** ~ New NCAA Crosse Specification Rules as noted in Rule One, Section 17, Note 2, page 17 of the 2009 and 2010 NCAA Lacrosse Rules and Interpretation Booklet will be not be enforced in 2011 for Division III Teams.

**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, 1 equipment manager, 1 team trainer, and only players in uniform.

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 constant 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 Administrator must check in with the score table and officials and wear the site administrator identifying badge. It is at the discretion of the officials to assess any game-time penalties resulting from this 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.

If player (s) is ejected, the player must leave the site of the 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 an unsportsmanlike conduct foul 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 League THSLL season game. If the player has graduated, the in-home shall serve the penalty.

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.

### **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 Association President/Athletic Director will meet with the Coordinator. The Coordinator will discuss the circumstances with the game officials. The Coach will miss the next scheduled THSLL game (this is defined as a game that was on the THSLL schedule at the time the incident occurred and cannot be subsequently scheduled afterwards).

**OFFSIDES** ~ Any offsides violation will result in the ball being awarded to the offended team in their offensive half of the field. For example, Team A is clearing the ball and passes midfield, when A1 goes offsides. It may take the official a moment or two to conduct a count of Team A's players and while doing so the ball may advance up the field. Once offsides is confirmed, the whistle will blow and the ball will be ~~is~~ brought back to the midfield and awarded to Team B on their offensive half of the field.

This will also apply when Team A has possession of the ball in their attack zone when one of their defenders crosses the midfield line (possibly to substitute) resulting in an offside's situation. The ball will be brought to the midfield and awarded to Team B. The ball will be brought up whether or not Team A had possession.



## Appendix B - TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE LEAGUE - Proxy Vote Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
(District)

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

State Administrator, THSLL

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby give \_\_\_\_\_  
with Program \_\_\_\_\_ the authority to vote as my proxy at the THSLL meeting on  
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, TX on all matters that require a vote, subject to my positions as stated below.

Absent Head Coach/Club President/Athletic Director:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee to vote as proxy:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #1 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #2 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #3 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #4 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #5 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #6 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #7 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #8 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item # 9 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Item #10 Position: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix C - THSLL SIDELINE & BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY**

### 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, 1 equipment manager, 1 team trainer, and only players in uniform.

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 constant 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. It is at the discretion of the officials to assess any game-time penalties resulting from non-compliance to this policy.

### Background Check Policy

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

Information Links:

<http://www1.backgroundchecks.com/>

<http://stxsoccer.org/programs/>

## Appendix D - THSLL Championship Tournament Standards

(to be provided by tournament host)

### TOURNAMENT/CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN: The Texas High School Lacrosse League  
- and Host -**

**Name of Tournament/Championship: The 20XX THSLL State Championship Weekend**

**Date of Tournament/Championship: May Xth & Xth, 20XX**

**Location: TBD**

**Host Club: TBD**

**WHEREAS** the Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) is the governing body for high school lacrosse in Texas and has the sole authority to sanction THSLL contests, including Tournaments/Championships;

**AND WHEREAS** Host has submitted a proposal for and been approved by the THSLL to host the **20XX THSLL State Championship Weekend - May X<sup>th</sup> and X<sup>th</sup>, 20\_\_** (hereafter referred to as the “Event”), and has agreed in full to the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix D in the 2010 THSLL Rulebook);

**AND WHEREAS** the THSLL grants a sanction to the Event and in return Host agrees to comply with applicable policies and standards as established by the THSLL as follows in hosting the Event;

**THE TWO PARTIES AGREE** as follows:

#### **A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST**

Host will be responsible for the organization of the Event, assisted by the THSLL, and in accordance with the policies and standards of the THSLL as outlined in the THSLL Rulebook, the THSLL Championship Tournament Standard (Appendix D in the THSLL Rulebook), and more specifically, will be responsible for:

1. Conducting the Event in conformance with the 2010 THSLL Rulebook, and THSLL’s applicable policies and standards outlined in the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix D in the THSLL Rulebook).
2. Strictly enforcing the THSLL’s Code of Conduct.
3. Providing \_\_\_\_\_ as the venue for the Event. The venue will meet the THSLL requirements as outlined in the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix D in the THSLL Rulebook). In the event Host is unable to provide the \_\_\_\_\_ for the two-day weekend Event, Host will arrange for an alternative venue at their sole expense that meets the Event requirements.
4. With prior approval of the THSLL, preparing and distributing all promotional material for the Event. All promotional material will give proper acknowledgement to the THSLL.
5. Complying with all the THSLL sponsorship agreements in effect and provided to Host, and allowing the THSLL sponsors and official suppliers to participate on a non-exclusive basis in promotion, sales, or advertising according to their agreements relating to the Event. The terms of such participation and revenue sharing will be as determined in consultation with the THSLL 30-days prior to the Event.
6. Notification to the THSLL of additional Host driven promotion, sales, or advertising planned for the Event by Host and/or local sponsors or other businesses not affiliated with the THSLL, and who do not present major conflicts with existing THSLL sponsorships.
7. Complying with any additional requirements that the THSLL may be reasonably required to impose to fulfill its governance responsibilities of providing a safe environment for competitors, coaches, officials, and fans.
8. Host will derive the benefit of profits earned through the Event’s gate receipts, concessions (only if shared with ?? by the Independent School District), sales, and local sponsors, subject to the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix D in the THSLL Rulebook) and will be responsible for any financial losses incurred by Host in hosting the Event.
  - i. 5% of Gross Revenues returned to the THSLL, defined as all revenues.

- ii. 24 Complimentary passes for THSLL BoD and visiting voting/presenting coaches, and THSLL BoD field passes.
9. Championship Tournament Liability Insurance policy with the THSLL named as Additional Insured
10. Medical Emergency Plan in place and on file with the THSLL
11. Host site shall employ Certified Trainer for all games
12. AED on site for all games
13. Set game times, notify SWLOA assignor and the THSLL of game times, and request three officials per game
14. Dressing room facilities for teams (on a best efforts basis) and SWLOA Officials (separate, controlled access)
15. Water and ice at the Team benches
16. Field marked to NCAA standards
17. "Official Score Table" setup to NCAA standard with shade tent. Host is responsible for physical site – table, chairs, awning, timers, game and end line balls, and horns. Home Team is responsible for providing "Official Scorebook". Host and THSLL will agree on (3) three individuals that Host will arrange for and schedule to serve as "Official scorer, spotter, and timer". The Home and Visiting Teams will be allowed (2) two representatives each to sit at the ends of the "Official Score Table" while the "Official scorer, spotter, and timer" will sit in between them at the "Official Score Table".
18. Communications link between score table and scoreboard operator
19. PA system and announcer available for goal announcements and presentation of the awards on the field, directly after each championship game
20. Practice/warm-up facilities with goals on a best efforts basis
21. Lights
22. Ample parking
23. Ample seating
24. Controlled access
25. Limited Field Access
  - i. Only approved Team sideline personnel in compliance with the THSLL rules and policies
  - ii. No more than one Team photographer and/or videographer, designated by each Club/A.D., and identified to the Host, one-week in advance to receive proper credentials
  - iii. Host has the opportunity to employ an event photographer for all games and presentation ceremonies
26. All-weather field or a THSLL Board-approved contingency plan
27. Secure hotel accommodations for Teams and SWLOA Officials
28. Public restrooms and concessions
29. Adequate tournament staff (with identification)
30. Signage (if required for way-finding)
31. Security and traffic control (if required)
32. Host representatives to meet and greet Teams
33. Four (4) Semis on Saturday (coordinate game times with the THSLL to accommodate traveling Teams)
34. Two (2) Finals on Sunday (coordinate game times with the THSLL to accommodate traveling Teams)
35. Post the tournament info and wrap-up on [texaslacrossechamps.org](http://texaslacrossechamps.org) (work with THSLL Administrator for approvals and process). Provide information through Host District Coordinators to other Districts in a timely manner
  - a. Local hotels and restaurants
  - b. Site map
  - c. Local issues (if any)
  - d. Event time table
  - e. Field Access Policy
36. Program publication information deadlines must be coordinated with the THSLL calendar; magazine format / gloss bond
37. League history and feature story (as appropriate) – will be submitted to Host by 12N on Tuesday of the Event week
38. League stats and awards (past) – THSLL items will be submitted to Host by 12N on Tuesday of the Event week
39. District wrap-ups (text provided by District Coordinators) – will be submitted to Host by 12N on the Tuesday of the Event week
40. Team Pictures with roster (numbers) and coach statement (provided by Teams/Coordinators) – needs to be submitted to Host by 12N on the Tuesday of the Event week
41. Post-season awards – All-District and All-State (provided by Teams/Coordinators) to be submitted to Host by Tuesday of the Event week
42. Off-season recap (recruiting, post season play, League changes etc.) – to be submitted to Host by 12N on Tuesday of the Event week
43. Awards will be paid for and coordinated by THSLL.

44. Awards to be presented by THSLL Commissioner or his proxy at Championships
45. Neither Host nor THSLL are responsible for awards for non-THSLL games played during the weekend
46. Criteria for awards are based on THSLL/SWLOA and US Lacrosse policy.)
47. Patterson Award (Traveling trophy awarded by SWLOA)
48. Coach of the year (USL Certificate to Follow)
49. Assistant of the year (USL Certificate to Follow)
50. Person of the year (USL Certificate to Follow)
51. All American (USL Certificate to Follow)
52. Academic All American (USL Certificate to Follow)
53. Coach Earl Bill Award for Lifetime Achievement
54. Drew Webb Award for Academic/Athletic Achievement
55. Championships Runners-up
56. Champions
57. MVPs: Offensive, Defensive, and Overall

## **B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE THSLL**

The THSLL prescribes the policies and standards for the Event and assists Host in the organization of the Event, and more particularly will be responsible for:

1. Appointing representative to serve as liaison with Host (the Host DI Coordinator) and to ensure compliance with the policies and standards of the THSLL as per the THSLL Rulebook and THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix D in the THSLL Rulebook).
2. Coordinating the seeding of Teams for the Event and providing Host with the entries prior to the Event.
3. Through the SWLOA Local Assignor, designating a sufficient number of officials to serve as officials for the Event, and providing an SWLOA Chief Official for the Event.
4. Advising Host of any THSLL sponsorship agreements that will impact the Event, and receiving notification by Host of the participation in the Event by local sponsors and businesses.
5. Providing information for Event Program purposes by 12N on the Tuesday of the Event week.
6. Providing appropriate THSLL and sponsors' signage and banners for display at the Event, and mutually agreeing to how they shall be displayed.
7. The THSLL will participate in the benefit of revenue earned by the Event as per the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix D in the THSLL Rulebook) and will not be responsible for any financial losses incurred, by Host in hosting the Event.

## **C. REVOKING THIS SANCTION**

The THSLL may revoke the sanction granted by this Agreement at any time in advance of the Event if Host fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement. Once the Event is underway, the SWLOA Chief Official for the Event will have the authority to terminate individual games, and with the THSLL Commissioner, the Event, if in their mutual view, the 20XX NCAA rules and THSLL rules pertaining to play are consistently not being met and/or the safety of participants or fans at the Event is at risk.

The parties hereby execute this Agreement.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
THSLL Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix E – THSLL Emergency Plan**

### **All THSLL Games:**

1. The home Team will have an emergency plan on file with THSLL.
2. The home Team must provide immediate, on the spot first aid by an adequately trained individual (hereinafter referred to as “Trainer”).
3. 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.
4. 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. The Trainer will be considered a neutral participant and will provide medical care to players on both teams.
6. The Trainer can be paid or be a volunteer.
7. Pre-game readiness (taping, etc) of players is the responsibility of each team’s coach and support staff.
8. Visiting teams may waive assistance by 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.
9. Lightning Policy: See the attached UIL Policy. The THSLL adopts this policy in full and places the responsibility of implementation upon the Site Administrator for the home Team.

### **Tournaments:**

The tournament organizers shall be the party responsible for the implementation of this Medical Safety Policy thereby relieving the home Team of this responsibility. In tournament play, one Trainer may cover up to two adjacent simultaneous games.

### **Resource Materials:**

When developing the Medical Emergency Plan, the THSLL strongly recommends that each team review the US Lacrosse website section titled “Sports Science & Safety”, currently found at: <http://www.lacrosse.org/safety/index.phtml> OR [http://thsll.org/repository/files/emergency\\_plan.pdf](http://thsll.org/repository/files/emergency_plan.pdf)

## Appendix F - THSLL Coaches Code of Conduct

### **Objective**

All THSLL 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 while participating in and/or attending any THSLL sanctioned event and/or game.

### **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 at all times that they are representing themselves, their Teams, and their Member School Programs. A coach's words and actions come under close scrutiny from students, parents, faculty and the community, and will reflect positively or negatively on the Member School Program.

### **Structure**

There are two documents that outline the expectations of lacrosse coaches. These include:

- 1) NCAA current rulebook or as further modified by the NCAA;
- 2) Current THSLL Rulebook

### **NCAA Rulebook**

#### *Rule 2-4/Game Personnel/Coaches*

One of a team's coaches shall be designated the head coach. The head coach shall be responsible for making all decisions for that team not delegated specifically to the team's game captain. Additionally it shall be the head coach's responsibility to see that players and substitutes are properly equipped to play.

The head coach shall act in a courteous manner and shall endeavor in every way to achieve the same from his players. The head coach shall be in control of and responsible for all actions of all non-playing members of his squad, and any and all persons officially connected with his institution.

Coaches shall assist the officials in keeping the game under control. It shall be their duty, upon the request of an official, to control effectively actions of spectators not in conformity with standards of proper conduct.

Only the head coach will communicate with the officials. Officials shall address questions from the head coach during half time. A representative from each team may be present while these questions are discussed. Officials should never entertain any questions until a representative of the other team is given the opportunity to be present.

### **THSLL Rules:**

*Please refer to section 11.0 Improper Behavior*

### **THSLL Coaching Expectations**

- Coaches are expected to win or lose with dignity and humility.
- Coaches must refrain from the use of profanity and insist their players do likewise.
- Coaches must be positive role models in terms of sportsmanship and fair play and set a positive example regarding the use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- Coaches must be fair and unprejudiced with players, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments and aptitudes.
- Coaches are expected to maintain self-control at all times, accept adverse decisions calmly, and to treat officials professionally.
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct and care of the team from throughout the entire game. This includes the job of making sure that bench areas and dressing rooms are left in good condition and all trash is picked up. .

### **Reportable & Punishable Events**

- Any discourteous behavior, use of obscene gestures, or profanity directed towards officials.
- Any discourteous behavior, use of obscene gestures, or profanity directed at the opposing team, coach, or spectators.
- Any coach who is ejected from a contest.
- A coach who receives one or more behavior related unsportsmanlike conduct penalties during one game.

- Coaches are responsible not only for their own actions, but ultimately those of their players. Game officials are expected to inform coaches of their players' actions and the coach must take corrective action. If there are repeated incidences over the course of a game or a series of games, the coach is subject to punishment for not taking corrective action.
- Other types of reportable incidents include, but are not limited to: verbal abuse or other unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, Member School Program administrators or fans, fans that are removed from facilities for abuse of officials, fights between teams that result in the termination of the contest and physical contact of officials by coaches, Member School Program administrators or fans.
- Reportable incidents can occur during, before, or after the contest.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Every THSLL unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, incident, or ejection report shall be in writing and sent to the District Coordinator by the local SWLOA 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.

### **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 Coordinator will discuss the circumstances with the game officials. The Coach will 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. A coach who is ejected from a game may be suspended pending an expedient review by the District Coordinator. The coach may file an appeal with the THSLL Board of Directors.

A coach will receive a reprimand, if he does not control his 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:

1. The game officials;
2. The coach; and
3. 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.

### **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 time-keeper 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.



## Appendix G - THSLL District Tournament/Championship Standard

(to be provided by tournament host)

### DISTRICT TOURNAMENT/CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTING AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN: The Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL)  
- and -Host**

**Name of Tournament/Championship: The 20XX THSLL ?**

**Date of Tournament/Championship: ?**

**Location: ?**

**Host Club: ?**

**WHEREAS** the THSLL is the governing body for high school lacrosse in Texas and has the sole authority to sanction Texas High School Lacrosse League contests, including Tournaments/Championships;

**AND WHEREAS** ? has submitted a proposal for and been approved by the THSLL to host the ? (hereafter referred to as the “Event”), and has agreed in full to abide by the THSLL Rulebook and the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook), and/or the THSLL Recognized Tournaments Rules (Appendix M in the THSLL Rulebook), and if there are conflicting statements in the two, Appendix G prevails;

**AND WHEREAS** the THSLL grants a sanction to the Event and in return ? agrees to comply with applicable policies and standards as established by the THSLL as follows in hosting the Event;

**THE TWO PARTIES AGREE** as follows:

#### **D. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ? AS THE HOST**

? will be responsible for the organization of the Event, assisted by the THSLL, and in accordance with the policies and standards of the THSLL as outlined in the THSLL Rulebook, the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook), and/or the THSLL Recognized Tournaments Rules (Appendix M in the THSLL Rulebook), and more specifically, will be responsible for:

1. Conducting the Event in conformance with the THSLL Rulebook, this agreement, and THSLL’s applicable policies and standards outlined in the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook), and/or the THSLL Recognized Tournaments Rules (Appendix M in the THSLL Rulebook)
2. Strictly enforcing the THSLL’s Code of Conduct.
3. Providing the ? as the venue for the Event. The venue will meet the THSLL requirements as outlined in this agreement and the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook), and/or the THSLL Recognized Tournaments Rules (Appendix M in the THSLL Rulebook). In the event ?? is unable to provide the ? for the two-day weekend Event, ? will arrange for an alternative venue at their sole expense that meets the Event requirements.
4. With prior approval of the THSLL, preparing and distributing all promotional material for the Event. All promotional material will give proper acknowledgement to the THSLL.
5. Complying with all the THSLL sponsorship agreements in effect, and allowing the THSLL sponsors and official suppliers to participate in promotion, sales, or advertising according to their agreements relating to the Event. The terms of such participation and revenue sharing will be as determined in consultation with the THSLL 30-days prior to the Event.
6. Notification to the THSLL of additional ? driven promotion, sales, or advertising planned for the Event by local sponsors or other businesses not affiliated with the THSLL, and who do present major conflicts with existing THSLL sponsorships.
7. Complying with any additional requirements that the THSLL may be required to impose to fulfill its governance responsibilities of providing a safe environment for competitors, coaches, officials, and fans.

8. ?? will derive the benefit of any profits earned through the Event's gate receipts, concessions, sales, and local sponsors, subject to the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook), and/or the THSLL Recognized Tournaments Rules (Appendix M in the THSLL Rulebook) and will be responsible for any financial losses incurred by ? in hosting the Event.
  - i. 3% of Gross Revenues returned to the THSLL, defined as all revenues.
  - ii. 24 Complimentary passes for THSLL BoD and visiting voting/presenting coaches, and THSLL BoD field passes.
  - iii. ? and THSLL will agree in writing on a ticket / stamp methodology for the two-day Event 30 days prior to the Event.
9. Championship Tournament Liability Insurance policy with the THSLL named as Additional Insured
10. Medical Emergency Plan in place and on file with the THSLL
11. Host site shall employ Certified Trainer for all games
12. AED on site for all games
13. Set game times, notify SWLOA assignor and the THSLL of game times, and request (3) three officials per game for DII games and (2) two officials per game for DIII games, if applicable. THSLL will pay for the DII officials for the (3) three games. The District will pay for DIII officials for the (3) three games, if the DIII participates in the Event weekend.
14. Water and ice at the team benches
15. Field marked to NCAA standards
16. "Official Score Table" setup to NCAA standard with shade tent. ? is responsible for physical site – table, chairs, awning, timers, game and end line balls, and horns. Home Team is responsible for providing "Official Scorebook". ? and THSLL will agree on (3) three individuals that ? will arrange for and schedule to serve as "Official scorer, spotter, and timer". The Home and Visiting Teams will be allowed (2) two representatives each to sit at the ends of the "Official Score Table" while the "Official scorer, spotter, and timer" will sit in between them at the "Official Score Table".
17. Communications link between score table and scoreboard operator
18. PA system and announcer available for goal announcements and presentation of the awards on the field, directly after each championship game
19. Practice/warm-up facilities with goals
20. Lights
21. Ample parking
22. Ample seating
23. Controlled access
24. Limited Field Access
  - i. Only approved Team sideline personnel in compliance with the THSLL rules and policies will be allowed on the field; all others are considered fans, are subject to admission, and not allowed on the field before, during, or after games.
  - ii. No more than one Team photographer and/or videographer, designated by each Club/A.D., and identified to the Host, one-week in advance to receive proper credentials.
  - iii. Host has the opportunity to employ an event photographer for all games and presentation ceremonies
25. All-weather field or a THSLL-approved contingency plan agreed to 60-days prior to the Event
26. Secure hotel accommodations for Teams and SWLOA Officials
27. Public restrooms and concessions
28. Adequate tournament staff (with identification)
29. Signage (if required for way-finding)
30. Security and traffic control (if required)
31. Host representatives to meet and greet Teams
32. For District Championships, four (4) Semis on Saturday (coordinate game times with the THSLL to accommodate traveling Teams), if DIII is participating in the Event weekend
33. For District Championships two (2) Finals on Sunday (coordinate game times with the THSLL to accommodate traveling Teams), if DIII is participating in the Event weekend
34. Provide the tournament info and wrap-up to the THSLL Administrator. Provide information through Host District Coordinators to other Districts in a timely manner
  - i. Local hotels and restaurants
  - ii. Site map
  - iii. Local issues (if any)
  - iv. Event time table
  - v. Field Access Policy

35. Program publication information deadlines must be coordinated with the THSLL calendar; magazine format / gloss bond - optional
36. Team Pictures with roster (jersey numbers, positions, classifications) and coach statement (provided by Teams/Coordinators) – needs to be submitted to Host two weeks prior to Event – optional for Host generated Event Program or Flyer
37. Awards will be ordered and paid for by the Host
38. Host not responsible for awards for Non-THSLL games played during the weekend
39. Awards to be presented by the THSLL District Coordinators or their proxies at Championships
40. Criteria for awards are based on the THSLL/SWLOA and US Lacrosse policy)
41. Championships Runners-up
42. Champions
43. MVPs:
44. Offensive
45. Defensive
46. Overall

#### **E. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE THSLL**

The THSLL prescribes the policies and standards for the Event and assists ? in the organization of the Event, and more particularly will be responsible for:

- a. Appointing representative to serve as liaisons with ? (the Host DII Coordinator) and to ensure compliance with the policies and standards of this agreement, the THSLL as per the THSLL Rulebook, and the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook).
- b. Coordinating the seeding of Teams for the Event and providing ? with the entries prior to the Event.
- c. Through the SWLOA Local Assignor, ensuring that a sufficient number of officials are committed to serve as officials for the Event, and are providing an SWLOA Chief Official for the Event.
- d. Advising ? of any THSLL sponsorship agreements that will impact the Event, and receiving notification by ?? of the participation in the Event by local sponsors and businesses.
- e. Providing THSLL information for Event Program as soon as possible up to and including the Tuesday of the Event week
- f. Providing appropriate THSLL and sponsors' signage and banners for display at the Event, and mutually agreeing to how they shall be displayed.
- g. The THSLL will participate in the benefit of revenue earned by the Event as per the THSLL District Championship Tournament Standards (Appendix G in the THSLL Rulebook) and will not be responsible for any financial losses incurred, by ? in hosting the Event.

#### **F. REVOKING THIS SANCTION**

The THSLL may revoke the sanction granted by this Agreement at any time in advance of the Event if ? fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement. Once the Event is underway, the SWLOA Chief Official for the Event will have the authority to terminate individual games, and with the THSLL Commissioner, the Event, if in their mutual view, the 2010 NCAA rules and THSLL rules pertaining to play are consistently not being met and/or the safety of participants or fans at the Event is at risk.

The parties hereby execute this Agreement.

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THSLL Commissioner

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## Appendix H - THSLL (12) Twelve Team DI Playoff Structure

### Basics

1. There will be no change to the current DII State Championship structure.
2. Expanded State Playoff structure only involves DI Member School Programs.
3. Expand the DI State Playoffs to 12 Teams.  
District Champions and seedings would be determined by each District, either by District Playoffs or by the best record at the conclusion of THSLL season play (tiebreaker if necessary). Method of determining District Champion must be submitted in writing to the League before the THSLL Annual Meeting.
4. Teams A1 and B1 will be the top seed and home Team in the super regional tournaments.

### Selection Process

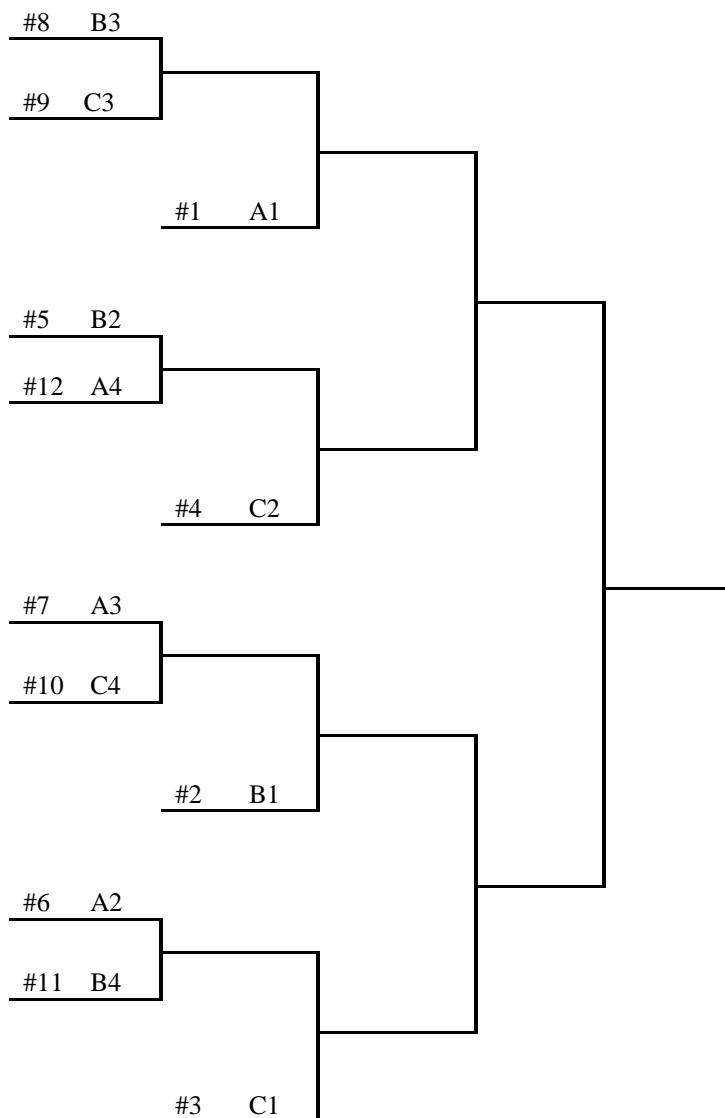
1. District Champions will control top 3 seeds.
2. Teams 4-12 will be seeded based upon the standings at the end of THSLL season play, and a predetermined serpentine pairing formula as noted below. Of the 12 Teams competing, there will be 4 Teams from each District.

### Format

1. Teams 1-4 will get 1<sup>st</sup> round byes.
2. Two Super Regional Tournaments with Saturday and Sunday format
3. A predetermined format establishing game locations (North, South or Central Districts) will be established and rotate annually for the Super Regional games much the same as the State Championship Tournament is rotated between Districts.
4. State Championship the following weekend with Semifinals on Saturday and Finals on Sunday.

Predetermined Matchups:

District	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
A	South	Central	North	South	Central	North	
B	Central	North	South	Central	North	South	
C	North	South	Central	North		Central	
Seed	Team	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	A1	South	Central	North	South	Central	North
2	B1	Central	North	South	Central	North	South
3	C1	North	South	Central	North	South	Central
4	C2	North	South	Central	North	South	Central
5	B2	Central	North	South	Central	North	South
6	A2	South	Central	North	South	Central	North
7	A3	South	Central	North	South	Central	North
8	B3	Central	North	South	Central	North	South
9	C3	North	South	Central	North	South	Central
10	C4	North	South	Central	North	South	Central
11	B4	Central	North	South	Central	North	South
12	A4	South	Central	North	South	Central	North



## **Appendix I – THSLL Tiebreaker Policy**

In the event of a multi-way tie the following process will be used to determine all tie breakers:

1. The tied Teams will be placed in a sub group
2. The highest seeds are determined by District wins against Teams within the sub group.
3. If a tie remains after step (b), Teams will be ranked by Head-to-Head competition within the sub group.
4. In the event of a Three-way tie within any sub group; the selection will also be based on a head-to-head comparison. 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) then the selection shall be based on the difference in scores between those three games.
5. 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. EX: If 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.
6. The difference in goals for the remaining two games (B Vs C and C Vs A) would be likewise calculated, and the Team with the largest plus value would be selected.
7. Should (d) 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 (a).
8. If a tie remains after these steps, the tiebreaker process will be repeated recreating the sub group with the remaining Teams.

## Appendix J – THSLL 2011 Season Timetable

- Member School Program Contacts to THSLL by October 1, 2010
- SWLOA invoices sent to Coordinators: November 1, 2010
- THSLL invoices issued to Coordinators: November 1, 2010
- Game schedules submitted to Coordinator/State Administrator by Nov. 30, 2010
- SWLOA assigning dues to SWLOA Treasurer, deadline: December 1, 2010
- THSLL dues to THSLL Treasurer, deadline: December 1, 2010.
- Schedules manually input by Administrator and review begins on THSLL.org: December 15, 2010
- Scheduling reviewed on THSLL site completed and uploaded to SWLOA: December 22, 2010.
- Last day to submit eligibility waivers for players or Team- January 14, 2011
- Team Information due: Valid/Up to Date Rosters, Emergency Plan, Proof of Insurance and Approved Eligibility Waivers: January 21, 2011
- Beginning of THSLL season games may not be played before January 28, 2011.
- End of THSLL season games must be completed by Friday, April 22, 2011. Rain dates included with a make-up date of April 23, 2011. (Taks testing April 25-29)
- District Playoffs by Wednesday, April 27, 2011
- All-State/District Selection, District Wrap-up, League Recap, Team Photo and Rosters: April 25, 2011
- AA/AAA nominations and support information by April 25, 2011
- Team Information due: April 28, 2011 for State Championships.
- DI Super Regional Tournaments April 30, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Austin, and Dallas
- DII District Champion determined: May 1, 2011
- DI, DII State Championships, May 7, 8 2011 Houston
- District Post Season Meeting by May 28, 2011- recap/coaches input for voting issues
- THSLL Executive Board. Meeting: June 18, 2011 rules/voting issues
- District Meetings September 2011-- give requirements for THSLL season
- State Meeting September 24, 2011, Austin - voting issues

### THSLL Required Information Penalty Matrix

Required Information	On Time Date	Penalty
Contacts	October 1	Invoices for SWLOA & THSLL may be sent to the wrong contact *(1)
Game Schedules	November 30	Games may not be entered into THSLL if not received by 11/30
Review Game Schedules	December 22	Member School Programs may not have an opportunity to review game schedules prior to submission to SWLOA
SWLOA Dues	December 1	\$25 per week per Team (V or JV) until December 31, if still not paid games will not be assigned
THSLL Dues	December 1	\$25 per week per Team (V or JV) until January 31, if still not paid the Team is disqualified *(2)

Submit Waiver	January 14	Waiver will not be considered (i.e. waiver will be automatically denied)
<u>Team Information</u>		
Initial Roster	January 21	\$100 per Team (V or JV)
Valid / Up-To-Date Roster	Earlier of 1st District Game or Feb.28	Any District game played without a Valid / Up-To-Date Roster will be Forfeited
Emergency Plan	January 21	\$100 per Program; no League game may be played without an Emergency Plan *(3)
Proof of Insurance	January 21	\$100 per Program; no League game may be played without a Valid Proof of Insurance *(3)
Coaches US Lacrosse #	January 21	Reported to the THSLL Board
Site Administrator	January 21	\$100 per Program; no League game may be played without a Valid Proof of Insurance *(3)

Notes:

THSLL season cannot start before January 28,2011

\*(1) Member School Programs are still responsible for all information distributed to contacts, whether updated or not.

(2) All games will be canceled and the Team will be suspended from the League for the THSLL season.

(3) Any game inadvertently played will be forfeited.



## **Appendix K - Procedures & Requirements for THSLL Awards**

### **THSLL District Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year**

These awards honor 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 Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year to be voted on by the Texas Area All-American Selection Committee.

1. This award is only available to Varsity Head Coaches and Varsity Assistant Coaches;
2. The winner must be a member in good standing with US Lacrosse;
3. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field at all times;
4. Nominees must demonstrate excellent rapport with officials, other coaches and his own players at all times;
5. Nominee did the most with what he had;
6. Co-Varsity coaches from an Area will not be recognized

### **THSLL District Persons of the Year**

Each District (Central, North, San Antonio and South) shall select a THSLL District Person of the Year award honoree whose individual whose dedication, commitment, and support of lacrosse and its ideals extends beyond his/her specific Member Team. These honorees will automatically be candidates for the Texas Area US Lacrosse Man of the Year (though it could be a woman) to be voted on by the THSLL Executive Committee. Nominees shall meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees can be active coaches, but overall contribution to lacrosse beyond his/her Program is the primary criteria for selection.
2. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, including years of lacrosse involvement and his/her contributions to the game.

### **THSLL Commissioner's Awards**

These awards honors 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 a THSLL awards and are not affiliated with US Lacrosse.

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

### **Eligibility Guidelines:**

#### **Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year**

1. This award is only available to Varsity Head Coaches and Varsity Assistant Coaches;
2. The winner must be a member in good standing with US Lacrosse;
3. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field at all times;
4. Nominees must demonstrate excellent rapport with officials, other coaches and his own players at all times;
5. Nominees did the most with what he had;
6. Co-Varsity coaches from an Area will not be recognized.

#### **Person of the Year**

1. Nominees can be active coaches, but overall contribution to lacrosse beyond his/her Program is the primary criteria for selection;
2. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, including years of lacrosse involvement and his/her contributions to the game.

### **Voting Process**

1. Nominations for each of the District level awards are submitted to the League Administrator per the timeline
2. League Administrator submits to each District Coordinator the nominations for their District;

3. Nominations are presented to the District Coordinators for each Division per the timeline;
4. The District Coordinators meet and select the awardees;
5. Any tie-breaker necessary within a District would be broken by the District Coordinator;

Awards announcement

1. The THSLL League Administrator will immediately notify the THSLL Board of the awardees and publish their names to the League website;
2. Honorees will be announced at the THSLL Championship Awards ceremony.

## **Appendix L - Procedures & Requirements for US Lacrosse Awards in the THSLL**

### All-American

Currently US Lacrosse awards eight (8) players in the THSLL the honor of All-American (AA).

#### Player eligibility guidelines

1. Players under consideration are strongly encouraged to be members of US Lacrosse.
2. Players selected must be selected to a District's All-State Team before he is eligible for All-American.
3. Players from all THSLL Division I and II Teams are eligible for consideration for All-American awards.
4. Post high school graduates who continue to compete for a high school program are NOT eligible to be considered for All-American.
5. Players may not be both All-American and Academic All-American.

#### Selection process

1. Nominations from each District will be completed at the end of THSLL season District meetings when the All-State Teams have been selected;
2. There is no limit on the number of players a District can nominate;
3. The standard set over the years has been that our AA nominees are our very best players;

#### Selection Committee

1. An All-American Selection Committee is created consisting of 10 voting coaches, 2 from each Division I District, and 1 from each Division II District
2. Each Division's pool of coaches within each District will select its coaches to be on the Selection Committee;
3. It is recommended that coaches that serve on the Committee be very experienced, possibly having coached summer all star teams from Texas and inter-District and inter-Divisional games;
4. Members of the Selection Committee will be voted to serve terms by their peer District coaches in each Division I or II;
5. Terms are two years and one year to ensure Committee continuity;
6. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms, but may serve more than once;
7. Terms run from October 1<sup>st</sup> and expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>;
8. Terms are to be staggered, and initial terms determined by lot;
9. The Texas Area Chair for US Lacrosse will serve two-year terms, with a limit of two consecutive terms, but may serve more than once. The Texas Area Chair will be selected by the Committee.

#### Voting process

1. Voting will be done during a conference call consisting of the 11 participants;
2. Coaches with nominated players will present the nominations to the Committee during the conference call;
3. Coaches with nominated players may be on the Committee.
4. The voting coaches count for one vote each
5. The US Lacrosse Area Chair only votes in the case that a tie needs to be broken.

#### Awards announcement

1. The US Lacrosse Area Chair will immediately publish the honorees to the THSLL Board and the THSLL Championship host Member School Program for purposes of including their names in the State Championships, program if possible;
2. Honorees will be announced at the THSLL Championship Awards ceremony and awarded their All-American certificates. A second certificate will be sent to the Head Coach, Athletic Director, or Club President in order to display at the high school;
3. The THSLL list of All-Americans will be sent to US Lacrosse by the Texas Area Chair for US Lacrosse.

## **“Non-Field of Play” Awards**

### Academic All-American

Currently US Lacrosse awards four (4) players in the THSLL the honor of Academic All-American. Each District can be awarded one (1) Academic All-American (Central, North, San Antonio and South).

Texas Area US Lacrosse Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year

These awards honor those coaches who exemplify the ideals of the game within the THSLL. The award is intended to recognize the individual's overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins — although they may be considered. The winners of these awards shall be selected from the THSLL District Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year winners.

#### Man of the Year (Texas Area US Lacrosse Award)

The Man of the Year award honors that individual whose dedication, commitment, and support of lacrosse and its ideals extends beyond his/her specific Member Team.

#### Eligibility Guidelines

##### Academic All-American

1. Players may come from any THSLL Member Varsity Team;
2. Nominations for selection should be made in writing prior per the THSLL Timetable;
3. Players selected for All-American may not be considered for Academic All-American;
4. Nominated players must be seniors;
5. A school transcript and resume must accompany the nomination;
6. Any player that has received a diploma from a secondary school will not be eligible for Academic All-American status during post-graduate study.

##### Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year

1. This award is only available to Varsity Head Coaches and Varsity Assistant Coaches;
2. The winner must be a member in good standing with US Lacrosse;
3. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field at all times;
4. Nominees must demonstrate excellent rapport with officials, other coaches and his own players at all times;
5. Nominees did the most with what he had;
6. Co-Varsity coaches from an Area will not be recognized.

##### Person of the Year

1. Nominees can be active coaches, or men or women from Member School Programs, but overall contribution to lacrosse beyond his/her Program is the primary criteria for selection;
2. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, including years of lacrosse involvement and his/her contributions to the game.

##### Voting process

1. The “Non-Field of Play” Awards Selection Committee will be comprised of the District Coordinators and the Commissioner;
2. Voting will be done during a conference call consisting of the participants, ideally on the Thursday prior to the District Championships;

##### Awards announcement

1. The US Lacrosse Texas Area Chair will immediately publish the honorees to the THSLL Board and the Championship host Member School Program for purposes of including their names in the State Championships program if possible;
2. Honorees will be announced at the THSLL State Championships Awards ceremony and awarded their All-American certificates;
3. The THSLL list of US Lacrosse awards will be sent to US Lacrosse by the Texas Area Chair for US Lacrosse.

## Appendix M - THSLL Recognized Tournament Rules

THSLL Member School Programs have more choices than ever regarding lacrosse tournaments. Putting on a lacrosse tournament can be a large fundraiser for many organizations.

THSLL also encourages Member School Programs to attend lacrosse tournaments. They provide a fun avenue for Member School Programs to compete against other Member School Programs that they might not ever meet in the THSLL season. Most lacrosse tournaments use a running clock and a Member School Program can play 3, or even 4, quick games in a single weekend.

THSLL will “recognize” a tournament that abides by the following rules and meets certain minimum requirements. Appendix G is the THSLL District/Tournament Standard. The THSLL Board of Directors will “recognize” a tournament when the host agrees to make a best effort to abide by this THSLL standard.

### Benefits of Hosting Member School (e.g. Clear Lake, combined Plano schools) or Organization (e.g. A&M)

1. The tournament will be marketed by THSLL: it will be placed on the THSLL.org website as a THSLL “recognized” tournament and THSLL will email particulars of the tournament to all Member School Programs.
2. Participating Member School Programs will know that the THSLL “recognized” tournament meets certain minimum standards.
3. If a Member School Program is considering participating in two tournaments during the same weekend, we hope the Member School Program will give careful consideration to whether one or both are THSLL “recognized”).

### Requirements of Hosting Member School or Organization to have their tournament “recognized” by THSLL

1. Best effort to abide by Appendix G – THSLL District/Tournament Standard
2. Other than rules around penalties (1.5 times running, quarter / half game times, and rules around seeding / ranking / tournament championship) the games will be governed in accordance with THSLL rules (i.e. NCAA rules with THSLL waivers)
3. Distribution of tournament rules at time of registration
4. Minimum two 20 minute running halves
5. Minimum 3 games per team
6. Preference is to separate DI, DII/DIII and JV
7. At a minimum separate Varsity and JV
8. Registration at least 60 days prior to event
10. Distribution of “game brackets” at least 1 week prior to event
11. Publish your cancellation policy for a team at the time of registration
12. Publish your cancellation policy for weather events at the time of registration
13. Nice to have
  - a. Site Map
  - a. Lists / locations of restaurants / places of interest

### Issues to consider when setting up your tournament:

1. What is the date of your tournament? Have you checked the regional calendar for competing events?
2. Do you have event insurance as it relates to refunds in event cancellation?
3. Contact local emergency services to flag date and location (directions) of/to the event.

## **Appendix N - THSLL District Rotation Schedule**

### State Championship and State Meeting Host District Venue Rotation Schedule

2010	North
2011	South
2012	Central
2013	North
2014	South
2015	Central

## Appendix O - THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process

As stated in 18.0 Enforcement: The Commissioner shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of the THSLL rules. Such penalties may be assessed against a Member School Program, Member Team, an individual player(s) or all three, hereinafter referred to as “THSLL Participants”, 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 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 through a thorough and consistent governance process with clearly articulated roles and expectations. This governance process, the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process, begins with clear ownership of the fact-finding and investigation into suspected rules violations. 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 Division and District in which the suspected rules violation(s) 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 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, the Commissioner will 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 or complaint must be submitted in writing so as to establish a written record, and point of origin, of the complaint or suspected rules violation, and to initiate the governance process. This process step will help to minimize “he said, she said” or gossip and minimize the chance of possible unfounded accusations receiving serious consideration 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. 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 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 without initiating the MNDA process.

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 immediately becomes a possible THSLL Participant in the governance process. As a result, the THSLL Participant must agree to sign and be bound by a mutual non-disclosure agreement (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.

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 litigation by any THSLL Participant. Any breach in confidentiality by any THSLL Participant will be dealt with 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 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. 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 the THSLL Board and Coordinator in charge 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 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 appendix. 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) 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, then the outcomes will be fair and reasonable.



## **THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement**

It is understood and agreed to that the parties to this Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the THSLL Participants, each would like to provide the other with certain information that is to be considered confidential in the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process as outlined in Appendix O of the then current THSLL Rulebook, hereinafter referred to as the governance process. To ensure the protection of such information and the THSLL Participants in consideration of the agreement to exchange said information, the THSLL Participants agree as follows:

1. The confidential information to be disclosed under this Agreement (“Confidential Information”) can be described as follows and includes:

Firsthand information relating to actions or lack of actions by a THSLL Participant(s) (THSLL Member School Program, Member School Team, parents, players) related to suspected rules violations of THSLL rules as defined in the then current THSLL Rulebook, regardless of whether such information is designated as “Confidential Information” at the time of its disclosure.

THSLL Coordinator, THSLL Board, and Commissioner provided communications, including timelines, plans, and written THSLL Participant communications throughout the governance process.

In addition to the above, Confidential Information shall also include, and the THSLL Participants shall have a duty to protect, other confidential and/or sensitive information which is (a) disclosed as such in writing and marked as confidential (or with other similar designation) at the time of disclosure; and/or (b) disclosed by the THSLL Participants in any other manner and identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and is also summarized and designated as confidential in a written memorandum delivered within forty-five (45) days of the disclosure.

2. The THSLL Participants shall use the Confidential Information only for the purposes of the governance process.

3. The THSLL Participants shall limit disclosure of Confidential Information to the THSLL Coordinator in charge of the governance process and shall not disclose Confidential Information to any third party (whether an individual, corporation, or other entity) without prior written consent. The THSLL Participants shall satisfy their obligations under this paragraph if they take affirmative measures to ensure compliance with these confidentiality obligations by other THSLL Participants who are permitted access to or use of the Confidential Information.

4. This Agreement imposes no obligation upon the THSLL Participants with respect to any Confidential Information (a) that was possessed before receipt; (b) is or becomes a matter of public knowledge through no fault of receiving THSLL Participants; (c) is rightfully received from a third party not owing a duty of confidentiality; (d) is disclosed without a duty of confidentiality to a third party by, or with the authorization of the disclosing THSLL Participant; or (e) is independently developed.

5. The THSLL Participants warrant that they have the right to make the disclosures under this Agreement.

6. This Agreement shall not be construed as creating, conveying, transferring, granting or conferring upon either THSLL Participant any rights, license or authority in or to the information exchanged, except the limited right to use Confidential Information specified in paragraph 2. Furthermore and specifically, no license or conveyance of any intellectual property rights is granted or implied by this Agreement.

7. Neither THSLL Participant has an obligation under this Agreement to purchase any service, goods, or intangibles from the other THSLL Participant. Furthermore, both THSLL Participants acknowledge and agree that the exchange of information under this Agreement shall not commit or bind either THSLL Participant to any present or future contractual relationship (except as specifically stated herein), nor shall the exchange of information be construed as an inducement to act or not to act in any given manner.

8. Neither THSLL Participant shall be liable to the other in any manner whatsoever for any decisions, obligations, costs or expenses incurred, changes in practices, plans, organization, products, services, or otherwise, based on either THSLL Participant’s decision to use or rely on any information exchanged under this Agreement.

9. If there is a breach or threatened breach of any provision of this Agreement, it is agreed and understood that the non-breaching THSLL Participant shall have no adequate remedy in money or other damages and accordingly shall be entitled to injunctive relief; provided however, no specification in this Agreement of any particular remedy shall be construed as a waiver or prohibition of any other remedies in the event of a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement.

10. This Agreement states the entire agreement between the THSLL Participants concerning the disclosure of Confidential Information and supersedes any prior agreements, understandings, or representations with respect thereto. Any addition or modification to this Agreement must be made in writing and signed by both THSLL Participants. This Agreement is made under and shall be construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, U.S.A. In the event that this agreement, is breached, any and all disputes must be settled in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Texas, U.S.A.

11. If any of the provisions of this Agreement are found to be unenforceable, the remainder shall be enforced as fully as possible and the unenforceable provision(s) shall be deemed modified to the limited extent required to permit enforcement of the Agreement as a whole.

**WHEREFORE**, the THSLL Participants acknowledge that they have read and understand this Agreement and voluntarily accept the duties and obligations set forth herein.

Recipient of Confidential Information:

Name (Print or Type):

Company:

Title:

Address:

City, State & Zip:

Signature:

Date:

Discloser of Confidential Information:

Name (Print of Type):

Company:

Title:

Address:

City, State & Zip:

Signature:

Date: