

MINNESOTA BOYS' SCHOLASTIC LACROSSE ASSOCIATION OPERATING POLICIES

I. Annual Dues and Fees

- A. **Membership:** Annual dues of \$100 for Membership must be sent to the Association by January 1. Checks should be made payable to “MBSLA” and sent to the address of the current Treasurer.
- B. **Team Dues:** In addition to the Membership fees, there are fees for each team entered. These fees are \$200 for a Varsity team and \$100 for **each** non-varsity team (JV, 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9) representing the Member must be sent to the Treasurer by April 1.
- C. **Officials Fees:** For the 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9 leagues, officials’ fees must be sent to the Treasurer by April 1 to cover all officials’ fees (including travel fees) for regularly scheduled games and fees incurred by cancelled and rescheduled games. No refunds will be given for cancelled games. The Association will pay all officials for the number of youth games listed below. These fees do not cover any additional games teams may schedule on their own. Additional fees will be assessed to cover first and second round playoff games for the 9/10 league; there are no playoffs for the U15, U13, U11, and U9 leagues. Officials’ fees for JV and Varsity games are paid directly by the teams and are explained in section VI.
1. 9/10: \$425 (10 games; playoff teams will incur additional expense)
 2. U15: \$375 (10 games; playoff teams will incur additional expense)
 3. U13: \$300 (8 games; no playoffs)
 4. U11: \$280 (8 games; no playoffs)
 5. U9: \$280 (8 games; no playoffs)
- D. **Benefits:** Membership, team dues, and officials fees lump sum payments (9/10 and lower) will cover standard business of the Association including, but not limited to the following:
1. Tournament expenses for Varsity, JV and 9/10 leagues
 2. Officials’ assigner for all leagues and online payment system to officials for youth games
 3. Referee payment for youth leagues: 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9
 4. Coach and referee development
 5. Meeting expenses
 6. General operations, including liability insurance for the Association and its officers
 7. Growth initiatives
 8. Scheduling and website expenses
 9. Content development and hosting for online coach training
 10. Stipends for league coordinators.
 11. Other items approved by a majority of the board

- E. **Late Payments:** Members will be placed on probation by the board until all dues and fees are collected by the Association. Members on probation do not have the right to vote at Membership meetings.

II. Team Requirements:

- A. **Team identity:** Varsity teams must provide a team name and light and dark colors for home and away jerseys to the Secretary by January 1 each year.
- B. **Insurance:** Teams must carry appropriate liability insurance coverage. Liability insurance may be provided by an in-force insurance policy covering all players, coaches, and team personnel or active US Lacrosse membership by all players, coaches and team personnel.
- C. **Rosters:** Varsity, JV and 9/10 teams must post a single verifiable roster of all players on www.mbsla.org prior to each team's first game of the season. Entering rosters is encouraged for U15, U13, U11, and U9 teams.
- D. **School Contact:** School teams must provide the name, phone number and email address of an official school contact (e.g. A.D., faculty member or administrator) to the Secretary by April 1. For a community team not associated with a school, the name and email of the head of the organization responsible for hiring the coach must be provided by April 1.
- E. **Coaches:** All teams must have at least one coach for each team and provide the names, email addresses and cell phone numbers of all coaches in all leagues to the Secretary by April 1.
- F. **Fields:** All teams must post field information on www.mbsla.org, including address and any parking restrictions by April 1.

III. Coach Requirements:

- A. **Coach definition:** For the purposes of this section, anyone who is in the coaches' area during the game is considered to be a coach (this includes student managers). Athletic trainers and emergency medical technicians are not considered to be coaches and should be in the table area, not the coaches' area. Exception: Teams may have one official photographer or videographer in the coaches area; this individual must comply with parts C, D, and F of this section but not E and must be engaged in photography or videography and not coaching.
- B. **Certified coach:** A "certified coach" is any person who has completed the requirements of parts C, D, E and F of this section and who has been designated by a Member as a coach for one or more of the Member's teams.
- C. **Insurance:** For all leagues, all coaches participating in Association-sponsored events—including standing in the coaches' area during a game—must be fully insured for liability claims through US Lacrosse membership as a coach.
- D. **Concussion training:** All coaches must complete state-mandated concussion training every three years and supply proof that the course has been completed.
- E. **Online coaches training:** All coaches must complete the MBSLA online coaches training course for the levels of play to be coached.

- F. **Code of Conduct:** All coaches must complete the Coaches' Code of Conduct agreement, either by signing it electronically as part of the online coaches training course or by signing a paper version and submitting it to the Secretary.
- G. **Forfeits:** If a team does not have a coach complying with parts B through E of this section, the team forfeits the game. This includes situations where no certified coach is present to start the game (see IV-F below) and where the game starts with a certified coach or coaches but due to ejections or other reasons no certified coaches are available to complete that game. If it is later determined that a team continued playing a game after no certified coaches remained available in the coaches' area, the game will be declared a forfeit and suspensions will be assessed as described in part G of this section.
- H. **Suspensions:** If anyone is determined to have been in the coaches' area during a game without complying with parts B through E of this section, the person in violation will be suspended for two games and the head coach will be suspended for one game. Multiple violations can result in expulsion a longer suspension of the offending coach and of the head coach, at the discretion of the board.
- I. **Number of coaches:** For all games at the 9/10 and lower levels, there is a limit of 3 coaches (plus one photographer or videographer) in the coaching area at any one time from the opening face-off to the conclusion of the game. For JV and varsity, there is a limit of 4 coaches (plus one photographer or videographer). The photographer or videographer is limited to that role and may not act as a coach. Violations of these rules may result in suspension of the head coach and of the additional coaches.
- J. **Other personnel:** All spectators must be on the far side of the field except when there is permanent seating on the bench side (in which case any bench-side spectators must be in that seating and not on the field). Exceptions: The following personnel may be stationed on the bench side behind the table or behind the bench area: (1) table personnel (2) athletic trainers or EMTs (3) official sideline managers (4) league personnel and league-sponsored coach evaluators (5) representatives from the Upper Midwest Lacrosse Officials Association (6) game officials waiting for the next game to begin. In addition, board members from the Member sponsoring the teams in the game may be stationed behind the bench area for their respective teams, at least 10 yards from the sideline.
- K. **Background checks:** Each Member is encouraged to determine what kind of background checks are appropriate for their coaches and other team personnel and to conduct those checks. Each Member bears the costs for these background checks. Care should be taken to ensure confidentiality by safeguarding the results of those background checks. In particular, the results should not be shared with the Board.

IV. Game Scheduling

- A. **Scheduling Meetings:** Each association must send a representative to the scheduling meeting for each level of play in which they have at least one team entered. The representative must have full knowledge of field availability and schedule conflicts (such as prom, graduation, SATs/ACTs, religious holidays) for all schools represented by the team. Because grass fields are often unplayable in the first two weeks of April, games should only be scheduled on artificial surfaces through April 14.
- B. **Initial Schedule Verification:** The schedules for all games are published on www.mbsla.org. JV and Varsity teams must review their schedules and notify the Association of any changes to their schedules prior to March 1. Teams at all other levels

of play must review their schedules and report any changes or corrections within 7 days of the schedules being posted to www.mbsla.org and the teams being notified that the schedules have been posted.

- C. **Scheduling Changes:** *Requests for rescheduling for any reason must be made to the opposing team's head coach, the Communications Officer and the Assigner by an email addressed to all three. Any changes or additions after March 1 will be subject to approval by the Communications Officer and the Assigner. The team responsible for the change must pay the assigner a \$10 fee for each non-weather-related schedule change if officials have not been assigned and a \$20 fee if officials have been assigned for each game changed.* There will be no fee for weather or field condition related changes so long as the notification procedures are followed. There will be no fee for changing the starting times on the same day if at least two weeks notice is given and the change does not require rescheduling officials. Rescheduling is not automatic: all requests are subject to approval by the Association and will be placed in the schedule based on rescheduling priority of **conference games first** and non-conference games second. Note that any change after March 1 may jeopardize the assignment of officials to those games.
- D. **Officials Assigning System Schedule Verification:** Each Varsity and JV team is responsible for confirming that their schedule is accurate in the online assigning system (ArbiterSports.com) in order to ensure that officials are assigned. This includes verifying the date, time, location, opponent, and number of officials for each game when asked to do so by the assigner via e-mail as well as verifying the schedule in ArbiterSports.com each time schedule changes are made.
- E. **Non-Weather Cancellations:** For all non-weather cancellations, the assigner and all officials assigned to the game must be called at all listed phone numbers (with messages left) and emailed at all addresses listed on ArbiterSports.com at least 6 hours plus travel time (as calculated for each official by Google maps) prior to game time or the cancelling team may be responsible for paying the officials their full game fees. If contact is made closer to game time than this, but before an official leaves for the game, no fees will be paid to the officials. If an official is reached in person by phone while in transit, 50% of the fee for all games scheduled will be paid. If an official arrives at the game site without being reached by phone, the full fee for all games scheduled will be paid. The home team is responsible for making these notifications for regular JV and Varsity games, and the host site is responsible for making these notifications for games at other levels.
- F. **Weather/Field Condition Cancellations:** The home team is responsible for notifying the assigner and officials of weather and field-condition-related cancellations for regular JV and Varsity games, and the host site is responsible for making these notifications for games at other levels. If you leave a message at least 3 hours plus travel time (as calculated for each official by Google maps) before game time for the officials and the assigner or contact the officials and assigner before the officials leave for the game, no fee will be paid to the officials. If you contact the officials and assigner closer to game time than this and after the officials have left for the game, 50% of the game fees will be paid to the officials for the first two games of the set, plus appropriate travel, if applicable. Officials will be paid the full fee if the cancellation is made after game time, whether the game is started or not, a half fee for the next game in the set of games, and nothing for subsequent games. If the latest allowable time for notifying the officials is earlier than

8:00 a.m. following the above guidelines, the officials must be notified by 9:00 p.m. on the previous night. In addition, for any drive over 2 hours as measured by Google maps, if the officials have started to drive to the site or arrived on site in preparation for a game that is canceled, the board will determine appropriate compensation for the officials based on how far the officials drove before being notified; this may include reimbursement of travel expenses and hotel in some situations.

G. Suspended game policies: The Association follows the NFHS guidelines when weather related issues come up during a game. Once a game has started, officials must suspend a game if there are visible lightning bolts or audible thunder. This calls for the removal of athletes from the field to vehicles or permanent structures. The game may resume if there are 30 consecutive minutes with no visible lightning bolts or audible thunder. A game shall never be delayed more than an hour for ongoing weather issues. If the game is terminated due to weather, the score is as stands if the coaches agree. However, if the coaches cannot agree, then the following rules apply:

1. If the game is terminated anytime during the first half the teams shall resume play and finish the game at a future date.
2. If the first half has concluded, the score is as stands, unless it is a conference game and the score is within 2 goals, at which time the teams may resume play at a future time where they left off.

If the officials are asked to stay on site beyond the scheduled start time and the game is either not played or suspended, the officials are to be paid two-thirds of a game fee if the game is suspended before halftime—with the officials released immediately—and a full game fee if it is suspended after halftime or if the officials are kept on site after the suspension begins. If there are additional games scheduled, the officials are paid a half game fee for the next game in the set and nothing for subsequent games in the set.

Once a game is suspended due to weather conditions, the officials will stay on site for up to one hour to see if the game can be resumed. If a lightning delay lasts more than 30 minutes, the officials will be released (since the game would not be able to be resumed for at least another 30 minutes). If there is a second weather-related delay in the same game, the officials will be released.

If a game is suspended due to weather and the officials are asked to stay on site in case the weather clears, the officials' commitment ends at three hours after the scheduled start time. If the officials are available to stay later, their time is billed at \$10 for each 15 minutes or portion thereof. If the remainder of the game is rescheduled, the new officials will be paid a full game fee.

H. Delays/No-Shows: A “no-show” is defined as a team that does not have an adult coach and at least 10 legally equipped and dressed players – including a legally equipped goalkeeper – present within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time. For JV and Varsity games, the “no-show” team is responsible for full payment of officials (and travel expenses, if applicable). For other levels of play, the “no-show” team will compensate the opposing team for their share of the pre-paid officials fees as well as paying for the officials if the game is rescheduled. In some cases, the Board may mandate that the “no-show” team compensate an opposing team for a portion of their travel expenses or field rental. If any team has two “no-show” forfeits in one season, that team is ineligible for

post-season play. Exception: if a team is in transit, but delayed due to conditions out of their control and a coach can contact the other coach via a phone conversation prior to the start of the game to let them know their team is running late, and if the game can still be played with sufficient light, then no penalty shall be assessed beyond those mandated by the NFHS rules.

- I. **Facility Safety:** Each organization scheduling games is responsible for providing a safe facility for spectators, players, coaches, officials, and other game personnel. This includes, but is not limited to, making sure the field is safe, having a plan to deal with injuries, and having a plan to deal with severe weather.
- J. **Responsibility for Game Costs:** Costs associated with hosting games, including field rental, athletic trainers or emergency medical technicians (if any), tape, spray paint, and goals, are the responsibility of the home team for JV and Varsity games and of the host site for other games. Game balls are the responsibility of the home team for JV and Varsity games; at other levels, each team provides balls for one end line. Officials fees are discussed below.

V. Association Rules, Game Rules and Modifications

- A. **Rules:** NFHS Rules will be used for all Association contests with the noted exceptions.
- B. **Varsity-only rule exception:** Varsity goals must meet NFHS specifications except goal anchors are not required.
- C. **JV, 9/10, and U15, U13, U11, and U9 rules exceptions:** See 2013 Rule Variations documents on www.mbsla.org.
- D. **Coach Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** In 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9 games, any unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against a coach that the officials choose to report to the Board will result in a one game suspension for that coach even if the coach was not ejected from the game. If the coach is ejected, this penalty is not added to the automatic suspension associated with the ejection.
- E. **Concussion policy:** The Association policy regarding concussions is that any player who is suspected of having a concussion must be removed from the game or practice and not be allowed to return until the parents submit to the head coach written clearance from a medical doctor (other than a coach or the parent of any player associated with the team) stating that the player can return to play. This includes cases where a player is removed from a game by the officials under the concussion rule and cases where a concussion is suspected by an athletic trainer, an emergency medical technical, or one of the player's coaches. In no case can a player suspected of a concussion return to play on the same day even if the player has written clearance from a medical doctor. Violation of these rules may result in suspensions and game forfeits as well as other sanctions as determined by the Board.

VI. Payment of Officials

- A. **Officials' Fees:**
 - 1. Officials are paid fees detailed in the fee document posted on www.mbsla.org.

2. For Varsity and JV games, the home team will pay for all officials except as described below. For neutral-site regular-season games and scrimmages, the teams will split the officials fees unless other arrangements have been made between the teams prior to the date of the event.
3. For Varsity and JV games, all fees must be paid **before** the game unless officials are to be paid by the school's business office or to be paid by RefPay.com. Coaches should not tell officials that they will be paid by RefPay.com if that team does not have a RefPay.com account established, funded, and linked to their games in Arbiter (contact the assigner if you are unsure whether everything is set up correctly). If there is any paperwork to be filled out, the coach should provide it to the officials as early as possible (preferably before the officials arrive at the game). It is recommended that officials not start a game unless payment has been made or paperwork completed. If the team's treasurer will not be in attendance before the start of the game, please have checks signed in advance. If there is a Varsity game following the JV game, paying fees after the JV game but prior to the Varsity game is acceptable.
4. All JV and Varsity games will be assigned at least 2 officials. Some games will be assigned 3 officials at the discretion of the assigner based on the game's match-up or the history of the teams involved. If three officials are assigned to the game because the match-up is expected to require 3 officials, the home team will pay for all 3 officials. (Note: if an official fails to appear for a JV or Varsity game, the game may be played and will count as an official league game if both coaches agree to proceed with a single official if and until a second official arrives; once the coaches agree to proceed by sending their teams onto the field to start play, the lack of a second official will not be grounds to protest the outcome of the game.)
5. In some cases, teams will be assigned a third official due to reports of overly physical play or poor sportsmanship. If the team requiring the third official is the home team, or if both teams require a third official, the home team must pay all three officials' game fees and travel fees. If the team requiring the third official is the away team, that team must pay the difference in officials' fees plus the travel fee for the third official (if any) to the home team, and the home team will pay the officials. Once a team is on the list of teams requiring a third official, it may request a review after three games. Game officials and, in some cases, opposing coaches will be queried to see whether it seems appropriate to take the team back to 2 officials.
6. For all 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9 regular-season games, there will be two officials assigned for each game if available and officials' fees will be paid prior to the season and disbursed by the Association through RefPay.com. Officials' fees, including travel fees, are included in the officials' fees for each of these leagues and are pre-paid prior to the start of the season.
7. For all 9/10 playoff games, teams will be billed for first-round and quarterfinal games, and the officials will be paid via RefPay. Officials for the semifinals and finals will be paid by the league.
8. Officials for non-league games, such as weekday 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9 games, are not paid by the Association. Teams must arrange officials' payments on their own.

9. If league games at the 9/10, U15, U13, U11 or U9 levels are postponed or suspended and then made up during a weekday, the difference in the officials' fees between the weekend rates and the weekday rates must be made up by the rescheduling teams.
- B. Contacting Officials:** Contact information for the officials assigned to each game will be available in ArbiterSports.com. Home team coaches are required to contact the referee 24 hours in advance of every game unless the coach has already been contacted by the referee. It is recommended that the coach contact both officials within 24 hours if he or she does not hear from the referee. At this time the coach and referee should determine how to communicate last minute changes or cancellations, especially if the weather looks questionable. If a game is canceled or moved without proper notification to the officials, the home team will be responsible for paying the officials even if the error results in the officials not actually working the game.
- C. Travel fees for officials:**
1. Officials are paid travel fees according to the fees document posted at www.umloa.org.
 2. The **home** team is responsible for paying the travel fees for Varsity and JV games (as well as for any *non-league* 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9 games played on weekdays unless prior arrangements are made with the away team). These fees should be included with the officials' game checks or RefPay.com payments.
 3. In addition, if there are officials who travel more than 14 miles (one way) to game sites not listed on the travel fee document, or for officials who travel significantly farther than distances used to calculate the fees in the travel document, the Association will cover reasonable travel fees for those officials in a payment made at the end of the season.
- D. Playoff payments for officials:** The Association will pay the officials and their travel fees, if any, for all neutral-site playoff games scheduled by the Association. This generally includes the quarterfinal and later games for varsity and the semifinal and later games for other levels with playoffs. The league will use RefPay.com to make these payments.
- E. Non-payment of officials:** Officials should receive all payments within two weeks. In cases where a program is responsible for paying officials and they do not do so within 14 days, they will be warned that they need to pay the officials immediately. If the officials have not received payment within 14 days of the warning being sent, the Association will pay the officials and bill the program for 150% of the fees owed.

VII. League Structure, Postseason Tournament, and Team Structure

- A. Post-season Eligibility:** Only teams of Members in Good Standing (not suspended or on probation) are eligible for Association post-season tournaments.
- B. Varsity League Conference Structure for 2013:**
1. North: Brainerd, Duluth, Fargo, Grand Cities, Grand Rapids and Proctor.
 2. East: Eastview, Henry Sibley, Hudson, St. Louis Park and St. Paul.
 3. South: Mankato, Northfield, Shakopee, Shattuck-St. Mary's and Waconia.
 4. West: Becker, MontiQuois, Providence Academy, St. Cloud North and St. Michael-Albertville.

C. Varsity Game Number Requirements:

1. Each team will play conference teams at least once. If a team chooses to play a conference team twice, only the first completed game will count towards conference seeding.
2. Teams may play any number of out-of-state games.
3. Teams may play up to 13 total games against Association and MSHSL opponents. Teams may play in one in-state in-season weekend tournament per season. All tournament games played during that weekend will count as one game against the total of 13 games.
4. Additional scrimmages may be scheduled; however, they will have last priority for officials and a score cannot be kept or posted.

D. Varsity Playoff Structure:

1. All teams will be seeded within each conference for a single-elimination bracket based on: (1) win percentage among official conference games (if a team forfeits an official conference game, that counts as a 1-0 loss) (2) Fewest conference forfeits (3) head-to-head . If three or more teams are tied after (1)–(3), apply (4) fewest goals against in conference games to eliminate one team (or more than one if there is a tie for the team with the most goals against in conference games) and repeat this procedure with the remaining teams). If this does not resolve the tie, then (5) a coin toss breaks the tie.
2. Teams will play off within each conference until 4 teams remain. The remaining 4 conference teams are ranked 1-4 by VII-D-1 above.
3. The remaining 16 teams in the four conferences will be seeded into a single-elimination bracket such that each branch of the bracket has one first-, one second-, one third-, and one fourth-seeded team, each team being from a different conference. Teams from the same conference will not meet until the semifinals. The top two seeds in each conference will not meet until the finals.
4. Teams will split officials' fees evenly for the within-conference playoff games. The visiting team will either pay one-half of the officials' fees directly or, if the home team uses RefPay.com, will pay one-half of the officials' fees to the home team. The home team will pay all officials' travel fees unless prior arrangements have been made with the opponent (this is because the away team generally incurs travel expenses for such a game.)
5. The Association will pay officials fees and travel fees for the Varsity quarterfinal and later games.

E. Varsity Season Dates:

April 1	First day for scheduled regular season games
May 22	Last day for scheduled regular season games
May 23-24	Make-up dates
May 28-29	Conference play-in games
May 31-June 1	First round
June 1	Awards meeting
June 2-3	Quarterfinals

June 5-6 Semifinals

June 8 Championship

F. **Playoff Eligibility and Structure for JV, 9/10, and U15:** Playoffs for JV, 9/10, and U15 will include at most the top sixteen (16) teams by win percentage. Fewer teams may be included in the playoffs per board decision. Ties will be split by (1) fewest forfeits (2) head-to-head, (3) opponents' overall win percentage (total wins by opposing teams divided by total games played by opposing teams), and (4) Board decision. JV and 9/10 teams will pay for the officials for up to the first two rounds of the tournament and the Association will pay for the semifinals and finals.

G. **Lower Level Playoffs:** There will be no playoffs for the U13, U11, and U9 leagues.

H. **Varsity Post-Season Awards:** The Association will award Varsity team trophies to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

I. **Varsity Post-Season Officials:** There will be three officials per game until the semifinals. In the semifinals and finals, there will be three officials plus an alternate official. The third-place game will not use an alternate official.

J. **JV, 9/10, and U15 Post-Season Officials:** There will be two officials per game in the first two rounds. In the semifinals, finals, and third-place game (JV only), there will be three officials.

K. **Team structure:**

1. Varsity and JV teams will consist of players in grades 8–12 and not older than 19 years old on August 31 of the previous year unless prior approval is granted by the Board. A player may not play more than 6 quarters in Varsity and JV games in one day without prior approval from the Board.
2. Eighth graders cannot play varsity, JV, or 9/10 without registering with the board first. To register, the Member association must submit signed letters from the Member association's U15 coach (if any), the JV or varsity coach for whom the player would play, the president of the member association, and each of the player's parents and/or all legal guardians stating that the player has the skills and physical abilities to compete safely at that level of play. The Member association must also supply a letter from a physician stating that the player is physically capable of playing safely at that level of play. Once all of this paperwork has been received by the board, the board will notify the member association that the player can play at the JV or varsity level. The player may not play in any JV or varsity game prior to this notification; to do so would be to use an ineligible player, which could trigger forfeits and suspensions.
3. 9/10 teams include players from grades 8–10 only. An eighth-grader may compete on a 9/10 team only as explained above. No Varsity players may play in any 9/10 game and JV players may not play in a 9/10 playoff game. Only Association JV players may play in a regular season 9/10 game (MSHSL JV players may not) and only with pre-approval from the board. For the purposes of this section, "JV player" means anyone who has played any portion of four different quarters in JV games.
4. A player participating in both 9/10 and JV may compete either in (1) All 9/10 games—including playoffs—and a maximum of 12 quarters in JV games, with no more than 2 quarters in any one game or (2) All JV games—including playoffs—and

- a maximum of 12 quarters in 9/10 games, with no more than 2 quarters in any one game. Any player violating these limits will generally cause his team to forfeit any games where the limit was violated. Any player playing at both levels must be reported to the communications officer, and teams must keep clear records showing what games and quarters such players participated in.
5. To participate in U15, U13, U11, and U9 leagues, the player must be under the specified age on the August 31 preceding the competition. That is:
 - U15 players are 14 or younger on August 31, 2012.
 - U13 players are 12 or younger on August 31, 2012.
 - U11 players are 10 or younger on August 31, 2012.
 - U9 players are 8 or younger on August 31, 2012.
 6. For U15 and U13 teams, a player may play year above current age level (e.g., someone who is 12 on the previous August 31 can play in U15 instead of U13) with prior board notification.
 7. Under no circumstances can a player play at more than 2 different levels of play in the same season. Players in eighth grade or lower may only play at one level without prior Board approval.
 8. The use of any ineligible or suspended player in a game will generally result in at least a forfeit for the first offense and may result in suspensions of any coaches involved; this includes the use of a player “playing up” to a higher level without prior board approval. For the second offense, the game will be declared a forfeit and the offending team will be declared ineligible for the playoffs. All teams are advised to keep accurate scorebooks at all levels of plays; these may be used to assist in settling disputes. If your team is involved in a dispute and does not have accurate records, there is a strong possibility that a protest against your team will be upheld.

VIII. All-American, All-State Selections and Other Awards

- A. **Eligibility:** In order to have its players eligible for awards, a team's roster and statistics must be posted on www.mbsla.org.
- B. **Selections:** From the received nominations for league awards, a committee made up of coaches present at the awards meeting will determine the recipients for awards.
- C. **Awards:** The Association selects players for the following awards: All-American, All-State, and All-Conference.
- D. **Coaching Awards:** The same process applies for Association coaching awards. Selections are made at the awards meeting. Awards for coaches consist of: Coach of the Year, Assistant Coach of the Year, Official of the Year, and Junior Official of the Year.

IX. Meeting schedule

- A. The Association will generally hold meetings according to the following schedule, with typical items covered at each meeting listed:
 1. Third Saturday of November: Fall General Meeting; changes to By-laws and Operating Policies; Board elections; applications for new members considered; discuss and approve multi-school exemptions; discuss budgeting; and general business.

2. Second Saturday of December: Scheduling for Varsity and JV games .
 3. Saturdays in February or March: Scheduling meetings for 9/10, U15, U13, U11, and U9.
 4. Second Saturday of March: Spring General Meeting; pre-season and general business; coaches clinic; mandatory rules meeting; and announce rule variations .
 5. June: Selection of awards.
- B. Other meetings may be scheduled from time to time if needed to conduct Association business. Every attempt will be made to notify all programs and concerned individuals of each meeting, by posting the meeting schedule on www.mbsla.org and by sending email to known addresses, but the failure of one or more members to receive the notice due to not receiving the email will not invalidate the meeting.