2026 IWLCA TOURNAMENT RULES

These rules apply to the IWLCA Tournament Series events. All participants and coaches are expected to read the official rules prior to each event. IWLCA Tournaments will follow all 2026 US Lacrosse & NFHS Rules as it pertains to each age level with the following tournament modifications/clarifications:

- All games will start promptly at the assigned times.
- A central horn will be used to start and stop all games; including halftime.
- Score will be kept at the table by a field marshal and reported to the main tent at the conclusion of the game.
- The field marshal will obtain signatures from the referees, home and visiting team coaches to verify all of the information reported on the game card.
- No jewelry allowed on players, unless for medical purposes, which must be disclosed to the officials and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- All protective equipment must meet NOCSAE standards and be verbally certified by coach. Mouth guards must be worn at all times.
- All players are required to wear all USA Lacrosse permitted equipment for their position per the rulebook (*goalies are required to wear thigh pads.*)
- Each half will be 25 minutes with 5-minute halftime.
- Coaches may not call timeouts.
- Coaches and players shall stand on opposite sides of spectators.
- Officials may stop on field play for any reason he/she feels fit, examples include serious injury, game equipment issues, sideline problems, etc. During an injury timeout, the clock will run.
- If weather reaches certain temperature, then mandatory water breaks will be implemented.
- All substitutions are handled on the fly or on a goal scored.
- If a shot is taken at the end of a half prior to the horn and the ball scores the goal WILL stand.
- 8 –Meter Shots: WILL NOT be played if the horn sounds for the end of the game or half.
- Alternate possession – The team listed first on the schedule receives the first alternate possession. After the initial possession is awarded, the possession will then alternate.
- Yellow/Red Card Penalties: All cardable penalties are 2:00 NON-RELEASEABLE and team plays "player down."
- 1 YELLOW Card (PLAYER) – the player must sit for 2 minutes, running clock, the field marshal at the table will keep time.
- 1 YELLOW Card (COACH) – a player from the field must be taken off and sit for 2 minutes, running clock, the field marshal at the table will keep time.
- 2 YELLOW Cards – the player must sit the remainder of the game. This player may return to the next game.
- RED Card-defined as a single red, not two yellow cards (PLAYER) – The player must sit the remainder of the game and the first half of the NEXT game.
- RED Card (COACH) – The coach must leave the game and the game field until the completion of the game. They may NOT coach from the stands or the perimeter of the field. Any coaches receiving a RED Card will be noted by the IWLCA Tournament Series staff and will be placed on probation. Should that coach receive another RED Card in the same calendar year at an IWLCA event, the coach will not be allowed to coach at an IWLCA Tournament for 365 days.

2026 IWLCA TOURNAMENT RULES

YOUTH CHECKING POLICIES 2030-2033 (12 v 12)

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THEIR PLAYERS AND THEIR FAMILIES UNDERSTAND THESE POLICIES.

- 2030 Division - Full Checking
- 2031 Division - Transitional Checking
- 2032-2033 Divisions - Modified Checking. Offensive 3 seconds called if defense in checkable position.

YOUTH CHECKING POLICIES 2034-2035 (8v8)

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THEIR PLAYERS AND THEIR FAMILIES UNDERSTAND THESE POLICIES.

- All US Lacrosse Rules Apply at this event with the exception of the Draw (We will have a Draw Control after every goal).
- Teams will play with 7 field players (2D,3M,2A) and a goalie (teams with smaller rosters may play with 2M)
- If using a shot blocker in place of a goalie, team will not be able to participate in the championship.
- NO CHECKING!!
- Teams must make one pass once the ball has passed the midline before they can shoot
- Games that end with an 8M will have the 8M played out
- FREE GOALIE CLEAR: After a save, the opposing team must drop to below the 8M to allow a free clear.

ANTI-HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION & CONDUCT POLICIES FOR IWLCA EVENTS

COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THEIR PLAYERS AND THEIR FAMILIES UNDERSTAND THESE POLICIES.

The IWLCA promotes a positive, supportive environment at all of its events.

- There will be *zero tolerance* for racist, homophobic, transphobic, sexist, threatening, retaliatory, obscene, or demeaning language, or actions of any kind from players, coaches, spectators, officials, vendors, or staff. This includes on the field, off the field, and on any properties where an IWLCA event is taking place.

Sportsmanship is KEY to a positive experience at IWLCA Tournament Series events.

- This includes interactions between players, coaches, fans, and officials, as well as language and actions on the field, on the sidelines, in the stands, at the venue, and in the parking area – before, during, and after the event.

OFFICIALS

- Only head coaches are permitted to address the officials throughout any tournament. Coaches are expected to communicate with and treat officials in a respectful manner, upholding the values and modeling good sportsmanship.

CONSEQUENCES
Violations of any of these policies can result in a "Purple Card*" being issued by an official or event staff member.

- Any person(s) receiving a Purple Card will be noted by the event staff and *may be required to leave* the field of play, tournament, or venue immediately, as directed.
- Flagrant violations could also result in games being suspended, canceled, or teams being disqualified from the tournament or future events. *
- Repeated violations may result in the suspension of a person, team or club from current and/ or future IWLCA events.
- If such misconduct occurs or is discovered after an event, the IWLCA reserves the right to suspend a person, team, or club from future IWLCA events.

**NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY PERSON, TEAM, OR CLUB THAT IS SANCTIONED UNDER THIS POLICY.*

DETERMINATION OF DIVISION WINNERS - CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISIONS ONLY

- At the end of the tournament, the division winner shall be the team with the most points in their group.
- Teams will be awarded points on the following basis:
    - Three (3) points for each win
    - One (1) point for each tie
    - Zero (0) points for each loss
- If a team forfeits a game,
    - the score will be entered as 5-0 in the system.
    - will not be eligible to advance to the playoff rounds or receive awards.
- Tie-Breaker System after division play, in the order listed below:
- When the tie-breaker system is used, the criteria are followed in order until one or more team is determined at any given step. The criteria then starts over again at the top of the tie breaker system with the remaining teams. Rules are repeated until a winner is determined.
    - Head-to-head competition (if there is a 3-team tie, proceed to the next tie-breaker)
    - Most wins
    - Goal Differential (the difference between goals for and goals against) with a maximum difference of ten (10) goals per game.
    - Fewest goals against
- In the case that none of the criteria can determine superior teams in a 3-team tiebreaker, a random draw will be conducted by the tournament committee to determine seeding/advancements.

- In the event that a wildcard team must be selected for the playoff rounds, the above procedure will be used across the entire pool. In a typical pool with multiple brackets, a team would not move forward against someone in their own bracket, per the standard semifinal protocol. As a result, if it is determined that the Wildcard would play the winner of their own bracket, the Tournament Committee will update the schedule so that the Wildcard will play the winner of a different bracket within the same pool.
- During a semifinal and final match, if a tie score exists at the end of regulation, there will be a 5-minute overtime, sudden victory (first goal wins). The team is then awarded with 1 additional point to be added to the final score (for example, at the end of regulation, if the score is tied 1-1 the winner of the sudden victory will be awarded 1 additional point to the final score. The final score will be 2-1.) OT will repeat until there is a winner.
    - *Note if overtime happens, the games will not follow the central air horn and will be up to the referee for accurate start and stop times.*