



WINNIPEG BOX LACROSSE COMMISSION OPERATING POLICIES

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These Operating Policies establish the governance, standards, and procedures for the effective operation of the Greater Winnipeg Lacrosse League (the “League”). The policies apply to all member clubs, teams, players, guardians, coaches, officials, volunteers, league administrators, and spectators. Stand alone policies have been created to offer greater clarity on some sections.

The objectives of the League are to: - Promote safe, fair, and competitive box lacrosse - Support athlete development at all levels - Ensure consistent league administration and governance - Foster respect, sportsmanship, and community engagement.

B. GOVERNANCE AND AUTHORITY

1. League Authority

The League operates under the authority of the Winnipeg Box Lacrosse Commission (WBLC, or the “Board”) and in alignment with applicable provincial, national, and international lacrosse governing bodies.

2. Board of Directors

- a. The Board is responsible for strategic direction, policy approval, and oversight.
- b. Board members shall act in the best interests of the League at all times.
- c. The Board may establish committees (e.g., Discipline, Competition, Finance) to support operations.

3. League Administration

- a. The League may appoint Committee Chairs to manage day-to-day operations.
- b. League staff and volunteers are accountable to the Board.

C. MEMBERSHIP AND TEAM ADMISSION

1. Eligibility

- a. All teams and clubs must be in good standing with the WBLC, Manitoba Lacrosse Association (MLA), and other relevant governing bodies.
- b. Teams must meet minimum roster, coaching certification, and financial requirements.

2. Application and Approval

- a. New teams or clubs must submit a written application by the WBLC’s published deadline.
- b. Applications are subject to Board approval and may require demonstration of competitive viability and benefit to the League.

3. Good Standing

A team or club is considered in good standing when it: - Pays all league fees on time - Complies with League policies and rules - Has no outstanding disciplinary sanctions.

D. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

1. Registration

- a. All players must be properly registered with the League prior to participation.
- b. Registration deadlines shall be enforced.

2. Age and Division Eligibility

- a. Players must compete in the appropriate age and skill division as defined by the League.
- b. Players are not allowed to be registered on more than one (1) team, except in the case of a female player who also wants to play in the co-ed league.
- c. Players must register with the club where their home address falls within the boundaries of that club.
- d. Requests for exemptions must be submitted as per applicable policies.
- e. Ages are determined by birth year, not current age.
 - i. U7 – 6 year old and younger
 - ii. U9 – 7 and 8 year old
 - iii. U11 – 9 and 10 year old
 - iv. U13 – 11 and 12 year old
 - v. U15 – 13 and 14 year old
 - vi. U17 – 15 and 16 year old
 - vii. U22 – 21 and under

3. Player Transfers and Call-Ups

- a. Player movement between teams is governed by League transfer and call-up policies.
- b. Unauthorized player participation may result in forfeits and disciplinary action.

E. COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS, and BENCH PERSONNEL

1. Certification and Screening

- a. All coaches and bench personnel must hold required coaching certifications.
- b. Criminal record checks and child abuse registry checks are mandatory where required by law or governing bodies.

2. Responsibilities

Coaches and team officials are responsible for: - Player safety and supervision - Adherence to League rules and codes of conduct - Ensuring only eligible players participate. All coaching staff must be properly certified as per CLA minimum coaching standards to be on the bench.

F. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1. Season Format

- a. The League shall determine season length, divisions, scheduling, and playoff formats annually.

- b. With consideration on rink availability and when spring break falls, the regular season will typically start the last week of April and end prior to July. Tier 1 and U22 teams may continue playing into July but not into August.
 - i. U7 and U9 play Monday and/or Wednesday at 6pm
 - ii. U11 and U13 play Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
 - iii. U15 and U17 play Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
 - iv. U22 play Sunday
 - v. In the event of site availability conflicts, or by Club request, the league scheduler may schedule games on non-standard days.
- c. When only one (1) division exists in an age category, that division shall be deemed a Tier 2 level
 - i. When Tiering is introduced at an age category, it shall be to create a Tier 1 and Tier 2 level. When the number of teams allows, a third tier will be added and will be called Tier 3.
- d. Games are scheduled on set nights, however, due to facility and official availability limitations, games can be scheduled on Saturdays, or any other day that is required.
 - i. For play-offs, every day of the week will be utilized.
 - ii. A set make-up day will be used for games that are not played due to extenuating circumstances, to be set by the WBLC but will typically be Friday nights.
- e. Play-offs will be decided season by season and will balance time limitations with maximizing the number of games teams play.
 - i. Tiered divisions will play-off against each other to find the top teams
 - ii. Large divisions, typically 6 or more teams, will be split into smaller playoff divisions, based on their standings at the end of the regular season.
 - iii. The League reserves the right to realign divisions to maintain competitive balance.

2. Games and Scheduling

- a. Games shall be played according to the Lacrosse Canada (LC) rules adopted by the League and the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) when and where it applies.
- b. The WBLC and GWLL reserve the right amend game play rules, from time to time, when required. Game play rules will be posted on the league website prior to the season and prior to being enforced. Should a change be required during the season, an email will be sent to all affected coaches, advising them of such.
- c. Teams are responsible for attending all scheduled games.
- d. Failure to appear may result in forfeits, fines, or additional sanctions.

G. SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 1. Player Safety
 - a. Mandatory protective equipment must be worn at all times during games and practices as per Lacrosse Canada.
 - b. Teams must follow concussion and injury management protocols.

2. Facilities
 - a. Games and practices must be held in approved facilities that meet safety standards.
 - b. The League reserves the right to cancel or suspend play due to unsafe conditions.
3. Insurance
 - a. All participants must be covered by appropriate insurance as required by the League and governing bodies.
4. Goal equipment will be supplied by the clubs for U13 and younger ages.

H. TEAMS

1. All Clubs are responsible for forming teams that follow the League Formation Matrix.
 - a. If there is only one Division, clubs should do their best to form equally skilled teams.
 - b. If there are multiple Divisions, and clubs have more than one team, that club should be putting one team in each Division.
 - c. If there are multiple Divisions, and clubs only have one team, the club must identify what level they are registering their team for.
 - i. If teams are not seeded properly, the WBLC retains the right to move teams up and/or down Divisions at any time.
2. Clubs must follow the minimum and maximum roster size as listed for U11 and older:
 - a. Minimum – 12 runners and 1 goaltender
 - b. Maximum – LC Rule – maximum of 20 players. 18 runners and 2 goaltenders
3. League Formation Matrix
 - a. When registrations are such, that a minimum of 4 teams cannot be created, all players will be placed in one group and will play games and participate in development sessions together.
 - i. The structure of the floor times may be adjusted, as decided by the WBLC or a Committee if one is appointed.
 - b. When there are enough players to form 3 teams, clubs with the most amount of players from their area will host a team.
 - c. Once an Age Category reaches 9 teams, a Tier 1 Division will be formed consisting of 4 teams and there will be 5 teams in the Tier 2 Division.
 - d. Once an Age Category reaches 13 teams, the Tier 1 Division will have 4 teams, the Tier 2 Division will have 4 teams and the Tier 3 Division will have 5 teams
 - e. When there is more than one Division, the WBLC reserves the right to move teams between Divisions for play-offs, if the regular season standings dictate that move will provide for a more accurate competition level.
 - f. Matrix player numbers are based off an average roster size of 15.

GWLL LEAGUE FORMATION MATRIX

PLAYERS	TEAMS	FORMAT	PRACTICES	DIVISIONS
20-35	0	4 x 4	Full Group	1
36-60	3	4 x 4	Team Practices	1
61-130	4 - 8	LC	Club Team Practices	1
131-192	9 - 12	LC	Club Team Practices	Tier 1, Tier 2
193+	13+	LC	Club Team Practices	Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3

4. Team Selection Draft Process
 - a. Clubs will select up to a maximum of three (3) coaches for each team.
 - b. Where clubs only have one (1) team at an age category, no draft is required.
 - c. Clubs should run a minimum of two evaluation practices. The coaches and the club will evaluate the players. The club is responsible for providing information, an evaluation on past performance if applicable, on players that are eligible for the teams but are unable to attend the evaluation practices. The player evaluations should be given to the coaches prior to the draft.
 - d. Prior to the draft, coaches and clubs must disclose to each other any players that should be on a team due to special circumstances (i.e. son, daughter, step-child, nephew, niece, etc.). This should be brought to the attention of the opposing coaches. The opposing coach will not be allowed to draft those players during the first 4 rounds. (The club will determine whether the special circumstance is justified)\
 - e. The club will run the draft with each coach selecting one player at a time, using a coin flip to see who selects first
 - f. Any player that registers after the draft will be assigned to a team at the sole discretion of the club, unless that player was recruited by a specific team.
 - g. If, at any time a club determines an unfair advantage based on the roster, the club can initiate player movement to balance the teams. The Player Movement deadline must be followed, as per the Season Timeline.
5. Any Club wishing a variance to the team formation format must apply in writing giving the reasons for their request. Any variance must be passed by a majority vote of the WBLC.

I. FACILITY AVAILABILITY

1. Every club must provide a facility availability list for their clubs home games.
2. Facility information must be provided in accordance with the Season Timeline.
3. Clubs need be provide an additional facility when having more than three (3) teams playing on a given night. Failure to do so may result in home games being played at other facilities.

J. TOURNAMENTS

1. Teams wishing to attend out of province tournaments during the league season, must submit a Schedule Exemption Request to the WBLC as per the Season Timelines. If no request is submitted, no adjustment to league games will be made.
2. Clubs wishing to host tournaments must inform the WBLC prior to the season and in accordance with the Season Timeline.
 - a. Annual tournaments will have first rights to age categories and dates.
 - b. Tournaments must also be sanctioned by the MLA.
 - c. Game official fees must match the league rates at a minimum

K. BOUNDARIES

1. Are geographical locations that each club can accept player registrations from and are designed to align with school division boundaries.
2. New players must follow the boundaries as described in this policy, however, players who registered and played in the 2025 season only, are eligible for the Grandfather clause as per the Player Transfer policy.
3. If no club exists in a school division, players will register with the nearest club to them.
 - a. When a school division boundary connects to two (2) or more existing club boundaries, the WBLC will split that school division so that players are shared between the two (2) clubs.
 - b. If no club exists in the following school divisions, this is how they will be organized:
 - i. Lord Selkirk – West of the Red River joins Storm, East of the Red River joins Wizards
 - ii. Sunrise – North of Highway 15 joins Gryphons, South of Highway 15 joins Sidewinders
 - iii. Interlake – East of Highway 6 joins Falcons, West of Highway 6 joins Shamrocks
 - iv. Prairie Rose – Joins Shamrocks
 - v. Frontier – Joins Wizards
 - vi. Red River Valley – North of Highway 3 joins Shamrocks, South of Highway 3 joins Saints

Falcons (North) – Seven Oaks School Division, plus the Winnipeg School Division north of the Assiniboine River and West of the Red River

Shamrocks (West) – St. James School Division, plus Pembina Trails School Division west of Rt. 90 to McGilvary, then north of McGilvary to the Perimeter

Sidewinders (South) – Louis Riel School Division, plus the Winnipeg School Division south of the Assiniboine River, plus Pembina Trails School Division east of Rt 90 to McGilvary, then south of McGilvary

Gryphons (East) – River East Transcona School Division, plus the Winnipeg School Division east of the Red River

Storm – Interlake School Division

Wheat City – Brandon School Division

Saints – Seine River and Hanover School Divisions

Wizards – Sunrise School Division

Ojibway – Frontier School Division

4. These are the official boundaries of clubs within the WBLC. Any boundaries posted by the WBLC that differ from these, are only for reference purposes, intended to simplify the registration boundaries being used for the current season.
 - a. If a school division does not have a club, the posted boundaries may show where those school divisions are divided to help guide registrants, but are subject to the boundaries described in this policy.

L. TIMELINES AND DEADLINES

The Season Timeline is posted on the league website and every deadline is in effect, regardless if it was specifically referenced in this document.

M. FINANCIAL

1. The league will create a yearly operating budget that will be used to set team fees.
 - a. Team fees are to be kept as low as possible.
2. League finances are only to cover operating expenses, with a maximum retainer of \$15,000 for planned or unplanned league expenses. Overages will be reinvested into the league in the following season.
3. The WBLC may impose fines for policy violations, forfeits, or misconduct.
4. The WBLC shall maintain accurate financial records and operate in a fiscally responsible manner.
5. Clubs that do not submit receipts on time, are no longer entitled to reimbursement.
6. WBLC finances shall be completed 1 month prior to the AGM and made available to the WBLC Board.

N. LACROSSE CANADA

All Lacrosse Canada rules are in place except those that have been modified by the MLA or WBLC. Any deviations from the LC rules will be posted on the league website.

O. COMMUNICATION and MEDIA

1. Official Communication
 - a. Official League communications shall be distributed through approved channels.
 - b. Teams are responsible for ensuring accurate contact information is on file.

2. Media and Social Media

- a. Participants must represent the League positively in public and on social media.
- b. The League may discipline conduct that harms its reputation.

P. AMENDMENTS and REVIEW

1. These Operating Policies may be amended by the Board.
2. Policies shall be reviewed periodically to ensure relevance and compliance with governing bodies and applicable laws.

Q. ACCEPTANCE

Participation in the League constitutes acceptance of and agreement to comply with these Operating Policies and all related policies, rules and regulations.

Approved: January 28th, 2026