

Blaine Youth Lacrosse Association

Policies & Procedures

I. MISSION STATEMENT

Blaine Youth Lacrosse is a non-profit youth sports organization that provides fun and developmental lacrosse opportunities for youth aged boys and girls within a planned environment for the communities in our area.

II. GENERAL POLICIES - PROCEDURES

A. Background Check

All Blaine Youth Lacrosse Board members, coaches, and assistant coaches shall undergo a background check annually through USA Lacrosse at no cost to them. The safety and welfare of our players is our number one priority.

B. Registration

1. All Girls and Boys in grades 2-8 (or ages as specified by USA Lacrosse) that reside within the Blaine High School boundaries for boys and girls, are eligible to participate in the Blaine Youth Lacrosse program.
2. Players that attend private school, are homeschooled or reside in a community without a youth lacrosse association are encouraged and allowed to participate in the Blaine Youth Lacrosse program.
3. Registration fees are non-refundable after teams have been named and practices have started. Exceptions to this refund policy are subject to Blaine Youth Lacrosse Board approval. If a uniform has already been ordered for an individual requesting a refund, that amount is also non-refundable.
4. Need-based scholarships are available on a limited basis to players eligible for free/reduced lunch through their respective school. Proof of free/reduced eligibility will be required prior to scholarship approval. The amount of funding available depends on BYLA's financial status at any given time.

C Equipment

1. Player Uniforms

- a. All players will be supplied with a jersey and shorts/skort as part of their seasonal fee.
 - b. Boy players need to provide their own stick, helmet, mouth guard, gloves, required protective equipment, and foot wear, and must be up to date with all current safety approvals required by USA Lacrosse.
 - c. Girl players need to provide their own stick, USA Lacrosse approved eye guards, USA Lacrosse approved mouth guard, and their own foot wear.
2. Goalies have the option to use their own equipment, but it must meet all safety approvals as required by USA Lacrosse.

D Coaches Selection

1. Criteria for Coaches
 - a. A Coaching Application is required for all who wish to coach with Blaine Youth Lacrosse.
 - b. All coaches must complete a background check and Coach Certification through USA Lacrosse.
2. Each individual that applies for a coaching position will be interviewed by the Boys or Girls Directors. Past coaches who are invited back do not need to go through the interview process.
3. Board approval is required for all Director coaching decisions.

E Teams – General Information

1. Player Movement:
 - a. All players will play with their specified age/grade level as specified by USA Lacrosse. In the event that spots do need to be filled on a team, players who move up or down will be chosen by the respective Director based on their ability and primary position as needed.
 - b. Guardian requests for waive-up based on ability will be considered by the Director and presented to the board for approval.
 - c. Parents should contact the Boys Director or Girls Director with questions or application information.

- d. After rosters are set, players may not be added or moved from team to team without approval by the Board.

2. Evaluation Policy:

- a. Evaluations for seasonal team placements will be held if there are enough kids to make more than one team at a given age level. The evaluation will be held prior to the start of the respective season.
- b. All tryouts will be organized by the respective Director and Assistant Director, whose responsibility is to source qualified evaluators, determine the evaluation process, tabulate evaluation results, and publish the teams. If the Director, Assistant Director, or a coach at any level has a child in the evaluation, they are not allowed to judge the session. The Boys/Girls Director will work in coordination with another BYLA Board Executive member on result tabulation or team placement. The evaluations are closed to all guardians, excluding BYLA board members. Individual evaluation rules and expectations will be communicated to the prospective athletes and their guardians in advance of the evaluation to set expectations and guidelines for the process.
- c. All players will be placed on a team with Blaine Youth Lacrosse.
- d. We reserve the right to have an evaluation of the 8U and 10U players if there will be more than one team. We want to keep these teams as even as possible, so this evaluation is strictly to help us make those team decisions effectively.
- e. Players will be evaluated on a 3-point scale in the following areas.
 - i. Stick Skills
 - ii. Ball protection
 - iii. Shooting
 - iv. Lacrosse IQ.

3. Team Rostering

- a. Roster information: Team size and mix are important components to a successful program.
 - i. 8U

1. Boys: 10-13 players per team
 2. Girls: 12-15 players per team
 - ii. 10U
 1. Boys & Girls: 12-15 players per team
 - iii. 12U & 14U
 1. Boys & Girls: 16-20 players per team
 - b. These roster sizes are ideal for the Spring season. It may be necessary for summer or fall teams to carry a 20% increase to the maximum.
 - c. If registration numbers exceed our planned maximum at any level and yet not enough to host multiple teams at our minimum, the board will evaluate the following and make a decision on what is best suited for the association and all players.
 - i. A single large team.
 - ii. Moving skill appropriate kids to another age-level.
 - iii. Work with a neighboring association on merging teams.
 - iv. Cancel the season at any age-level where the minimum is not met. We reserve the right to cancel the season and refund all registration fees.
 - v. Designate players as Practice Player
4. Team Formation: Teams will be determined based on Evaluation results. If there are enough players to host multiple teams at 12U and 14U, the process will be as follows.
- a. Tryout results will determine the first 80% of the final roster number ("Lock").
 - b. The final 20% will be a joint decision between the Head Coach and the Boys or Girls Director.
 - c. The pool of players available to be selected from will be the next 10 players following the "locked".
5. A & B teams - determined at evaluations. Upon the completion of registration, BYLA may elect to host a B1 and B2 team. In this case, the

B1 team formation will follow the current process referenced here in selecting an A team.

F Playing Time

Blaine Youth Lacrosse is a developmental lacrosse organization. All players will receive approximately the same amount of playing time. Times may vary slightly based on position, number of kids on each team, or competition. This does not include any situation related to disciplinary measures or injuries.

G Facility and Equipment Use

The Blaine Youth Lacrosse Association will be responsible for securing field time, and providing necessary equipment to play the game. This does not include individual player equipment. It is expected that all players and coaches will treat the facilities and equipment with the utmost respect. Any damage to the facilities or equipment, or lost equipment may fall back on the players or coaches that caused the damage or loss from a financial or criminal position if proven.

H Financial

1. Team Finances:

- a. It will be the sole responsibility of the BYLA Board to collect fees from the guardians of players.
- b. No player will be allowed to participate in practice/games until their season fees are current.
- c. All players must have an active USA Lacrosse membership to be allowed to participate in any practice or game. This membership is an additional player expense that is above and beyond the BYLA seasonal fee.
- d. The BYLA board will maintain a responsibility to act in a responsible manner with regards to association finances, and cannot run the program with a negative bank balance.
- e. The Treasurer shall provide a financial summary at each monthly board meeting.

I GENERAL POLICIES - PARTICIPANTS

1. Players - Players agree to abide by the **Players Code of Conduct** (Exhibit A) and **Anti-Bullying Policy** (Exhibit D) included here-in. Players that violate these rules will face suspension for one or more games, at the discretion and approval of the coaches and the board. Habitual infractions by any player will result in the player's dismissal from the team and a

potential dismissal by BYLA. Every player will be expected to sign the Players Code of Conduct.

2. Coaches - Coaches will treat all players equally with no preferential treatment to any one player. Coaches will not be physically or verbally abusive to any player. Coaches that are found to be in violation will be asked to resign from their position. Blaine Youth Lacrosse desires that all players be afforded the opportunity to succeed in a non-hostile environment. Every coach with BYLA will be required to sign the **Coaches Code of Conduct** (Exhibit B).
3. Guardians - If a guardian is being unruly to officials, coaches, players or other guardians, that guardian may be asked to leave the game by a game official or member of BYLA coaching staff. First infraction will require the parent to watch the league's Certified Parent video. Repeat offenders will be removed from the team without refund of any seasonal fees. The guardians conduct may result in player dismissal from the team. Guardians will be expected to sign the **Guardian Code of Conduct** (Exhibit C) as part of the registration process. It is assumed that both guardians are represented in the registration signature.

III. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Meetings

Meetings will be held once per month (unless otherwise informed), the second Monday of every month at 7:00. All Board Members are required to attend all meetings. If a Board Member misses 3 or more meetings, the remaining Board Members reserve the right to vote to remove the member from the Board. Meetings will be announced on the website and are open to any guardian with a child in our organization.

B. Positions

Board Members will not be allowed to reside on another community-based Youth Lacrosse Board, or hold any position with a club lacrosse organization while serving on the BYLA Board, without disclosure and approval by the BYLA Board. Only one person per household may hold a position on the BYLA board.

1. Board Votes:

- a. All measures requiring a board vote must have the majority of 5 votes to pass. All board members will vote. In the event of a 4-4

tie, the President will then determine the results of the vote and the direction of BYLA's decision on the issue at hand.

D. Representation

All Board Members will represent Blaine Youth Lacrosse in a positive manner, especially at games and practices. As a Board Member, you are the face of BYLA and will be held to a higher standard than other guardians. Board Members are not permitted to use their position on the Board to gain profit or special treatment for themselves or their families. Board Members will openly support all Board decisions once motions have passed regardless of personal opinion. Any violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the rest of the Board, commensurate to the violation, up to and including suspension from attending BYLA events, or possible removal from the Board.

E. For The Kids

Board Members will make decisions based on the needs of the entire Association, not just a specific person or team. The Board will ask "Will this decision positively impact the *majority* of the players in the Association?"

F. Bylaw and Rule Changes

The BYLA board reserves the right to change bylaws and / or any policy with a majority vote at any time. The BYLA board also reserves the right to act in any fashion contrary to the bylaws if approved by a majority vote, but is limited to highly unusual one off situations.

G. Inclusion

BYLA welcomes all athletes to play at a level for which they desire regardless of sexual orientation or gender, but the athlete must adhere to age guidelines as determined by USA Lacrosse.

H. Public Health

In the event of a pandemic or other public health related issue, BYLA will follow recommended guidelines established by the State of Minnesota, and/or the lacrosse governing body for the respective situation. BYLA reserves the right to change or alter their policies for its players and parents based on local situational circumstances. Up to date information is or will be posted on our website for reference.