

Charter for the  
**Alabama High School Lacrosse Coaches Association**  
**(AHSLCA)**



**Purpose:** Establish a membership-guided, oversight organization for Alabama High School (HS) lacrosse coaches and teams, to

- i. set standards for team participation in Alabama High School lacrosse
- ii. assist in the development of emerging programs
- iii. support the transition of all high schools upon sanctioning of lacrosse by the Alabama High School Athletic Association

The AHSLCA, through its coach members, is determined to be inclusive of ALL high school lacrosse coaches and lacrosse programs while also focused on establishing criteria for a program's full participation in lacrosse at the high school level. Criteria will (1) govern the level of each program's affiliation and (2) define the infrastructure required to host home games.

### **Coach Member Overview**

The organization will be comprised of individual coaches of boys and girls high school lacrosse teams throughout Alabama. Coaches become members of the AHSLCA by submitting an application to the AHSLCA.

#### **Coach Standards**

<b>Membership</b>	Any current head coach or assistant coach for a girls or boys high school team in Alabama is eligible for AHSLCA membership. Only varsity head coaches of fully-participating programs have voting rights.
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## Program Membership Overview

### Program Membership Levels:

#### Level 1.

Full voting membership; eligible for post season

- Players eligible for US Lacrosse All-American, All-State Team and Alabama Showcase

#### Level 2.

Full voting membership; eligible for post season; infrastructure not certified as sufficient to host home games.

- Players eligible for US Lacrosse All-American, All-State Team and Alabama Showcase

Programs in both Level 1 & 2 are deemed **fully-participating**. Only games between fully-participating teams are considered official games for purposes of standings, and only fully-participating teams can compete in post season playoffs.

#### Level 3.

Non-voting member; school affiliation or number of players below standard; limited infrastructure.

- Players eligible for Alabama Showcase only
- Any games involving a level 3 team are considered “friendlies” and do not count toward standings for fully-participating teams
- Field must meet standard to host home “friendlies”
- “Friendlies” will be scheduled as NON-GBYLA games, and are not considered part of the regular spring season schedule

### Program/Team Minimum Standards

<b>Affiliation</b>	Teams must be affiliated with a public or private AHSAA-member high school in the state of Alabama, where affiliation is defined as the minimum required percent of rostered players enrolled at the high school.
<b>Roster Size</b>	Teams must have a minimum of 15 high school players. Younger (non-HS) players playing up do not count toward the minimum roster size.

### Infrastructure Standards (for Hosting Home Games)

<b>Field</b>	Must have a regulation lacrosse-sized field of a quality consistent with other field sports within the affiliated high school, i.e., other teams competing in high school sanctioned sports could/do use the same field for games.
<b>Trainers</b>	Programs are required to have consistent access to LOCAL certified athletic trainer(s) to cover games.
<b>Referees</b>	Programs are required to have consistent access to a sufficient number of LOCAL referees.

### Operating Details & Rules

1. **Operations.** The Greater Birmingham Youth Lacrosse Association (GBYLA) will manage lacrosse season operations.
  - 1.1. GBYLA's responsibilities include
    - 1.1.1. Scheduling and approval/oversight of referees
    - 1.1.2. Scheduling and approval/oversight of trainers (Birmingham-area only)
    - 1.1.3. Scheduling of games between fully-participating teams and general spring season support as needed
    - 1.1.4. Conduct player registration for **all** fully participating teams to ensure compliance with US Lacrosse member status for players and coaches
  - 1.2. Rule: In support of GBYLA's management, AHSLCA will establish a coach/ref collaboration committee to coordinate training and facilitate resolution of coach/ref concerns or issues.
2. **Program Standards.** Establishment of minimum criteria for participation at the high school level similar to standards of other high school sports, to include but not limited to:
  - 2.1. High School Affiliation. Teams must be directly affiliated with an AHSAA-member High School.
    - 2.1.1. Rule: To be affiliated with a high school, a team must have a percentage of its players enrolled at an AHSAA-member high school. The roster requirement for enrolled high school players:

Program Year	Minimum Roster Requirement
<b>Year 1 (Inaugural Season)</b>	25% of rostered players must be enrolled at affiliated high school
<b>Year 2</b>	55% of roster
<b>Year 3 (and all years after)</b>	75% of roster

## 2.2. Minimum number of HS players

2.2.1. Rule: Teams must have a minimum of 15 high school players.

Younger (non-HS) players playing up do not count toward the minimum roster size. Players are subject to AHSAA Bylaws on Eligibility (<http://www.ahsaa.com/Publications>).

2.3. Field standards. Standardized/acceptable high school quality field consistent with other high school sports within the high school.

2.3.1. Rule: The field of play to host a home game must be utilized for games by other sports from the affiliated high school, or of similar quality that other sanctioned sports could use the field, and must be of regulation size for lacrosse (per US Lacrosse or NFHS rules).

2.4. Minimum support infrastructure. Infrastructure required to support lacrosse includes coaches plus local refs and trainers. Programs lacking infrastructure will not be allowed to host home games

2.4.1. Rule: High school programs are required to have consistent access to LOCAL athletic trainers and consistent access to a sufficient number of LOCAL US Lacrosse certified referees.

2.5. Inclusion in high school level competition. Programs meeting the requirements for number of players, field standards and infrastructure will be eligible for HS competition.

2.5.1. Rule: Teams meeting all affiliation, roster, field and infrastructure requirements will be designated as AHSLCA Program Membership **Level 1**, and are eligible to host home games and for post season play.

2.5.2. Rule: Teams meeting affiliation and roster requirements, but not field or infrastructure requirements will be designated as AHSLCA Program Membership **Level 2**, and are eligible for post season play but are NOT eligible to host home games.

2.5.3. Rule: Teams not meeting affiliation and/or roster requirements will be designated as AHSLCA Program Membership **Level 3**. Level 3 teams are eligible for “friendly” matches while the program and infrastructure

are being established. Scheduling of friendly games are at the option of the competition.

2.6. Program/Team membership application:

2.6.1. Rule: Program/team applications must be submitted to AHSLCA. Any changes to Program information must be provided to the AHSLCA. Failure to submit revisions may impact Program eligibility and/or Membership Level including the ability to participate in official games and/or the ability to host home games.

3. **Program Eligibility**

- 3.1. Determination of high school Program/Team eligibility will be reviewed and approved by AHSLCA member coaches.
- 3.2. The AHSLCA will be the sole determiner of each Program's Membership Level.
- 3.3. The **Program Standards** rules above (section 2) define Program Eligibility, and those standards are not subject to season-to-season changes or other adjustments. NO exceptions to any standard will be permitted for purposes of determining a Program's Eligibility or Membership Level.

4. **Classifications**

- 4.1. For each gender, the AHSLCA may divide its fully-participating programs (Program Membership Levels 1 & Level 2) into classifications for purposes of balancing competition and expanding post season opportunities.
- 4.2. No fewer than ten (10) fully-participating teams are allowed in each classification.
- 4.3. AHSLCA classifications must correspond to the then-current AHSAA classifications for the affiliated high schools.
  - 4.3.1. For example, suppose the AHSLCA has 20 fully-participating boys teams, and decides to create "upper" and "lower" classifications.
  - 4.3.2. The upper classification might include any/all fully-participating boys teams affiliated with AHSAA 7A high schools.
  - 4.3.3. The lower classification would then include any/all fully-participating boys teams affiliated with AHSAA 1A-6A high schools.
  - 4.3.4. No 7A team would be allowed to play down in the "lower" classification.
  - 4.3.5. A lower classified team can request to move "up" a classification, but requires approval by AHSLCA and the 10-team minimum per classification (4.2 above) cannot be violated.

- 4.4. Approval is required by a majority of the teams in each new classification.
  - 4.4.1. For example, if AHSLCA has 20 fully-participating boys teams and decides to divide into two 10-team classifications; a majority of teams (6 out of 10 in this example) in each of the new classifications must agree.
  - 4.4.2. If a majority of teams in any one of the newly proposed classifications does not agree, then the reclassification is not approved and does not take place
- 4.5. The division of classifications may be different by gender. For example, boys teams could be divided into 2 classifications as per the example above (4.3.1), but the girls teams could all remain in a single classification.

## 5. Seasonal Rule Changes

- 5.1. Only AHSLCA member coaches can submit rule changes
- 5.2. Changes must be submitted in writing using the online form (see Coaches Corner at [gbyla.org](http://gbyla.org))
- 5.3. Rule: Any proposed rule change, once voted on by the AHSLCA membership, will not be eligible for reconsideration or revision for two complete High School lacrosse seasons.

## 6. Enforcement of GBYLA league standards to be determined by AHSLCA members

- 6.1. Rule: Simple majority vote of AHSLCA member coaches will be sufficient to pass any standards, unless otherwise specified.

## 7. Oversight Board. HS coaches will establish an oversight board. All changes to policies or the items noted above require a vote by HS coaches. Decisions that are specific to boys or girls lacrosse will be determined by the coaches representing those groups.

## Supplemental Information

### 2017 Boys & Girls High School Lacrosse Teams ✓ with 2016-18 AHSAA Reclassification Level

(Enrolled includes 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment basis used for AHSAA classification)

Team (alpha order by class)	AHSAA Class	Enrolled 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Teams	
			Boys	Girls
<b>Auburn</b>	7A	1,753.7	✓	✓
<b>Hewitt-Trussville</b>	7A	1,088.3	✓	✓
<b>Bob Jones</b>	7A	1,315.9	✓	
<b>Hoover</b>	7A	2,143.1	✓	✓
<b>Huffman</b>	7A	1,070.7	✓	✓
<b>Huntsville</b>	7A	1,498.9	✓	✓
<b>James Clemens</b>	7A	1,269.6	✓	✓
<b>Mountain Brook</b>	7A	1,071.9	✓	✓
<b>Oak Mountain</b>	7A	1,211.7	✓	✓
<b>Prattville</b>	7A	1,521.4	✓	
<b>Spain Park</b>	7A	1,252.3	✓	✓
<b>Vestavia Hills</b>	7A	1,458.9	✓	✓
<b>Homewood</b>	6A	846.7	✓	✓
<b>John Carroll</b>	6A	613.0	✓	✓
<b>Briarwood Christian</b>	5A	569.7	✓	
<b>Randolph</b>	4A	379.7	✓	
<b>UMS-Wright Prep</b>	4A	372.7	✓	