

**SAINT MARY'S YOUTH LACROSSE CLUB, INC**  
**BY-LAWS**  
(Updated December 2010)

**ARTICLE I**  
**Name**

The name of this Association shall be the Saint Mary's Youth Lacrosse Club, Inc.

**ARTICLE II**  
**Purpose, Mission and Objective**

The purpose, mission and objective of the Club is to promote sportsmanship, by developing, teaching and encouraging the skills of the sport of lacrosse for all children regardless of ability between the ages of 7 through 14 years of age.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Membership**

Any child who is age-appropriate as of January 1 of each year regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**Registration**

1. Registration will be conducted for a period of four Sundays during January preceding the spring season or at any time approved by the Board and Officers of the Club.
2. At registration, all potential and returning Club members will be required to present a birth certificate and/or military ID to the appropriate registrar.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Club Fees**

1. Club fees will be assessed to each member on a yearly basis. These fees are intended to cover the expenses of the Club including, but not limited to, equipment/uniform costs, referee fees, league fees, tournament fees, and the cost of awards.
2. Club member fees are due from each member at the time of registration. Any Club member fees not paid by March 1 will be assessed a ten percent (10%) penalty. Any player whose membership fee is outstanding at the start of the season shall be removed from the player roster and will be ineligible to play.

3. The refund policy for registration fees is full refund of registration fee if requested prior to February 1 of the season. A one-half (1/2) refund of the registration fee if requested by March 1 of the current season, and no refund after March 1 of the season.
4. The Board and Officers prior to November 1 of each year shall establish club membership fees for the following season.

## **ARTICLE VI Team and Age Divisions**

Junior Team - To be eligible to play on the Junior Team, a player must be fourteen (14) years old or younger on January 1 of the current season. A ninth grader meeting the age eligibility is not eligible for play at the Junior level if a member of a High School Varsity or Junior Varsity lacrosse team.

Midget Team - To be eligible to play on the Midget Team, a player must be twelve (12) years old or younger on January 1 of the current season.

Pee Wee Team - To be eligible to play on the PeeWee Team, a player must be ten (10) years old or younger on January 1 of the current season.

Bantam Team - To be eligible to play on the Bantam Team, a player must be eight (8) years old or younger on January 1 of the current season.

No Child will be authorized to play in an older age Division without the express permission of the President of the Club after consulting with the Board and the affected Head Coaches.

## **ARTICLE VII Teams**

1. There shall be one team in each Age Division, unless insufficient numbers preclude and they shall practice together at the prescribed field as designated by the Board.
2. All age eligible Club members shall comprise their respective Age Division team.
3. The Club shall field one "RED" squad in each Age Division (Junior, Midget, Pee Wee and Bantam) that will compete in the Southern Maryland Youth Lacrosse Association. The selection and total number of players comprising the Age Division RED squads shall be determined by the Age Division Head Coach with Board guidance.
4. All age eligible Club members not selected for their respective Age Division RED squad shall comprise an Age Division (Junior, Midget, Pee Wee and Bantam)

“WHITE” squad, unless insufficient numbers preclude. The WHITE squads shall play teams that are comprised of players possessing comparable experience/skill levels affiliated with other Youth Lacrosse Organizations.

5. All Club members shall be eligible to be chosen for their respective Age Division RED squad. During the course of the Spring Season all WHITE players shall be eligible to be selected for their Age Division RED squad as their experience/skills levels improve. Selection for the Red squads shall be determined by the Age Division Head Coaches with Board guidance.
6. The Board may change this policy upon exigent circumstances.

### **ARTICLE VIII League Officers, Board Members and Duties**

1. Officers of this Club, and their duties, shall be as follows:

President/Commissioner - Preside over Club meetings, responsible for the day by day operations of the Club, including but not limited to the scheduling of games and make up games, scheduling referees, notifying Coaches and members of Board and Officer decisions, certify rosters for the League, receive notices of suspensions, putting into effect any and all Board decisions, be the Club’s representative with the League, act as liaison with parents of players having difficulties with Coaches, and any other duties as authorized by the Board and Officers.

Vice President/Assistant Commissioner- Alternate to the President. This position shall fulfill the duties of the President if the President is not available or unable to fulfill his/her duties.

Secretary - Take appropriate notes at meetings and notify members of upcoming meetings.

Treasurer - Control the money of the Club. Pay all bills of the Club at the direction of the President if said bill is under \$1,000.00 and at the direction of the Board if over \$1000.00.

All Officers shall have the same duties in addition to the above, of that of a Board Member.

2. The Number of Board Members of this Club, and their duties, shall be as follows:

There shall be seven Board Members.

Board members shall be the policy makers of the Club. They shall approve all final decisions as to Head Coaching positions, team selection if there is a conflict, and review grievances by parents and/or coaches.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Meetings, Elections, Appointments and Voting**

1. A mandatory Club Board meeting will be held no later than December of each year at which time the current Officers and Board members will elect Officers for the upcoming year.
2. Any Club member in good standing may be nominated by a Board member or current Officer in the Club for a Club Officer position, or for a Board positions as they become available.
3. The terms of office for Officer positions shall be one year and shall run from December 1 through November 30.
3. The current Officers and Board Members shall elect board members as an opening takes place. Terms of a Board member are until the individual resigns or misses 40% of Club Board meetings and/or votes.
4. A quorum necessary for voting on any issue will be six (6) Officer and Board members in any combination. No topic will be binding on the Club unless voted on by a quorum.
5. In addition to the mandatory meeting no later than December, the President may call as many Board meetings as he/she believes is appropriate.
6. The President will conduct all meetings, with any Board member or Officer being empowered to make any motion, second and discussion of any topic related to the Club.
7. All voting at meetings will be by voice vote unless the President requires a show of hands and an actual count.
8. In lieu of a Board meeting, the President may make or accept motions on topics related to the Club by e-mail and have a binding vote on said motions with six (6) or more e-mail votes received from Officers and Board Members. All e-mail voting shall have the same impact as that of an actual voice vote, but will require that the President notify Officers and Board Members of results and who voted and how.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Head Coaches Appointment, Duties and Responsibilities**

1. The Board and Officers shall appoint Head Coaches for a period of one season.
2. Head Coaches shall have the right of first refusal for the following year if they notify the President in writing of their request to be Head Coach for the upcoming season by December 1.
3. Upon receipt of an existing Head Coach request to remain in said position the Board and Officers will, in a timely manner, approve or disapprove the request no later than December 15.
4. If an existing Head Coach does not notify the President of his/her intention in writing by December 1, they shall not have the right of first refusal and will be considered as any other new individual for the head coaching position by the Board.
5. The right of first refusal does not include a Head Coach's desire to move to another age division. In this case the Head Coach of one age division will be considered as any other new individual for the different position.
6. Head Coaches, with Board guidance, shall be responsible for selecting and determining the total number of players comprising their Age Division RED and WHITE squads.
7. Head Coaches shall have the right to appoint seven Assistant Coaches and to determine their duties with the Age Division RED and WHITE squads.
8. Head Coach will be responsible for following any and all policies approved by the Board.
9. There shall be no Co-Head Coach positions and a Head Coach shall not share his/her position.
10. Head coaches and their Assistants will be responsible to develop the skills and encourage each of their players in a positive manner.
11. Head Coaches shall play all members of their team with a meaningful amount of playing time per game, regardless of ability, in order to foster the development of the players. Head Coaches shall have the option to not play, or to limit playing time of, team members who do not attend practice, are discipline problems, and most importantly, in game/practice situations where the safety and well-being of the child is at risk. If a Head Coach exercises this option then he/she MUST speak to the player and his/her parents explaining the basis for the decision and how it can be resolved to the child's benefit. This discussion shall be prior to the game in question whenever possible, or as soon thereafter as possible. If this decision is made for more

than one (1) game in a season, the Head Coach must notify the President as to why more than one (1) game is necessary.

12. Head Coach shall be responsible to supervise their players until picked up by a parent or guardian after a practice or game. Assistant Coaches may be delegated this authority, but the responsibility remains with the Head Coach. Failure to follow this directive may result in immediate dismissal of the Coach by the Board. The safety of the children is paramount.
13. Head Coaches are responsible for the safekeeping of all equipment assigned to them each season and returning same to the Board appointed equipment manager.
14. Head Coaches shall promote sportsmanship among their Assistants, parents of their team members and their players. All Coaches are required to treat all players, referees and other attendees of games in a respectful manner and to counsel players exhibiting un-sportsmanlike behavior. Said counseling to be verbal, or removing the player from the game when appropriate.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Changes or Amendments to By-Laws**

In order to amend the By-Laws, a proposed change must be submitted in writing to all Club Board members at least thirty days prior to a vote on the amendment. A majority vote will pass an amendment.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Play of Game**

1. The rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations will govern the play of games except as otherwise designated in the SMYLA by-laws and/or the SMYLA Handbook.
2. Junior, Midget, and PeeWee games shall consist of four quarters, each 8 minutes in duration, stopping on the whistle. Refer to the SMYLA Handbook for rules applicable to the Bantams.
3. There shall be a two-minute break between the first and second quarters and the third and fourth quarters. There shall be a five-minute break between halves.
4. One five-minute sudden death period will be played in any game that is tied at the end of four full quarters of play. If the tie is not broken during that time, the game will be recorded as a tie game.

5. If, during the game, one team leads the other team by five (5) or more goals, the team with the least number of goals shall be awarded possession of the ball at the midfield line in lieu of a face-off after a goal is scored, or a quarter is started.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**Game Change or Cancellation**

1. It is the responsibility of the Home Team President to notify the Capital Area Referee's Association of any change or cancellation of games.
2. Efforts will be made to complete a game once it has begun. However, if an official terminates a game during play, it will be considered a complete game if terminated after the referee's whistle beginning play in the third quarter. If a game is terminated prior to the referee's whistle beginning the third quarter; it will be considered an incomplete game and shall be replayed in its entirety.

**ARTICLE XIV**  
**Fighting and Ejections**

1. It is the responsibility of each Head Coach to assure that his/her team acts in a sportsmanlike manner. Fighting will not be tolerated. Any player ejected by an official for fighting in a game shall be suspended for the very next League game. Our Head Coach shall make notification immediately to the President of the Club, who will then notify the League Commissioner.
2. Any player ejected for leaving the bench area during an altercation shall be suspended for the season.
3. Should the entire team leave its bench area during an altercation, that team shall forfeit the game.
4. Should both teams leave their bench area during an altercation, both teams shall forfeit the game, and no points will be awarded to either team.
5. Should an official during a game eject the head coach of a team, that team shall be caused to forfeit the game at that point.

**ARTICLE XV**  
**Club Game Responsibilities**

1. The home team shall be responsible for assuring that there is no conflict in jersey colors. If there is a conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to make the change in jerseys.

2. The home team shall assure that the field is properly lined and mowed. Fields should be prepared for play one-half hour prior to game time. Failure to have a field prepared one-half hour in advance may result in a three-minute non-releasable penalty at the start of game play. This rule is not to be interpreted to imply that a field is necessarily going to be "available" for play one-half hour prior to game time. When multiple games are scheduled, this may not be possible. However, this rule should be interpreted to imply that a field should be "prepared" (i.e. goals strung and in place, field lined, etc.) for play one-half hour prior to game time.
3. The home team shall assure that the goal nets are properly secured and that the goals are of legal size and design. Adhering to "Lacrosse Etiquette" when hosting games, the visitor's goal shall be the first available.
4. The home team shall provide a scoring area to include a scoring table, a timekeeper, a game clock, a penalty clock, a substitution horn, and a ball-boy at each end of the field. If ball-boys are unavailable, four balls may be substituted in the out-of-bounds area behind each goal. The home team shall provide the official scorer.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **Grievances**

1. The Club Member and the Head Coach of the appropriate team shall first discuss any problem that a Club Member has with playing time or a Coach's methods.
2. If a resolution cannot be reached by the Head Coach and the Club Member, then the Club Member and/or Head Coach shall notify the President of the problem and what attempts were made to resolve the issue.
3. The President shall then attempt to mediate the problem.
4. If the President is unable to resolve the problem, then the Board shall hear the issues of both parties and shall resolve the issue by one of the following methods. Changing a player's team if prior to April 1, removing the player from the Clubs role if after April 1, dismissing the Head Coach and/or Assistant as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **Rules and Discipline**

1. Sanctions will be imposed for any member of the Club and coaching staff for non-compliance of the by-laws or any other rule or policy established by the Board. Sanctions could include, but are not limited to, ineligibility to play in one (1) or more games and dismissal from the Club.
2. In case of a dispute, a written protest should be submitted to the Board. The Board shall investigate the protest and make a determination.

3. The Board has full authority to request and secure appropriate documents and information to investigate protests.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **Definitions**

In an effort at clarification, the following definitions apply:

Board- consists of both Board Members and Club Officers.

Assistant Coach- individual appointed by a Head Coach to assist in coaching duties as directed by said Head Coach.

Board meeting- Meeting called by the President of the Club where both Officers and Board members attend.

Club President/Commissioner - The one person authorized to represent and vote on behalf of the Club at League meetings.

Dispute- any issues of conflict that causes a problem for Club members, Coaches, referees.

Grievance- problem between Club member and coaching staff.

Head Coach- The individual appointed by the Board and Officers to manage and be responsible for one team.

Home Team – Our Club is always the home team when playing other League teams at Lancaster Park. However, when playing each other, the Board will decide at the time of scheduling whom at Home team shall be given this designation.

Member - The parent(s) and child(ren) holding membership in this Club.

Season - The season shall run from November 1 to October 31.

Writing- may be by first class mail, hand delivered or by e-mail.