BY-LAWS OF ST LOUIS YOUTH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

WRITTEN 2014

GIRLS DIVISION

ARTICLE A Division Structure

B Age Determination

C Entry Requirements

D Bracket Re-alignment

E Officials

F Roster

G Playing Field Responsibilities

H Equipment

I Girl Youth Rule Level

J Duration of Play

K Three Attempted Pass Rule

L Rescheduling of Games

M Minimum Play Rule

N Post Season Play

O Score Book

The By-laws of St Louis Youth Lacrosse Association (hereafter called SLYLA) consists of a.) all the rules and regulations governing SLYLA and b.) all interpretations of constitutional provisions and by-laws which are found in the minutes of the secretary. The Girls Division will use the Official Rules for Girls Youth Lacrosse as published in the Official Rules for Girls and Women’s Lacrosse by US Lacrosse with the following exceptions/clarifications:

1. Division Structure

The Girl’s Division structures team conferences using the following categories:

* 1. U-9
	2. U-11
	3. U-13
	4. U-15A and U-15B
1. Age Determination

Players will be placed on the appropriate team based on the birthdate of the player when final team rosters are turned into SLYLA at the start of the season. Consistent with the SLYLA constitution, players may play up **one year** (not bracket). Players but may not play down.

1. Entry Requirements
	1. Any SLYLA program may enter teams in the appropriate Girl’s conference.
	2. If practical, the U-9, U-11, U-13 and U-15 conferences shall be divided into brackets with the strongest teams in the A bracket, next strongest B and the least strongest C. Programs should recommend a bracket when registering their teams.
	3. If the division only has one bracket, A will be the default.
2. Bracket Re-alignments

Brackets shall be re-aligned for the next season based upon a team’s win-loss record at the end of the past season. The top team with the best record shall move up to a higher bracket and the teams with the poorest record shall move down. All exceptions shall be approved by the Board. **All programs are encouraged to play at the highest level.**

1. Officials

All league games shall be refereed by US Lacrosse certified officials.

1. Rosters

Rosters MUST BE AVAILABLE for exchange with opposing coaches prior to each game. It is the responsibility of the program to have rosters. The roster should include player’s name and uniform number. Failure to provide a roster will result in a free position at the start of the game. Teams will roster a maximum of 25 players. Rosters must also be available on the [www.SLYLA.com](http://www.SLYLA.com) website. This is accomplished through individual player registration on website.

1. Playing Field Responsibilities
	1. The league will insure that the playing field is in proper condition (lined correctly). The league will provide a table, scorebook, and a clock.
	2. A parent from each team is required to sit at the scoring table for each game to keep time and the score.
	3. Scores will be recorded on a score sheet at the score table for each field. Both coaches and the referees must sign the score sheet at the end of the game.
	4. Scores will be posted on the website the following week. These scores will be used to rank teams for the tournament play.
	5. The team designated as the “home team” on the schedule is responsible for providing NOCSAE game balls (6 minimum).
	6. A first aid kit shall be provided by each team for their use. Ice is available on the field, but consider including chemical cold packs for injured players. .
	7. Should a field be unplayable, the league will inform all parties (teams and game officials) as soon as possible. The league is responsible for rescheduling cancelled games.
2. Equipment: US Lacrosse Official Rules for Girls Youth Lacrosse rules apply. Specifically:
	1. All teams should have home and away jersey: one must be white and the other a team color. They will have numbers that are vertically and horizontally centered with a minimum of 6” tall on the front and 8” tall on the back. Both sides of pennies must be numbered. See US Lacrosse Women’s Rule Book - Rules 2 section 13
	2. Non-clear mouthguards without protruding tabs that fully cover the upper jaw teeth must be worn. See US Lacrosse Women’s Rule book Rule 2 Section 8.
	3. Eye protection is mandatory at all levels. See US Lacrosse Women’s Rule book Rule 2 Section 9.
	4. Goalie must wear lacrosse helmet with face mask, separate throat protector, mouthguard, chest protector, abdominal and pelvic protection, goalie gloves, and leg padding on the shins and thighs excluding field hockey pads. The goalkeeper must wear a shirt of the same color as her team over her protective equipment. See US Lacrosse Women’s Rule book Rule 2 Section 6-7.
	5. Game officials will check equipment for compliance before each game. At a minimum, a stick check will be performed.
3. Girl Youth Rules

The Girls Division will use the Official Rules for Girls Youth Lacrosse as published in the Official Rules for Girls and Women’s Lacrosse by US Lacrosse. The following provides SLYLA guidance:

No deputy allowed in goal circle (All Levels)

Note: In a game being played without a goalkeeper, 1 defense player, as designated by the umpire, shall be allowed to go into the goal circle to collect the ball after it comes to rest in the goal circle. She must leave the goal circle with the ball in her stick within 10 seconds of the ball entering the goal circle. The opposing team may not deliberately block her exit from the goal circle. If the defense player throws it out or does not carry it out within 10 seconds, a defense player other than the designated player goes in, or the defense deliberately puts the ball into the goal circle it is a goal circle violation. If the attack deliberately blocks her exit from the goal circle, it is a free position at the 8m for the defense with the attack player 4 m away.

Goal Circle Violation (All Levels)

A field player must not enter or have any part of her body or crosse on or in the goal circle at any time, including on the shot and follow through.

Four Goal Rule (U-13 rules and below)

For games played with U-13 rules and below: Consistent with US Lacrosse Official Rules for Girls Youth Lacrosse, if score is kept, possession will be taken at the center by the team with fewer goals if a four or more goal differential exists unless waived by the coach of the trailing team. When this occurs positioning for the draw will apply with the defender standing 4m away at a 45 degree angle and all other players must stand. The player taking possession may run or pass, but may not shoot until another player has played the ball.

3 Second Checkable Foul (U-13 rules and below)

Player with the ball may not hold the ball for more than 3 seconds when:

* 1. Closely guarded/marked (see definitions)
	2. The defense has both hands on her stick
	3. The defense is in position to legally check were checking allowed.

Note: If the player with the ball takes the stick to the other side of her body and thus away from the defender making a legal check impossible, the 3-second count would be over. If the defender adjusts her position to where a legal check could be made, or the stick is brought back to a checkable position, or another teammate joins the defender and that second defender is in good position to check, then the count starts again. The umpire will give an audible and visible 3-second count.

* 1. U-9 all brackets:
		1. 7 Field players
		2. No goalie; use a goal blocker instead
		3. 3 attempted passes rule (see Article K)
		4. Absolutely no checking
		5. Modified field with a reduced number of players
		6. Coaches may be on the field of play and participate if agreed upon by both teams
		7. For a yellow card: player must leave the field for two minutes of elapsed playing time and a substitute will take her place.
	2. U-11 all brackets:
		1. 7 Field players
		2. No goalie; use a goal blocker instead
		3. 3 attempted passes rule (see Article K)
		4. Absolutely no checking
		5. Modified field with a reduced number of players
		6. For a yellow card: player must leave the field for two minutes of elapsed playing time and a substitute will take her place.
	3. U-13 all brackets:
		1. Modified Stick Checking below the shoulder
		2. For a yellow card: player must leave the field for two minutes and the team must play short a player below the restraining lines on each end of the field.
	4. U-15B Plays by U-13 rules (see above)
	5. U-15A Full Checking (FC)
		1. Regular US Lacrosse Women's Rules
		2. Any check to the head is a mandatory red card.
1. Duration of Play: Due to facilities and scheduling limitations, all teams at all levels will use the following timing guidelines:
	1. 20 minute running halves (no clock stoppage except for time-outs)
	2. 5 minutes for halftime
	3. 1 two-minute time-out per game
	4. All games will end on their scheduled time regardless of the amount of time played (10 minutes prior to the start of the next game).
	5. Overtime: Only post season games will go into overtime. Overtime will use the “sudden victory” procedures as outlined in Rule 4, Section 7 of the Official Rules for Girls and Women’s Lacrosse.
2. Three Attempted Passes Rule

In order to encourage our players to develop the skills of girls lacrosse, the girls division will use a “three attempted pass rule” for the U-9 and U-11 conferences. Teams must attempt three passes anywhere on the field before taking a shot on goal. Violation of this rule will be considered a minor foul (if a goal is scored it does not count and defender closest to the attack player gets the ball).

* 1. An “attempted pass” is a pass to a player on the same team regardless of if the player catches the ball. The team must retain possession of the ball in order for the pass to count. For example, if a player misses or drops the pass and a team mate recovers the ground ball, it counts as an attempted pass. A pass blindly thrown towards no one that the team is able to recover would not count.
	2. Goalie clears count as a pass.
	3. Out of bounds situations (including shots on goal) will follow the “attempted pass guidance”; if the out of bounds was the result of an attempted pass and the team making the pass is awarded possession, the pass counts. On shots, if the team that shot the ball retains possession, they have already met the 3 pass requirement and may immediately shoot the ball.
	4. The referee has final authority over what is or is not an “attempted pass”. The referee will indicate the pass count both audibly and folding up the number of fingers corresponding to the pass count.
1. Rescheduling of Games

No games are to be rescheduled. Exceptions to this are weather and field conflicts such as when two games are scheduled at the same time. All games are to be played as scheduled.

1. Minimum Play

In accordance with the SLYLA Constitution, each player must participate at least the equivalent of one quarter of every game. The coach is responsible for carrying out this rule. Failure to do so results in forfeiture of the game.

* 1. If a coach feels, after half time, that the other team has players who have not participated at least one quarter, he/she may check with the opposing coach regarding the players in question.
	2. The SLYLA Board is responsible for investigating any violation of the minimum play rule and enforcing the forfeiture penalty.
	3. This rule remains in effect during the playoffs and championship games.
1. Post Season Play

Each team playing in the SLYLA league will have an opportunity to play in the league tournament.

* 1. Each conference will host a tournament by bracket.
	2. Teams will be seeded according to their regular season record. Each team will be guaranteed two games in the tournament.
	3. The tournament schedule will be published the week after the last regular season game once the final seeds are determined.
	4. Tournament format will group teams of similar record together for play. The top four seeds of each bracket will play for the championship.
	5. The tournament will result in determining a champion for each conference bracket.
1. Score Book (All levels)

Both Head coaches and the Lead Official must sign the score book keep on the timing table at the end of each game to show agreed upon official score.