

TRIANGLE MEN'S LACROSSE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
Constitution and By-Laws
(Version 3 – Adopted February 14, 2025)

Article I - Name

1. This association shall be known as the Triangle Men's Lacrosse Officials Association (TMLOA).

Article II - Aim and Purpose

1. In view of the inter-relationships between interscholastic athletic activities and school personnel, sports officials, athletes, the press and patrons, it shall be the aim and purpose of this association:
 - a. To maintain a membership of experienced and capable officials.
 - b. To maintain a high standard of ethics, encouragement of fair play and sportsmanship, and closer cooperation and better understanding among officials, athletic directors, coaches, players, press and spectators, all as prescribed by the North Carolina High School Athletics Association (NCHSAA), North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
2. In view of inter-relationships between recreational lacrosse: Leagues, Clubs, Officials, Athletes, Coaches, Press, and Patrons it shall be the aim and purpose of this association:
 - a. To maintain a membership of experienced and capable officials.
 - b. To maintain a high standard of ethics, encouragement of fair play and sportsmanship, and closer cooperation and better understanding among officials, athletes, coaches, press, spectators, and league officials.

Article III - Membership

1. Each member shall be registered with the NCHSAA each year and shall be in good standing with said association.
2. Each member shall be registered with the TMLOA each year and shall be in good standing with said association. Application for membership to TMLOA shall be made to the Regional Supervisor of Officials of the TMLOA. All memberships expire January 31 each year.
3. Good standing shall be defined as being current with any dues and fines for the TMLOA. If a member is not current they shall be "not in good standing" and shall not be eligible to participate in normal TMLOA activities such as working contests or voting in elections.
4. Each member is responsible for upholding the traditions of good sportsmanship and remembering their responsibility in all situations.

5. Conditions for membership in this association are universally applicable. They are:
 - a. Compliance with all rules and regulations of National, State and local associations.
 - b. Continued payment of dues, fees, and fines.
 - c. Good moral character.

Article IV - Officers and Duties

1. General officers of this association shall be the President, Vice President/Treasurer, Secretary and Regional Supervisor. All terms begin August 1 of the year elected.
 - a. President: Shall preside at all general meetings of the association. Shall conduct the meeting in a business-like manner. In addition, will execute all rules and regulations pertaining to the organization of business of the association and appoint members to special committees as needed. Shall have the power to enforce any action necessary for the good of the association which is not covered or assigned by the constitution. The term of the President shall be two years and no one shall serve as president for more than four years in any ten-year period. The president shall be elected in odd numbered years.
 - b. Vice President/Treasurer: Shall assist the President in all matters pertaining to the association and shall assume the duties of the President when absent. Shall serve as Parliamentarian at all general meetings. Shall receive bank statements from Regional Supervisor and submit a quarterly financial report to the President and an annual financial report to the Association. The term of the Vice President shall be two years. The Vice President shall be elected in even numbered years.
 - c. Secretary: Shall keep a written record of all general meetings and of all executive council meetings. Shall handle all correspondence relative to the association and once each year, a constitution. The term of the Secretary shall be two years. The Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.
 - d. Regional Supervisor: Is a non-voting member of the board. Shall establish and maintain a checking account in the name of the association, being responsible for all financial affairs of the association, if the association collects or distributes any money. Shall be responsible for the preparation, either in person or by outside agency, of all tax materials for TMLOA. Shall submit monthly bank statements to the Vice President/Treasurer. Shall register all disciplinary action and notify in writing each appropriate party. The term of the Regional Supervisor shall be as long as designated as Regional Supervisor by the NCHSAA.
 - e. Board of Directors: In addition to the officers, there shall be four other members of the board of directors. Each shall serve a 2-year term. Each director shall act in an advisory capacity to the board and will conduct business for the association within the constraints of the constitution and by-laws. Two directors shall serve as the head of the Grievance and Review Committees, respectively. Two directors will be elected in even numbered years and two directors will be elected in odd numbered years.
 - f. All recommendations concerning policy must be accepted by a majority vote of the board before being presented to the membership for ratification. The quorum shall be four.

2. Regional Supervisor:
 - a. The Regional Supervisor shall make all assignments. The Regional Supervisor shall make any rules or guidelines that are needed to administer the sport during the year.
 - b. The Regional Supervisor shall ensure compliance with all applicable rules for lacrosse including, but not limited to, National Federation, NCHSAA, NCISAA TMLOA, Recreational Leagues and individual sport. Shall handle disciplinary matters related to assigning. Possible discipline includes warnings, public reprimands, fines, and suspension. Any discipline must comply with the rules of the TMLOA and NCHSAA, along with any applicable state and federal laws. A member may appeal any discipline to the Grievance Committee as indicated below. Shall appoint a secretary, if needed, to assist. If a secretary is not used, the Regional Supervisor shall perform the secretarial duties.
3. Advisory Board:
 - a. The TMLOA Advisory Board will consist of (2) Local Coaches and (1) Local Athletic Director. These members will act as the eyes and the ears of the association. Their responsibility will consist of advising the Board of Directors of any problems they hear or have been made aware of concerning the association and its members. This Advisory Board shall be nominated by the Coaches Association and approved by the General Officers and the Board of Directors (hereinafter, the Executive Board).

Article V - Elections

1. The Executive Board shall be elected by a Secret Ballot vote of the members who are in good standing. The elections will be held as soon as practicable after nominations occur at the conclusion of the Spring season. Elections may be conducted electronically or in person. For approval and changes to this constitution, a majority of votes cast is needed. For election to boards and committees, the individuals with the most votes win (in the event of a tie for a single position or last seat there shall be a revote for that spot).
 - a. Elections conducted electronically shall provide a minimum three-day voting window. At least half of the eligible voters must vote for the election to be valid.
 - b. For in-person elections, all proposals and ballots will be distributed by any reasonable means at least three days prior to the vote. Members unable to attend the election may designate a proxy by notifying the President, but no member of the Executive Board may serve as a member's proxy. At least half of the eligible members (including those who have nominated proxies) shall be present for the election to be valid.
2. Recommendation of a new Regional Supervisor will come from within the association. This individual will be in good standing not only with the TMLOA but also the NCHSAA. This individual will have a minimum of 5 years of service to the local association. This process would only take place once the current Regional Supervisor either retires or was dismissed by the NC Supervisor of Officials. The recommendation shall then be presented to the NC Supervisor of Officials for final approval.

3. Regional Supervisor will serve as a General Officer but will not have voting authority.
4. Eligibility: Any member in good standing is eligible to run for any office, unless otherwise specified in this constitution
5. In case an officer or board member remains vacant after an election is held, the vacancy will be filled by appointment of the Executive Board.
6. In case an officer resigns or membership is terminated, a replacement will be selected as follows.
 - a. If the office of the President is vacated, the Vice President will assume this office.
 - b. All other vacancies will be filled by an appointment of the Executive Board until an election can be held to fill the vacancy.
7. Members may hold only one office at a time.

Article VI - Committees

1. Executive Board members and the Regional Supervisor may not serve as members of any of these committees. A member of a committee who is a party to a matter before a committee shall be recused from that matter. Officials may serve on only one committee.
2. Grievance Committee: The Grievance Committee shall consist of 3 members of the association with a minimum of 3 years of experience within the association. Members will serve 2-year terms. Members will be appointed by the Executive Board in even numbered years.
 - a. The Grievance Committee shall be chaired by one member of the Board of Directors.
 - b. The Grievance Committee will hear appeals of disciplinary actions by the Regional Supervisor against officials. Decisions of the Regional Supervisor should be vacated or modified if and only if they are an abuse of discretion (e.g., lack of good faith, unreasonable punishment, punishment for something not in violation of any rule).
 - c. The Grievance Committee will be the initial body to hear and decide upon all controversies that are presented to the association in writing from a sports official, Regional Supervisor, head coach with the region, or athletic director within the region. However, the Grievance Committee will not consider matters related to playing rules, official's performance, nor application of the rules.
 - d. The Grievance Committee will also investigate any incident reported to the TMLOA, in writing, involving a member's conduct.
 - e. The Grievance Committee may impose discipline in accordance with Article IX of this constitution. At least two members of the committee must agree to the discipline.
 - f. Appeals of any decision of the Grievance Committee shall be to the Executive Board

3. Review Committee: The Review Committee shall consist of 3 members of the association, with a minimum of 3 years of experience within the association. Members will serve 2-year terms. Members will be appointed by the Executive Board in odd numbered years.
 - a. The Review Committee shall be chaired by one member of the Board of Directors.
 - b. The Review Committee shall hear all complaints from head coaches within the region related to official's performance and application of the rules.
 - c. The Executive Board shall handle matters normally handled by the Review Committee if the latter is unable to due to recusals, members being unavailable, or being unable to handle the load of complaints.

Article VII - Meetings

1. General membership meetings shall be held at least one time a year. One meeting will be held at the mid-season clinic. The actual date will be determined by the Executive Board.
2. Executive Board meetings should be held at least four times a year, preferably once in each quarter however may hold additional meetings as needed. The Executive Board may be called into ad hoc sessions by the President. The meetings may be in person, by phone, or in any other reasonable manner.

Article VIII - Booking

1. All booking assignments shall be made by the Regional Supervisor
2. Each member shall pay a booking fee set by the Regional Supervisor not to exceed the fees established by NCHSAA.
3. The Regional Supervisory may set procedures for members to follow as necessary for proper assigning.
4. Any complaints regarding assignments shall be referred to the Regional Supervisor or his assistant. If no resolution is reached, the written complaint shall be forwarded to the Grievance committee.

Article IX - Discipline

1. Disciplining of a member is a serious matter. It may be used to correct and deter. Its use for pure punishment should be limited to extreme cases.
2. Possible discipline includes warnings, public reprimands and suspension. Any discipline must comply with the rules of the TMLOA and NCHSAA, along with any applicable state and federal laws.
3. Notification of any discipline, along with the reasoning for it and routes of appeal, shall be promptly given to the disciplined parties. The discipline will not be effective until the party has indicated there will be no appeal of the decision (expressly or by

passage of two weeks without notice of appeal) or all appeals have been exhausted.

Article X - Uniforms

1. All uniforms requirements will be prescribed by the NCHSAA.
2. Shirts shall be 2 inch black and white vertically striped.
3. Jackets, if worn will be black. Patches and insignia of any nature shall not be worn on any part of the uniform. Exception: NCHSAA logo or USA flag. TMLOA patches must be approved by the association for complete compliance by all members. Memorials may be worn if approved by the Executive Board.
4. The association may require additional requirements.
5. Numbers shall not be used.

Article XI - Changes

1. All changes or revisions to this constitution shall be submitted in writing, by a member in good standing, to the secretary of the association. If the Executive Board agrees to submit the proposed change to the members, the proposed change shall be sent to the member and put to a vote, according Article V of this Constitution. If the Executive Board does not agree to submit the proposed change to the members, the proposed change will be put to a vote, according to Article V of this constitution, if at least twenty members petition the Board to put the matter to a vote.

Article XII – Miscellaneous

1. Any matter not specifically covered by this constitution and by-laws shall be handled by the Executive Board.

Article XIII - Addendum - TMLOA Rules and Guidelines

1. The Rules and Guidelines shall be modified as needed by majority vote of the Executive Board.
2. If a modification is approved by the Executive Board the members shall be notified and be given two weeks to notify the Executive Board of any objections. If at least 25 % of the members object, then the modification will be put to a vote of the general members before it will be effective.
3. In case the Executive Board wants a modification to be effective immediately, it must put the modification to a vote of the general members.

Article XIV – Effective Date

1. This constitution and attached rules shall be effective when approved by a majority of

those people registered with both the NCHSAA and the current Regional Supervisor of Officials on the date the vote to approve is initiated.

TMLOA Rules and Guidelines

(Adopted February 14, 2025)

1. The Regional Supervisor or his assistant shall ensure compliance with all requirements of the contract between TMLOA and the individual schools.
2. Rules for blocks by schools and officials shall be set by the Regional Supervisor. A member may file a grievance with the Grievance Committee as to the method of blocking. An official shall block all schools where he/she works that have immediate family members participating in Varsity Sports. The list of discretionary blocks shall be provided by the Regional Supervisor to the officers of the TMLOA. The officers may vote to recommend that the NCHSAA override a block. If any block involves an officer, that block will not be included in the list that is submitted.
3. All contest assignments shall be made by the Regional Supervisor.
4. No official may individually contract for any NCHSAA or NCISAA contest.
5. Regional Supervisor shall determine the "check-in" policy. In general, the policy will include contact with all crew members at least 24 hours prior to the contest.
6. The Regional Supervisor shall strive to assign officials to provide the best officiating service to all schools and or conference served.
7. The Regional Supervisor shall publish each assignment at least two weeks before the scheduled contest. However, if the Regional Supervisor is notified of a new contest or change to an existing contest less than two weeks before it is newly scheduled to occur, the assignment will be made within a reasonable time.
8. Officials should allow 14 days before advising the Regional Supervisor that a school/club/team has failed to pay them, unless they have been notified that school/club/team does not issue payment until a later date, in which case the official should allow 4 days from the time payment should have been received before advising the Regional Supervisor.
9. Officials should cash contest checks within two weeks of receipt and will under no circumstances receive another official's check.
10. Officials shall not publicly criticize any other official, nor shall any official publicly criticize coaches or players involved in any contest.
11. When an official has an ejection of a player or coach, or any other problem during a contest, he/she shall contact the Regional Supervisor as soon as practicable in addition to complying with all NCHSAA or NCISAA regulations for reporting of ejections. The Regional Supervisor shall also follow NCHSAA or NCISAA guidelines regarding ejections or other unsportsmanlike acts.
12. All officials shall abide by any contract or agreement made by the Executive Board.
13. Officials shall arrive at the contest site at least 30 minutes prior to game time and shall

take the field no less than 20 minutes prior to game time. The assigned referee of the game may request the crew meet earlier. Officials shall notify partners, Regional Supervisor, and/or game administrators if it may not be possible to arrive on time.

14. There will be no products sold or displayed within the confines of any TMLOA meeting or clinic unless invited by the Regional Supervisor and approved by the Executive Board.
15. The Regional Supervisor shall set a due date for the assigning fee. If the fee is not received by that date the sports official will risk having no assignments until such payment is made.
16. A valid USA Lacrosse membership shall be required to be considered for youth assignments.
17. The Regional Supervisor shall impose disciplinary actions in accordance with the guidelines below.

Infraction	1st Incident	2nd Incident	3rd Incident	4th Incident	5th Incident
Late Registration	No assignments until paid	-	-	-	-
Game No Show	1 week suspension	2 week suspension	Suspended for remainder of season	-	-
Late to Game	Warning	1 game suspension	1 week suspension	2 week suspension	Suspended for remainder of season
Turn Backs*	Warning	1 game suspension	1 week suspension	2 week suspension	Suspended for remainder of season
Failure to Communicate	Warning	1 game suspension	1 week suspension	2 week suspension	Suspended for remainder of season
Improper or Lack of Uniform	Warning	1 game suspension	1 week suspension	2 week suspension	Suspended for remainder of season

*An official cannot be disciplined for a turn back/decline if the game is not assigned at least 5-days in advance; unless the assigned game is the result of canceled games due to inclement weather or the school did not provide 1-week advanced notice of the game to the Regional Supervisor.