



**NORTH JERSEY JUNIOR
LACROSSE LEAGUE**
BERGEN - ESSEX - HUDSON - HUNTERDON
MORRIS - PASSAIC - SOMERSET
SUSSEX - UNION - WARREN

2026 NJLL League Policies and Procedures 2026 v1

The North Jersey Junior Lacrosse League (NJLL) follows both the 2026 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rulebook and the 2026 USA Lacrosse Boys' Rulebook. This document serves as the primary rules document for the NJLL. If an item is not covered by this document or the USA Lacrosse Youth Boys Rulebook, then revert to the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rulebook for all other issues. The Garden State Lacrosse Officials Association (GSLOA) is responsible for assigning officials for all NJLL games, tournaments, and functions.

A. Best Practices

1. All NJLL programs should have access to an AED (portable defibrillator) on site for all games and practices.
2. All NJLL coaches should have the following training in addition to USA Lacrosse Men's Bronze or higher Coach Certification:
 - a. Concussion recognition and coach's responsibilities in the event of a suspected concussion.
 - b. CPR and basic first aid
 - c. Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y
3. All Parents should attend Positive Coaching Alliance training.

B. Players Grade & Age Eligibility

1. See chart below for age eligibility per grade.

8 th Grade players	cannot turn 15 prior to 3/1/2026*
7 th Grade players	cannot turn 14 prior to 3/1/2026
6 th Grade players	cannot turn 13 prior to 3/1/2026
5 th Grade players	cannot turn 12 prior to 3/1/2026
4 th Grade players	cannot turn 11 prior to 3/1/2026
3 rd Grade players	cannot turn 10 prior to 3/1/2026

*Any player in high school is ineligible regardless of age

2. Players who attend High School are not eligible to play, regardless if they participate in high school lacrosse or not.
3. Programs may combine grade levels to form a team when necessary.
 - a. These teams are considered the higher of the two grade levels for scheduling purposes (a combined 7th & 8th grade team is considered an 8th grade team).

4. Players are to be confined to competition at their grade level.
 - a. A player can move up one grade level (for example, from 7th up to 8th)
 - b. Under no circumstances can a player move down a grade level to compete.
5. Players may only participate ONE grade level higher than the actual grade they are in:
 - a. Under no circumstance shall a 6th grade player or below participate on a combined 7th & 8th grade team.
 - b. Under no circumstances shall a 4th grade player or below participate on a combined 5th & 6th grade team.
 - c. Under no circumstances shall a 2nd grade player or below participate on a combined 3rd & 4th grade team.
6. Each grade level has an age maximum. All program directors and coaches are required to make sure all players on each team are “age eligible” as well as in the proper grade level.

C. Player Border / Location Policy

1. All players must reside within the physical boundaries which are recognized by the program and the league.
2. If a player lives in a municipality that does not offer a program or a team at the player’s grade or combined grade level, they must play for the NJLL program which borders their municipality.
 - a. In the event that there is not a bordering program, or the bordering program cannot accommodate the player, the player must play for the next closest bordering municipality that is able to accommodate them (a player is not permitted to Jump over a bordering or next closest program to play for another program).
 - b. If an out-of-town player’s home municipality starts a program, all players will be required to play for their home municipality’s new program. The only exception being an 8th grade player who has played at least two previous seasons with the neighboring program shall be permitted to remain with the neighboring program for their final year unless the program does not offer a team at the player’s grade or combined grade level.
3. Should a member program not have a sufficient number of players at a given grade level, and the board of the respective program elects to merge the grade level with another accepting member program in geographic proximity to the sending program, players at the grade level from the sending program shall not be eligible to play for any NJLL program other than the accepting program.

- a. Similarly, if a program is unable to accommodate all interested players due to facility or other critical limitations, they may, with league approval, partner with a member program in geographic proximity, thus allowing some of their players to play for the other program.
 - b. The Intent of this rule is to maintain the geographic integrity of our “Town Based League” while achieving our goal of allowing as many kids as possible the opportunity to enjoy the game of lacrosse while playing with their friends and schoolmates. The NJJLL is not a private club pay-to-play league that allows recruiting and dynasty building.
4. Regional teams shall submit to the NJJLL executive committee the boundaries of their program.
- a. Players from “regional” programs are required to play for the town team, associated with the High School that student/region will/would attend. This includes students that elect to attend a private high school out of their regional town’s jurisdiction
 - i. Player must play for the town program that supports their local/regional/public high school- NOT the town their private school is in.
5. If a town finds a player/program is violating this policy
- a. That town should reach out to the offending program immediately.
 - b. If the issue is not resolved, the program should contact their Divisional Director to address with the NJJLL Board.
 - c. The Executive committee shall resolve all disputes over program boundaries as they arise
 - i. Should a town be found to be violating this policy, penalties from loss of playoff/all-star participation up through and including league suspension may result.
 - ii. Wonton disregard for this policy or active player recruitment will not be tolerated and result in the severest of penalties.
 - d. Examples:
 - i. *A 7th grade player from Randolph attends Delbarton Middle School in Morristown. He must play for the Randolph team and NOT the Morristown town even though his parents say it’s more convenient for him to play for Morristown because he goes to school there*
 - ii. *A 5th grader from Hackettstown has played for Long Valley for 2 years when Hackettstown joins the league and starts a program. He must now leave the LV program and play for Hackettstown, even if it means he is on a combined 5th/6th grade team.*
 - e. Procedure:
 - i. If a program finds a player/program is violating this policy or if a special circumstance

should arise.

- ii. The town/program should reach out to the other program immediately
 - iii. Both programs should attempt to work out a solution that is in the best interest of the player and programs and agree to such solution in writing
 - iv. Send the recommended solution to the Divisional Director for approval.
 - v. If the issue is not resolved, the program should contact their Divisional Director to address with the NJJLL Board
6. All players and coaches shall be required to have active USA Lacrosse memberships valid through June 15th of the current season.
 7. If any player is dismissed or suspended from their program, they are ineligible to play for any other NJJLL program during the same time period. At the discretion of the NJJLL President, the NJJLL Executive Committee will hear any appeals in the event of extenuating circumstances.

D. Player Participation Expectations

1. It is strongly recommended that each NJJLL program define what is expected from its players as it relates to participation in other sports during the NJJLL season.
2. No NJJLL program shall be permitted to participate in any other league during the NJJLL season.
3. It is strongly recommended that programs clearly define their policy on whether or not players may participate on any other team(s) which plays games during the NJJLL season.
4. This is not intended to prohibit players from participating in “Elite or tournament summer teams”

E. Coaches Requirements and Policies

1. See 2026 NJJLL Playing Rules for information on coaching requirements

F. Game Officials Policies

1. All NJJLL game officials must be active members of the Garden State Lacrosse Officials Association (GSLOA).
2. All game officials are required to attend annual NJJLL rules meeting(s) as scheduled by the GSLOA.
3. All NJJLL/GSLOA officials must be active members of USA Lacrosse through June 15th of the current year.
4. All home games and scrimmages for NJJLL teams must be entered into the “Arbiter” website for the purpose of having game officials assigned by the GSLOA.
5. Under no circumstances can any NJJLL program or team assign or obtain its own game officials.
6. Any game official who accepts any assignment directly from a program or works a youth game not assigned by the NJJLL is subject to either having their remaining schedule suspended or cancelled at the discretion of the GSLOA.

7. All tournaments or festivals or similar events run by or sponsored by any NJJLL program during the NJJLL regular season (3/1 to 6/15) shall use the GSLOA for the purpose of obtaining game officials. The GSLOA has a list of specific tournaments which predate 2010 which are permitted to continue to use their current assignor at the discretion of the GSLOA. If at any time the “grandfathered” assignor is no longer available, the GSLOA shall assign these tournaments. All other tournaments sponsored by NJJLL programs must be assigned by the GSLOA.
8. No new SATURDAY tournaments can be added from mid-April to mid-May.

G. Game Officials Payment Policies

1. All 7th & 8th grade games will receive two officials and payment is \$85 for each official.
2. All 4th grade (10v10), 5th & 6th grade games will receive two game officials and payment is \$70 for each official.
 - a. If at any time an official does a 6th grade or below 10v10 game alone the payment is \$105 for each game.
3. 7th and 8th grade games shall not be played with less than two officials.
3rd & 4th (7v7) games played on a small field will receive one game official and payment is \$80 for each game.
4. 7v7 games played at 5th through 8th grades are to have two officials assigned and they will be paid at the same rates as a 10v10 game.
5. Officials should be paid NO LATER than half time of the last game schedule. If vouchers are being used, they must also be available no later than this time.

H. Single Game Surcharge

- 1) A \$10 per official surcharge shall apply when a program schedules a single game without a second game at the same field or location.
- 2) The surcharge does NOT apply if a program schedules and plays two or more games on the same field one after the other and for any reason an official only works one of those games.
- 3) The surcharge shall apply in any of the following circumstances: (see examples below)
 - a. A game that was scheduled as a single game and played as a single game.
 - b. Anytime a cancelation or change results in one game being played at a field/location.
 - c. Any games scheduled more than 90 minutes apart are considered single games.
- 4) The surcharge does not apply: (see examples below)
 - a. If a game is scheduled and played as two-game set including a 7v7 game, any official(s) working a single game are not entitled to the surcharge.
 - b. If multiple games are assigned in a manner that has any official working a single game.

- c. If an official only works or accepts one game of a multiple game set.
- d. If a second game is added before gameday the surcharge no longer applies.
- e. Surcharge does not apply to any 7V7 games that pay \$80
- f. The surcharge is payable when the normal game fee is paid.

5) Examples & clarification of the single game surcharge:

- a. This surcharge only applies when a program schedules or plays one game at a specific field. *It does not automatically apply because an official only worked one game.*
- b. If a program schedules and plays two or more games but for any reason an official(s) only work, one of these games the surcharge WILL NOT apply.
- c. If a program schedules two or more games but for any reason cancels game(s) leaving a single game the surcharge WILL apply.
- d. If an official accepts a game as a single game but a second game is added, the surcharge WILL NOT apply even if the original official(s) does not work the second game.
- e. If a program schedules a 4th grade 7v7 game at 6pm followed by another game at 7pm, the second official who works the second game WILL NOT receive the surcharge as the program did schedule two games.
- f. For a 4th through 6th grade 10v10 game scheduled as a single game the referees would be paid \$75 each.
- g. For a 7th or 8th grade game scheduled as a single game the referees would be paid \$85 each.

I. Game Changes & Cancellations

- 1) For the 2026 season there will be a \$50 fee for any game change request that is within the 15 days prior to the games date and official(s) have been assigned. Programs should make sure they are checking their schedules and confirming with their opponents to make sure they can avoid this fee. The game change fee is payable to the GSLOA within 14 days of the game change or cancellation.
- 2) The game change fee applies if a program requests any game(s) changes or cancellation for games that official(s) have been assigned and that are scheduled within the next 15 days.
- 3) These situations are considered a game change:
 - a. Any change to the games starting time.
 - b. Changing or swapping grade levels is considered a change
 - c. Any change to the game's location (see Section 4 below for possible exceptions).
 - d. The game is cancelled for a reason other than the weather.
 - e. The 48-hour rule listed below which requires the officials be paid in full still applies for any games cancelled within 48 hours of game time. See below for the full 48-hour rule description.

- f. If the 48-hour rule is applied the change fee is waived
- 4) The change fee is per game.
- a. If requesting 2 or more games be changed, the game change fee applies for each game. For example, if two games are changed, the fee would be \$100 (\$50 X 2).
- 5) Change fee may not apply under the following circumstances:
- a. A change is for a change of fields with the exact same game times and within the same town or program.
 - i. If the change request is to move to a neighboring town and at the same time(s) the fee may be waived by the GSLOA if the same officials are available to work at the new location.
 - b. Same day weather related cancellations.
 - i. The 2-hour rule is still in effect for weather-related cancellations. See below for the complete weather-related cancellation policy.
 - c. For Saturday games more than 15 days in advance, programs may still request change(s) even if officials have been assigned as long as the game(s) are more than 15 days away.
 - d. Change of opponent
- 6) Game change requests can only be made by the HOME team, however the program responsible for requesting the change is responsible for the fee.
- 7) To make a change request BOTH programs must agree to the proposed change prior to the request being made.
- 8) Game change requests must be made using the online form.
- 9) At the discretion of the GSLOA exceptions may be made based on extenuating circumstances.
- a. Extenuating circumstances DO NOT include:
 - i. Coach(es) not available
 - ii. Player(s) not available
 - iii. School Functions
 - iv. Scheduling mistakes
 - v. Field becomes unavailable (Unless weather related)

vi. Field scheduling conflicts

10) Covid / Illness

- a. If a team requests a cancellation / postponement due to Covid or illness all games within the next 5 days shall also be cancelled for the team involved.

11) Notifications

- a. All game change or cancellation request must be made using the NJJLL Game Change Form located on the league website. www.njlacrosse.com/forms
- b. To cancel any game within 24 hours of game time the home team shall also notify all officials and their local assignor by telephone.
 - i. E-mail is not acceptable with less than 24 hours' notice.
 - ii. Text messages may be used but if there is no response within an hour a phone call must be made
- c. The home team shall check to assure that the game is changed or removed from The Arbiter system before game day.

12) Non-Weather-Related cancellations (48 Hour Rule)

- a. Non-weather-related cancellation for games that are listed in Arbiter (for any reason).
 - i. More than 48 hours' notice - no fee due officials. The Game Change fee of \$50 will be due to the GSLOA for each game cancelled.
 - ii. Within 48 hours of game time, full game fees due to all officials for all scheduled games. For example, if three games are scheduled and less than three games are played, officials must be paid for all three scheduled games.
 - iii. No game change fee is due if the 48-hour rule is applied.

13) Weather related cancellations (2 Hour Rule)

- a. with full two hours' notice – No fee due
- b. less than two hours' notice - ½ game fee (\$30.00) due for first game only
- c. This fee is due even if the official(s) never arrived at the field
- d. If five games are scheduled only one fee of \$30.00 is due to each assigned official
- e. If scheduled for multiple games and weather causes any cancellation after at least one game has started no further fees are due officials.
- f. For any game that has started, the officials are entitled to the full game fee.
- g. In all cases leaving a voice message on the cell phone of each official shall be considered

proper notification.

- i. After contacting both officials please notify your local assignor.
 - ii. E-mails will not be considered proper notification of game cancellations with less than 24-hour notice.
 - iii. Just contacting the assignor(s) is not considered proper notification.
 - iv. Text message may be used but if there is no response from BOTH officials prior to two hours before game time a phone call(s) must be made.
- h. In the event an official is pulled from their NJJLL game to cover a High School game the official shall immediately notify the NJJLL assignor.
 - i. In the case of a dispute about a payment due the final decision shall be made by the NJJLL head assignor / GSLOA.

J. Game Management

1. It is the program director's responsibility to make sure that their programs schedule is always correctly listed in The Arbiter system.
 - a. If a request was made for a game change or cancellation, it is the program directors' responsibility to make sure the change is made in Arbiter at least 48 hours prior to game time. If it has not been made the local assignor should be contacted.
 2. It is recommended that all dressed participants should play a minimum of the equivalent of 1 quarter.
 3. All spectators shall be on the sideline opposite the team bench areas
 - a. Exceptions based on local field issues at the discretion of the game officials
 - b. This does not apply in a stadium setting such as a high school football field where there is a fence separating the spectators from the field.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the home team to make sure the spectators are in the proper area, not the game officials.
 4. All game jerseys must have at least 8-inch numbers on the front and 12-inch numbers on the back in a contrasting color.
 - a. In the event two teams have similar color jerseys it is the home team's responsibility to wear pinnies or other jerseys that also have at least 8-inch numbers on the front and 12-inch numbers on the back.
2. Only head coaches should be communicating with the game officials.

K. Sportsmanship Policy

1. There will be ZERO tolerance for unsportsmanlike behavior. Any ejection of a coach or player for such behavior will include an automatic suspension for at least the next TWO games on the schedule at

the time of the ejection.

- a. The NJJLL shall be notified by the offending program and the game officials of all ejections and serious unsportsmanlike conduct violations.
2. Nothing listed below prevents the game officials from escalating to any step of the above process and/or removing any coach, player, parent or spectator at any time, at their discretion.
3. Nothing listed above prevents the NJJLL discipline committee from enforcing additional sanctions based on the severity of the incident.

L. Progressive Discipline for Sportsmanship Violations by a Coach

1. 1st offense for being ejected
 - a. Suspended next TWO games currently on schedule, plus
 - b. \$250 fine to program
2. 2nd ejection in the same season
 - a. Ejection, plus
 - b. \$500 fine to program and cannot coach or be on the sideline for the remainder of the season, plus
 - c. Reinstatement must be requested in writing from program director.
 - d. Reinstatement based upon NJJLL board review and approval.
3. Any additional ejections (any year)
 - a. Banned from coaching in the NJJLL
 - b. \$500 fine to program
4. Any ejected coach cannot be on site for any games during their suspension.

M. Progressive Discipline for Sportsmanship Violations by a Team, Fan or Parent

1. 1st Offense referee warns head coach
 - a. Coach/Site admin to address parent/fans themselves
 - b. Team charged a time out
2. 2nd Offense
 - a. 1 minute non-releasable
 - b. Coach/Site Admin to address
3. 3rd Offense
 - a. 3 Minute non releasable penalty
 - b. Ejection
4. 4th Offense

a. End Game

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