

2006 HARFORD COUNTY IN HOUSE LEAGUE BOYS LACROSSE RULES AND POLICIES

Purpose of league: To promote the growth of boys lacrosse in Harford County by providing participating recreation councils with league play opportunities irrespective of the size of the council's program.

Age groups: Age groups will conform to those of the Maryland Youth Lacrosse Association ("MYLA") and shall be based on a player's age as of the December 31st preceding the start of the season. Tyker=ages 6-8, Lightning=ages 9-10, Midget ages 11-12. "Playdowns" are not permitted under any circumstances.

Eligibility: All teams must come from Harford County recreation councils that conduct open registration. The tyker and lightning teams entered shall consist of all of a program's players in an age group divided in a manner intended to produce evenly matched teams. The midget teams must be teams playing at an approximate C level using MYLA rating methods.

Playing time: Playing time for each player must be a minimum of one third, and preferably one half, of the game. Midfield playing time should count double when measuring playing time.

Stick lengths: Tyker and lightning leagues 36-72" are legal. Midget-same as MYLA rule 40-42 or 52-72" are legal.

Referees: The referees for the midget league must be from the Southern Lacrosse Officials Association ("SLOA"). Referees for tyker and lightning will be hired by each program and shall be at least high school sophomores for the tyker league and at least high school juniors for the lightning league. Non SLOA referees must attend preseason training classes in order to qualify to referee.

Referee performance standards: Each program shall insure that its non SLOA referees are performing at an acceptable level by periodically observing them during games. Calls are to be made with the referee blowing their whistles loud enough that play halts immediately. Calls are to be verbally announced in a manner that can be clearly heard by coaches on the sideline. Appropriate hand signals must also be used for penalties and signaling ball possession. Referees will be expected to hustle at all times. Referees that fail to call games in this manner, or who fail to wear the appropriate uniform, are to be warned immediately to correct the problem or face dismissal.

Referee uniforms: Programs are to provide uniforms to their non SLOA referees. It is recommended that the uniforms be complete and of the same style worn by SLOA referees. The uniform should include hat, shirt, belt loop type white shorts, black belt, over the calf white socks with black upper trim, whistle, and flag. Black windpants may be worn during inclement or cold weather.

Referee fees: For the tyker and lightning league, the home program shall pay the referees. For midget, the cost of the referees will be paid by the coaches of the two teams playing (split equally).

Spectators: Spectators must view the game from the sideline opposite the team bench sideline (except in a stadium situation where there is a significant partitioned area between the sideline and the bleachers). Only coaches, players and timekeepers are allowed on the team bench sideline.

Equipment: Helmet, gloves, arm pads and shoulder pads of a type specifically designed for boys outdoor field lacrosse required of all players (including goalies). Mouthpieces must be worn at all times while playing.

Sportsmanship: Unless games are running behind schedule, teams should participate in a pre game lineup. All games are to end with a cheer for the opposing team followed by a handshake lineup. This should take place immediately after the game and should not be delayed by player equipment removal or team meetings. All teams must remove their trash from their sideline area. Coaches are to assist referees in dealing with any problem spectators that are engaging in a pattern of referee, coach or player criticism or heckling.

General rules: For the midget league, the rules shall be exactly the same as those used by the MYLA midget league (including quarters of 8 minute start-stop clock). For the tyker and lightning leagues, the rule format shall be Federation High School Rules except as modified or clarified below. *Important note: The rules below do not govern the tyker and lightning Sunday Harco travel leagues. They are governed by MYLA rules that differ from the below in some respects (including the allowing of body checks in the tyker travel league for 10 man play-seek referee clarification on body checks for tyker 7 man travel).*

Lightning rule modifications and clarifications.

- 1) Quarters will be 8 minute start stop clock. One sudden death (first goal wins) overtime period of 4 minutes shall be allowed if the game is tied at the end of regulation.
- 2) Following a goal, a team behind by 4 or more points shall be awarded the ball at midfield without a faceoff.
- 3) Two time outs per half, one in sudden death.
- 4) Body checks are allowed but unnecessary roughness will be strictly interpreted. No body checks under any circumstances of players facing off. One hand check is a personal foul (slash)-only penalize legitimate attempts to dislodge ball.
- 5) Except unsportsmanlike conduct or 2 minute penalty, a penalty on the goalie may be served by another player.
- 6) No offensive or defensive counts (e.g. no clearing time limit).
- 7) Automatic "keep it in" during the last 2 minutes of the game for the winning team.
- 8) Coaches attempting to intimidate referees by constant criticism will be warned to discontinue this behavior or face expulsion from the league. Concerns regarding the performance of the referees are to be directed to the age group commissioner of the program providing the referee.
- 9) Play on rule only with respect to goalie interference.