



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Lacrosse Rules, Policies and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page \(www.mshsl.org/governance\)](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) information regarding the following:

- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (heat, cold, lightning & air quality)

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME: It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further, it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another school's game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

See the MSHSL Official Handbook **Bylaw 501** for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook **Bylaw 502** for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

See the MSHSL Official Handbook **Bylaw 512** for information regarding:

- Contests
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Player Participation Limitations
- Practice Sessions Before First Contest
- Season Begins

CONTEST RULES (Refer to [Bylaw 402](#)): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association Rules (Boys/Girls) for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS (Refer to [Bylaw 405](#)): A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

EQUIPMENT ISSUED: Equipment may be issued on or after the Friday preceding the authorized date for opening of practice.

END OF SEASON (Refer to [Bylaw 411](#))

- A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 - 1) The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 - 2) Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.
- B. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

 - 1) Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
 - 2) Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.
- C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.
- D. During the Summer Vacation Period ([Bylaw 208-3](#) Non-School Competition and Training — Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT (8/9/05)

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League's Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#), **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS**, speaks to this issue directly, and [Bylaw 409-2](#) specifically states that, **"School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held."**

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site.

Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel.

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES (5/31/23)

- [Behavior Expectations](http://www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations) (www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations)

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS:

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
- Handheld signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, "white" boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.
- Signs on sticks, balloons, or any other type of artificial, celebratory items are not permitted.
- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are strictly prohibited.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

RULE MODIFICATIONS

LENGTH OF GAME: NFHS Lacrosse Rule Book. Coaches are not authorized to change the length of a regular game.

UNIFORMS: Contest officials shall not forfeit the game if a team has illegal uniforms. The game shall be played. The head official shall file a report with the MSHSL. All protective equipment must meet the NFHS rules as stated in the applicable rule book.

POLICY FOR SUSPENDED GAMES

Regular Season & Section Tournaments

BOYS LACROSSE: Once a contest has begun either the officials or Tournament Manager may suspend a contest and cannot be overruled by the other party. When in doubt, err on the side of safety.

If it is determined that play cannot be resumed at the end of the suspension, and three periods of play have been completed, it shall be considered a complete game with a winner determined.

If a game is suspended before the completion of the first three periods, or if it is tied at the point of suspension, the game shall be continued from the point of interruption.

GIRLS LACROSSE will use the NFHS Rule Book. In addition, the Tournament Manager may suspend a contest and cannot be overruled by the officials. If 80% of the playing time has elapsed and the game is tied, the game shall be continued from the point of interruption.

BOYS AND GIRLS DOUBLEHEADERS: It is conceivable that under some conditions, such as power failure, the first game of a doubleheader may be suspended with a winner determined and, if conditions change, the second game of the doubleheader may be played in its entirety. Every effort should be made to play each game in its entirety.

If lightning, game must be suspended. See Rules and Policies Manual-Lightning/Threatening Weather.

OFFICIAL MSHSL POLICIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BOYS AND GIRLS LACROSSE

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS (sub-section, section & state) Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

BOYS LACROSSE: A player who accumulates five minutes of personal fouls shall be disqualified for that game. The player is allowed to participate in the next game.

GIRLS LACROSSE: A player or coach who receives two yellow cards in the game will not be eligible for further participation in that game. The player is allowed to participate in the next game. The coach is not allowed to participate in the team's next game.

POLICY FOR DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS: A player charged with a game ejection penalty will be disqualified as prescribed in Bylaw 206.

1. Any player disqualified from the game for any reason shall be disqualified from that game and the next game of that season. Application of the following progressive

game disqualification structure applies throughout each season, including playoff games:

- a. First disqualification - that game plus the next game
 - b. Second and all subsequent disqualifications - that game plus the next four games in that sport
2. Use of ineligible player following a game disqualification. The score book shall indicate that a player was ejected in the previous game. Game officials shall check the "A" squad and "B" squad score books prior to the start of each game. Penalty for use of an ineligible player shall be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of game. A complete report of the violation must be submitted to the League Office. This also applies to JV squads.

State Tournament

Boys Lacrosse

REGULATION GAMES IN STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND GAMES (Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Championship)

Duration of Play: 48 minutes (four periods of 12 minutes) of play must be completed unless:

- 1) the 12 goal rule is in effect (Running Time)
- 2) overtime procedure is in effect because of a tie score

If 48 minutes of play cannot be completed due to darkness, weather or other causes, the game will be suspended/interrupted, as defined in the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rule Book. A suspended/interrupted game will be restarted from the point of interruption.

The Tournament Director, with agreement of the Faculty Representatives from each school (as identified in [Bylaw 409.1](#)), may terminate a regulation game (as identified in the most current NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rule Book as modified by the MSHSL Board of Directors).

Girls Lacrosse

REGULATION GAMES IN STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND GAMES (Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Championship)

Duration of Play: 50 minutes of play must be completed unless:

- 1) the 10 goal rule is in effect (Running Time)
- 2) overtime procedure is in effect because of a tie score

If 50 minutes of play cannot be completed due to darkness, weather or other causes, the game will be suspended/interrupted, as defined in the NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rule Book. A suspended/interrupted game will be restarted from the point of interruption.

The Tournament Director, with agreement of the Faculty Representatives from each school (as identified in [Bylaw 409](#)), may terminate a regulation game (as identified in the most current NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rule Book).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SECTION AND STATE BOYS AND GIRLS LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS

OFFICIAL SQUAD

- 24 Players
- 2 Student Managers
- 3 Coaches

Only the official squad above can be on the bench during the tournament series

SEEDING THE STATE TOURNAMENT: The coaches of the teams who qualify for the state tournament will seed the eight section teams for the State Tournament.

REGION/SECTION SEEDING CONSISTENCY - [Seeding Consistency](#)

(www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding)

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is on MSHSL Dashboards under Tournament Info.

OFFICIALS: All section and state tournament play-off games must use a three-person officiating crew, unless a two-person officiating crew is approved by the MSHSL office.

AWARDS

Sections

- A. Medals: To each member of the official squad of the first and second place teams
- B. Trophies: To the first and second place teams

State

- A. Certificates of Participation: To each member of the official squad
 - Activities Director prints from the website (<https://www.mshsl.org/mshsl-certificates>)
- B. Medals: To each member of the official squad, including the coaches, of the first – third place teams
- C. Trophies: first– fifth place teams

INJURY OF A PLAYER: The MSHSL provides a physician and Athletic Trainer for immediate medical attention.

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING SCHOOL INFORMATION: The championship team of each section will advance to the state tournament. The section tournament managers will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites, and times of section games. Specific information for qualifying schools is on the MSHSL League Website under your dashboard.

▪ [MSHSL Behavior Expectations](#)

These policies “elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, members schools and their personnel,” consistent with the Minnesota State High School League’s Founding Purposes and the belief that sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs. The League and its member schools work intentionally to create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for fine arts activities and sports in our schools and competitions.

School officials are responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students, and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held. (Bylaw 409).

Behavior Expectations

To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:

- Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.
- Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.
- Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.
- Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.
- Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.
- Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, directors, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.
- Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.

Requirements of Attendees

Prohibited Items

- Flags, whiteboards, large signs on sticks, signs with vulgar, obscene or inappropriate language or images, or that obstruct the views of others or similar items
- Balloons, confetti, glitter, baby powder, pom poms or other similar celebratory items
- Artificial noise makers (i.e., megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks and other similar items)
- Drones and laser lights
- Firearms or other weapons
- Vapes, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or illicit drugs
- The following are prohibited at MSHSL postseason events. These may be prohibited as determined by the venue during the regular season:
 - Backpacks and other bags
 - Outside food and drink
 - Cameras and tripods
 - Pets

Dress Code/Attire

- Spectators may not wear masks or costumes that limit the ability to identify individuals. Masking for medical purposes is allowed
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the torso
- Clothing worn must not be vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate

Behaviors

- No one may interfere with the contest in any way
- Only members of the official squad may be on the contest surface
- The use of appropriate language is always expected. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable
- Respect the Flag and the National Anthem

*Venues may have additional requirements and prohibited items.