

The Bylaws of the Nebraska High School Lacrosse Association

Article I: Organization

The name of this organization is the Nebraska High School Lacrosse Association and hereafter will be referred to as the NELAX.

Article II: Mission Statement

The purpose of the NELAX is to promote the sport of lacrosse in the State of Nebraska at the high school level through sportsmanship and serious competition; to teach both new and experienced players respect for this Native American game; and to provide an outlet for physical activity, social interaction and bonding experiences for team members and their families.

Article III: Policy and Risk Management

Section 1: It shall be the policy of the NELAX to abide by the rules and guidelines of lacrosse as outlined by US Lacrosse. Rules and guidelines may be revised by the Board of Directors with a majority vote, and thereby incorporated within these articles.

Section 1a. NELAX Revised rules/guidelines - NONE

Section 2: It shall be the policy of the NELAX to promote, adhere to, and to inform members and families of the NELAX of the risk management policies outlined in the Risk Management Manual provided by US Lacrosse and their liability insurance carrier.

Section 3: The league will comply with applicable Nebraska and Iowa concussion acts and laws.

Section 4: It shall be the policy of the NELAX that harassment, of any kind, has no place in interscholastic activities. Harassment based upon an individual's sex, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion or any other legally protected characteristics will not be tolerated. All members of the NELAX are expected and required to abide by this policy. No person's standing within the NELAX will be adversely affected as a result of bringing forth complaints of unlawful harassment.

Article IV: Membership of Players, Coaches, and Officials

Section 1: Membership as a Player in the NELAX shall be open to:

- (A) Any boy or girl high school student who was enrolled in 9-12th grade or certified home school program in the immediate preceding semester, with the exception of students who are entering high school for the first time and have not competed or practiced with a high school team.
- (B) Who is still enrolled in and has not yet matriculated from his or her school at the beginning of the season.

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- (C) Who pays his or her league dues and has turned in completely filled out required documents within the deadline implemented by the Board of Directors.
- (D) Is a valid registered high school member of US Lacrosse, the governing body of lacrosse in America, and in good standing.

Section 2: An ineligible player is a player that does not meet all of the specifications of Player Membership outlined in Article IV, Section 1; is a player who is serving a suspension; has had his or her membership as a player revoked; or who at the beginning of the season has completed eight (ten for players who were allowed to play up while in eighth grade) semesters of school membership beginning with his or her initial enrollment in grade nine. Membership in any school or schools for thirty or more school days during a semester is considered a semester of school membership. The records of the school or schools in which the student was a member shall be used to determine the total number of days of school membership if disputed.

Section 3: Player Membership does not imply or guarantee any amount of playing time. Playing time shall be at the sole discretion of the head coach of that particular team.

Section 4: Each student/athlete shall play for the team of his or her school that they are enrolled in unless the student requests to play for another school due to extenuating circumstances. In such instances, the student must first receive the approval of the coach of the team they wish to play for. The player must then fill out the proper documentation and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval. A special vote which must be approved by two-thirds vote of the NELAX Board of Directors will then take place to approve the request. In the event that the student's high school does not have a lacrosse team, the student shall be allowed to play for any team that they choose, pending approval from the head coach of that team and a majority vote of a quorum of the NELAX Board of Directors.

Section 5: No student shall be permitted to participate in more than four (five for players who were allowed to play up while in eighth grade) NELAX sanctioned seasons of lacrosse at the high school level. After initial enrollment in grade ten, no student shall be permitted to participate in more than three seasons of lacrosse in the NELAX. Competing in any part of a contest shall count as a season of participation in that activity.

Section 6: Membership in the NELAX as a head coach shall be open to any person who is a coach member of US Lacrosse, is at least 20 years of age, is not a competing member of a team in the NELAX, is in good standing with the league and is knowledgeable of the rules of the game.

Section 7: Membership in the NELAX as an assistant coach shall be open to any person who is a coach member of US Lacrosse, is at least 18 years of age, is not a competing member of a team in the NELAX, is in good standing with the league, and is knowledgeable of the rules of the game.

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Section 8: An ineligible coach is one that does not meet all of the specifications of Coaches Membership outlined in Article IV, Section 6 & Section 7; is a coach who is serving a suspension, or who has had his or her membership revoked. Coaches are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Coaches who do not demonstrate good sportsmanship shall be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, suspension from games and/or permanent membership revocation subject to a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 9: Membership in the NELAX as an official shall be open to any person who is a member of US Lacrosse, is at least 19 years of age, is not a player of a team competing in the NELAX, is in good standing with the league, is knowledgeable of the rules of the game, and has completed training necessary to officiate a contest.

Section 11: Membership revocation shall occur if any of the qualifications in Article IV, Sections 1, 6, 7 or 9 are not met, or after a majority vote of the NELAX Board of Directors at a scheduled meeting. Membership revocation may occur due to failure to meet a requirement(s) in Article IV, Sections 1, 6, 7 or 9, fighting, failure to pay dues, poor attendance or any other action or inaction that the Board of Directors and or other members of the NELAX deem unbecoming of a member. The member in question will have the right to present his or her position before the vote. Membership revocation shall result in a forfeiture of all dues paid to the association and/or the team. A voluntary resignation from the NELAX by any member shall also result in forfeiture of all association and team dues paid subject to consideration by the Board of Directors.

Section 12: All members of the NELAX are required to be knowledgeable of, and abide by, the rules and guidelines established by US Lacrosse.

Section 13: Any member of NELAX that becomes ejected from a contest, including coaches, will not be eligible for the next contest. The most senior official of a game with an ejection must notify the NELAX Executive Board of said ejection within 24 hours. If the offense that caused the ejection is deemed to be excessive, a vote to extend the suspension, or to revoke membership in the NELAX, may be raised by any member of the Board of Directors. If a member is ejected a second time from a contest during the same season, he or she will not be eligible for the next three (3) contests. If a member is ejected three (3) or more times from a contest during the same season, this member is indefinitely suspended until a review of eligibility occurs by the Board of Directors. All suspensions will continue into the next season. Any member of NELAX who is serving a suspension shall not participate in or occupy the sideline during any competition for the duration of the suspension. In the event of a violation of this ruling, their team shall forfeit that game and the Board of Directors shall be notified of the violation of the suspension. Failure to serve a suspension, in the aforementioned or any other manner, will result in a five (5) game suspension which will continue into the next season. Ejection from two or more contests in a season will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in the State Tournament. Any coach who plays a suspended player will also result in a five (5) game suspension which will continue into the next season.

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Section 14: It is the policy of the NELAX that any teams that participate in any lacrosse contest in which any other player is over the age of 19 is not allowed. This includes: college, club, and post-collegiate lacrosse activities. Participation in teaching camps is allowed. Any member or team violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including ineligibility from the State Tournament and/or suspension from the NELAX.

Section 15: Any team that uses an ineligible player during a contest will automatically forfeit that contest and any other contest in which the player(s) were found to be ineligible.

Article V: Board of Directors

Section 1: The affairs of the NELAX shall be managed by the Board of Directors who shall have and may exercise all the powers of the Corporation.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall be comprised of appointed representatives from each member team in the NELAX. These appointed representatives serve as voting members of the Board of Directors with each representative possessing one (1) vote each.

Section 3: Appointed representatives will elect, by a majority vote, Officers who will carry out the operation of the NELAX and will be responsible for the administrative oversight of the Corporation. These Officers serve as voting members of the Board of Directors, with each Officer possessing one (1) vote each. An Officer of the Board of Directors may not simultaneously serve as the appointed team representative, and can only serve in one officer position at one time.

Section 4: Officers of the NELAX shall be as follows:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary

The listed order of the Officers of the Board of Directors reflects the succession of power in the event of resignation or removal from office. Other Officers shall be placed in order that their office was created.

Section 5: Offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected at a meeting prior to the commencement of the next fiscal year by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors. Officers shall take office at the time of the meeting following the elections and shall serve for a period of two (2) years. For the 2012 fiscal year the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary will be elected. Officers will be elected in the order given in Article V, Section 4. Beginning in the 2013 fiscal year, the offices of President and Treasurer will be elected in odd years while the offices of Vice-President and Secretary will be elected

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in even years. Candidates are allowed to offer a speech prior to the election.

Section 6: The Officers of the NELAX Board of Directors may not be a member of the NELAX that is under the age of 23, nor may any individual serve in more than one position of the Board of Directors at the same time. At all times the officers of the NELAX Board of Directors must be members of US Lacrosse.

Section 7: An Officer may be suspended or removed with or without cause by vote of a 75% vote of the NELAX Board of Directors. This can occur at any special meeting called for such purpose or at any regular meeting. The Officer in question will have the right to reasonable notice and the opportunity to be heard.

Section 8: An Officer may resign by delivering his or her written resignation to the President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary of the NELAX, to a meeting of the Board of Directors, or to the NELAX at its principal office. Such a resignation shall be effective upon receipt (unless specified to be effective at some other time), and acceptance thereof shall not be necessary to make it effective unless it so states.

Section 9: The procedure to fill vacancies of the NELAX Officers will be as follows: during the following meeting held by the Board of Directors after an Officer has been removed or resigned, an emergency election will take place to fill the vacancy of the Officer by a majority vote of a quorum of the NELAX Board of Directors.

Section 10: The Board of Directors of the NELAX is vested with the power of setting reasonable dues for all Members.

Section 11: Duties of Officers

(A) The executive power of the NELAX is vested in the President. He or she is responsible for conducting all official business of the NELAX. The President shall preside over all meetings, has the power to establish committees, standing or special that will further the purpose of the NELAX and nominate their respected officers and committee members. The President is charged with preparing a written agenda for all meetings and has the power to open and close all discussions and proceedings within the meetings. The President of the NELAX may only serve two (2) consecutive terms as President. The President shall take care that the Bylaws of this the Nebraska High School Lacrosse Association be faithfully executed.

(B) The Vice President is vested with the responsibility of conducting business of the NELAX in the absence of the President. If the President is unable to continue his or her work as President of the NELAX, then the Vice President will serve as the interim President until a special election takes place as outlined in Article V, Sections 4 and 9. The Vice-President is responsible for orchestrating and managing the State Lacrosse Tournament. The Vice President of the NELAX may serve only two (2) consecutive terms as Vice President.

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(C) The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Accounting Officer of the NELAX. The treasurer shall be in charge of its financial affairs, funds, securities and valuable papers, and shall keep full and accurate records thereof. The Treasurer shall be the chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall have such other duties and powers as designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer may serve only two (2) consecutive terms as Treasurer.

(D) The Secretary shall record and maintain records of all proceedings of the Members and Board of Directors in a book or series of books kept for that purpose, which book or books shall be kept in the principal office of the NELAX or at the office of its Secretary or its resident agent and shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any Member. Such book or books shall contain records of all meetings of incorporators and the original, or attested copies, of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and names of all Members and the Board of Directors at the address of each. If the Secretary is absent from any meeting, a temporary Secretary chosen at the meeting by the President shall exercise the duties of the Secretary at the meeting. There is no limitation as to the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve as Secretary.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: An annual league meeting will be held to elect officers set dues, and to discuss other issues concerning the upcoming season. Additional meetings will be held when deemed necessary and proper by the Board of Directors of the NELAX.

Section 2: No call or notice shall be required for regular meetings of the Board of Directors, provided that reasonable notice: (i) of the first regular meeting following the determination by the Board of Directors of the times and places for regular meetings shall be given to absent members; (ii) specifying the purposed of a regular meeting shall be given to each member of the Board of Director if either contacts or transactions of the NELAX with interested persons or amendments to these by-laws are to be considered at the meeting ; and (iii) shall be given as otherwise required by law, the articles or organization of these by-laws.

Section 3: Reasonable notice of the time and place of special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be given to each Director. Such notice need not specify the purposes of a meeting, unless otherwise required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these by-laws or unless there is to be considered at the meeting: (i) contacts or transactions of the NELAX with interested persons; (ii) amendments to these by-laws; (iii) an increase or decrease in the number of Board of Directors; or (iv) removal or suspension of a member of the Board Directors.

Section 4: Except as otherwise expressly provided, it shall be reasonable and sufficient notice to a member of the Board of Directors to send notice by mail or e-mail at least three (3) days in advance, or to give notice to the member of the Board of Directors in person or by telephone at least two (2) days before the meeting.

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Section 5: A quorum will consist of a majority of all of all Board of Directors present.

Section 6: A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be present in order for any official business to be conducted by the NELAX. Official business shall include election of officers, setting of dues, and any other major decision affecting the organization.

Article VII: Finances

Section 1: The fiscal year of the NELAX is July 1st through June 30th.

Section 2: Dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the NELAX subject to the approval of a majority vote.

Section 3: Annual dues will be determined and assessed in accordance with NELAX appropriate policies at the beginning of each season by the officers of the NELAX according to the prospective financial needs of the NELAX for the upcoming year. All members will be informed of their annual dues. Paying dues is required for membership in the NELAX.

Section 4: The NELAX reserves the right to solicit donations and sponsorship from the private sector.

Section 5: If the NELAX dissolves, all funds earned will be used as stated in the Articles of Incorporation.

Section 6: If a team within the NELAX dissolves, all funds will be placed into the general fund of the NELAX and used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: The parliamentary authority shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article IX: Tournament Seeding

Section 1: It is conceivable that at the end of the season teams will have identical records which will effect the seeding of the State Tournament. Seeding for the tournament will be based upon:

1. Win-Loss Record
2. Record against opponents with identical records
3. Total goals scored for during the season, entire league games
4. Total goals scored against during the season, entire league games
5. Coin flip, team with higher alphabetical school name will call it in the air and the winner of the coin flip shall be the higher seed.

Article X: Admission of New Teams to the NELAX

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Section 1: A team that is seeking admission into the NELAX must meet the following requirements to be able to compete in the NELAX at either the varsity or junior varsity level:

- (A) Have a head coach that meets all NELAX membership requirements as outlined in Article IV, Section 7.
- (B) Have a minimum of 18 players on the roster that meet all NELAX membership requirements as outlined in Article IV, Section 1.
- (C) Have a team representative who can serve on the Board of Directors.
- (D) Be voted into the league by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Teams that do not meet these minimum requirements are not eligible for membership in the NELAX, however NELAX member teams are not forbidden to compete in exhibitions with these new teams as long as the competitions do not violate Article IV, Section 14.

Article XI: Conduct

Section 1: Members of the NELAX, other students, participants, and staff members representing member schools in interscholastic competition are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with upholding the US Lacrosse Code of Conduct.

Section 2: Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include physical or verbal assault upon any participant, game official, or spectator, or any acts that may endanger the personal safety of individuals involved, or acts that hinder the normal progress of a contest or lead to the restriction or discontinuance of a contest.

Article XII: Personal Liability

Section 1: The Directors and officers of the NELAX shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the NELAX. All persons, Corporations or other entities extending credit to, contracting with, or having any claim against the Corporation may look only to the funds and property of the NELAX for the payment of any such contract or claim, or for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise become due or payable to them from the NELAX.

Article XIII: Indemnification

Section 1: The NELAX shall, to the extent legally permissible and only to the extent that the status of the Corporation as an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, in not affected thereby, indemnify each of its Directors, officers, and employees and other agents (including persons who serve at its request as Directors, officers, employees or other agents of another organization in which it has interest) against all liabilities and expenses, including amounts paid in satisfaction of judgments, in compromise or as fines and penalties, and counsel fees, reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense or disposition of any action, suit or other proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in

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which he or she may be involved or with, which he or she may be threatened, while in office or thereafter, by reason of his or her being or having been such a Director, officer, employee or agent, except with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action as in the best interests of the Corporation; provided, however, that as to any matter disposed of by a compromise payment by such Director, officer, employee or agent, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise, no indemnification either for said payment or for any other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise shall be approved as in the best interests of the Corporation, after notice that it involves such indemnification (a) by a disinterested majority of the Directors then in office; or (b) by a majority of the disinterested Directors then in office, provided that there has been obtained an opinion in writing of independent legal counsel to the effect that such Director, officer, employee or agent appears to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Corporation; or (c) by a majority of the disinterested members entitled to vote, voting as a single class. Expenses including counsel fees, reasonably incurred by any such Director, officer, employee or agent in connection with the defense or disposition of any such action, suit or other proceeding may be paid from time to time by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by such individual to repay the amounts so paid to the Corporation if he or she shall be adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification under applicable state law. The right of indemnification hereby provided shall not be exclusive of or affect any other rights to which any Director, officer, employee, or agent may be entitled. Nothing contained herein shall affect any rights to indemnification to which corporate personnel may be entitled by contract or otherwise under law. As used in this paragraph, the terms "Director", "officer", "employee", and "agent" include their respective heirs, executors and administrators, and an "interested" Director is one against whom in such capacity the proceedings in question or another proceeding on the same or similar grounds is then pending.

Article XIV: Amendments

Section 1: All amendments to the bylaws of the NELAX require written notice of 10 (ten) days prior to being discussed and voted upon, unless suspension of the rules is voted upon and a two-thirds vote is achieved.

Section 2: All amendments require a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors for adoption.