

**OPERATING POLICY**  
**OF**  
**MEN'S COLLEGIATE LACROSSE**  
**ASSOCIATION, INC.**

A Georgia Nonprofit Corporation

Adopted as of January 1, 2007  
Revised August 12, 2024

OPERATING POLICY  
of  
MEN'S COLLEGIATE LACROSSE ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE 1  
STRUCTURE

1.1 Generally. The Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association, Inc. (the "MCLA") is governed by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors as set forth in the bylaws of the MCLA (as the same may be amended from time to time, the "Bylaws"). These Operating Policies set forth the policies and procedures adopted to promote the principles of the MCLA and to achieve the purpose of the MCLA.

1.2 Defined Terms. Capitalized terms used in these Operating Policies that are not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Bylaws. The following terms capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Act of God" means unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of a team such as weather making a playing field unplayable or unsafe, strike, war, civil unrest, government regulations or acts of terrorism.

(b) "Act of Institution" means the decision by the team's sponsoring academic institution, or an unaffiliated third party that controls access to a playing field, to not allow a contest to proceed for any reason other than a disciplinary action with respect to the team.

(c) "CA" means the conference assignor responsible for assigning officials for the applicable conference.

(d) "Code of Conduct" means the Code of Conduct of the MCLA, as the same are in effect from time to time.

(e) "MCLA Website" means [www.mcla.us](http://www.mcla.us) or any replacement website.

(f) "Playing Season" means the Regular Season in any year and any tournament (at the conference or national level) or other post-season play following such Regular Season.

(g) "Regular Season" means the period between the day after the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday of each year and the start of a team's conference tournament.

(h) "Roster Verification" means the eligibility and information verification, in the form determined by the MCLA from time to time, to be submitted by each team prior to each Playing Season and again prior to a member teams conference tournament.

(i) “Rules Acknowledgement” means the rules acknowledgement, in the form determined by the MCLA from time to time, to be submitted by each team and player prior to each Playing Season.

### 1.3 Conferences; Membership Requirements.

(a) MCLA sanctioned play shall be divided into conferences. Each conference shall have a minimum of 10 teams, which may be divided into separate “I”, “II” and “III” divisions (each, a “Division”). Teams in each conference may elect which Division in which they want to participate; provided, that such election must be approved by the conference and is binding for three (3) Playing Seasons before the team may select a different Division. Each member institution may only have one member team in either Division I or II. Division III teams will be a part of the MCLA but will not meet all the requirements and benefits of DI and DII outlined within this document.

(i) DIII programs will not be eligible for a National Tournament (ii)

DIII teams must play 5 unique games and no OOC requirements (iii)

DIII teams will not have post season player awards

(iv) DIII players once rostered may not play in another division during that playing season. And each program must have their own coaching staff separate from an affiliated MCLA school program.

(b) Each conference will remain autonomous in its management, except that no conference may adopt or maintain any policy or procedure which conflicts with the Bylaws, Operating Policies or other rules and regulations of the MCLA. Each Conference shall adopt bylaws and operating policies (or similar documents) (collectively, the “Conference Documents”) and provide a copy of the Conference Documents to the Secretary to be kept on file with the MCLA.

(c) Conferences shall be responsible for: (1) selecting and maintaining a Director to represent the conference at meetings of the Board of Directors and other MCLA meetings and to serve as a communication link between the conference and the Executive Committee and Board of Directors; (2) ensuring that the teams within such conference comply with the eligibility and scheduling requirements set forth herein (and such other policies as the conferences may establish); (3) establishing general policies to govern the teams within such conference; (4) establishing policies with respect to assigning officials to conference games and the CAA; (5) paying in a timely manner the fees of the officials for which a conference team is responsible; (6) following all MCLA policies, including payment of fees; (7) reimbursing Directors for expenses to attend required meetings; (8) notifying the Executive Committee, through its conference Director, of compliance issues among its team; and (9) managing conference awards and conference champions.

#### 1.4 Teams.

(a) MCLA participation shall be open to all intercollegiate men's lacrosse teams that are recognized organizations at their academic institutions (including junior colleges). To participate in the MCLA, a team must:

(i) be in good standing with other institutions, associations, conferences or governing bodies of other leagues;

(ii) be a member of, and in good standing with, an MCLA recognized conference;

(iii) be in good standing with the MCLA and comply with MCLA Bylaws, Operating Policies and Code of Conduct, including, meeting all MCLA administrative deadlines and financial obligations; and

(iv) secure an adult coach not on the team's player roster.

## ARTICLE 2 APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

2.1 Teams. To participate in the MCLA, teams must apply to an individual conference for inclusion in such conference. The MCLA does not administer independent teams and is under no obligation to require that any conference accept a team's application.

#### 2.2 Conferences.

(a) There are currently 9 MCLA conferences. Applications to be sanctioned as a new MCLA conference are only considered at the Summer Meeting. New conferences will only be formed as a result of the growth of, and necessary splitting of, existing conferences. A proposed conference must have a minimum of 10 teams committed to membership before presenting an application to the Executive Committee.

(b) To be considered at the Summer Meeting, a proposed conference must submit a written proposal to the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to the Summer Meeting, which proposal must include: (i) a list of committed member teams; (ii) names of individuals who will comprise the conference leadership, along with affidavits from those individuals confirming their intent to act in the positions represented in the proposal; (iii) an analysis of the impact of a new conference on existing conferences; (iv) a description of each proposed member team's past history and previous conference affiliation and why they desire to switch conferences; (v) a statement of purpose; and (vi) written and electronic copies of proposed Conference Documents. In addition, an authorized representative of the proposed conference must attend the Summer Meeting in person.

(c) Each conference shall submit the dues for each team in such conference to the Treasurer on or before December 10<sup>th</sup> each year. The check is required to have a postmark on the envelope of December 10 or any date earlier in that calendar year. Any

conference that does not submit the dues paid by its teams, in full, to the Treasurer on or before (i) December 10, shall pay a \$100 late fee to the MCLA, and (ii) January 10, shall pay an additional \$100 late fee to the MCLA for each week payment in full is not made.

### ARTICLE 3 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 General. Participation in MCLA sanctioned play is a privilege of association with the MCLA, and not a right. To be eligible to participate in MCLA sanctioned play, each player, team and conference must abide by the rules and regulations of the MCLA.

#### 3.2 Players.

(a) To be eligible to participate in MCLA sanctioned play, each player must:

(i) at all times during the term(s) in which a Playing Season is played, be enrolled (in each case in accordance with the institution's registrar) at his team's institution as either (1) an undergraduate student with a minimum of 12 credit hours; provided, a player in his final term of his degree program may carry fewer than 12 credit hours so long as the credit hours taken will complete his graduation requirements in that term or (2) a full-time graduate student.

(ii) not play more than 4 seasons of college lacrosse at any collegiate level;

(iii) not have been paid to play lacrosse (field or box) (whether currently or in the past), except for scholarships for tuition or other school costs;

(iv) prior to his team's first Regular Season game and at all times thereafter during the Playing Season, have a helmetless photo on his team's roster page on the MCLA Website; and

(v) be in compliance with any additional eligibility requirements adopted by the conference to which his team belongs.

(b) A player may not play for more than 1 intercollegiate team during any Playing Season.

(c) The MCLA allows players to participate in up to 4 seasons of college lacrosse.

(i) A player who has been rostered on a team competing in NCAA sanctioned play shall be deemed to have participated in a season of college lacrosse for each season he played in, or was on the roster for such NCAA team for, at least 1 game.

(ii) With respect to MCLA seasons, a player participating (suited up and on the active roster) in 1 game during any Playing Season shall be deemed to have

participated in that Playing Season. A player is considered to have participated in an MCLA game if he plays in such game, is on the game sheet as a player, is in uniform dressed and able to participate in such game and/or if he is indicated as an active player on the team roster on the MCLA Website. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a player who participates in up to 4 games, but not in the 5<sup>th</sup>, in his team's Playing Season and who is thereafter unable to participate in the remainder of the season due to circumstances beyond his control (such as, due to injury) can appeal to the Executive Committee for an additional season of eligibility; provided, that the foregoing exception shall not apply to any Player who is not eligible for play as a result of dropping below the minimum credit requirement set forth herein or other academic reasons. Any such appeals should be provided to the National Eligibility Coordinator prior to the commencement of the Summer Meeting immediately preceding the Playing Season to be appealed for the extra year of eligibility.

(d) If a Player drops below the minimum credit requirements, his team must immediately change his status from active to inactive by contacting both the conference eligibility chair and the National Eligibility Coordinator via email and phone. *IT IS EACH TEAM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE ALL PLAYERS ARE ENROLLED IN THE REQUISITE CREDIT HOURS AT ALL TIMES DURING A PLAYING SEASON, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED HEREIN.*

(e) When there is an official institutional break between academic terms during a Playing Season, players are exempt from the requirements regarding minimum credit hours. Such exemption shall expire at the end of the National Championship Tournament for the then current season. A player who does not meet the minimum credit requirements can be removed from the team's active roster and be later reactivated when the team can provide proof the player meets all requirements.

3.3 Teams. To be eligible to participate in any Playing Season, each team must (i) submit to their Conference Eligibility Coordinator, a Rules Acknowledgement and Consent Form and a Roster Verification Form, in each case, executed by each player on such team at least one week prior to such team's first MCLA game, (ii) submit at least one week prior to such team's first MCLA game and maintain at all times during the Playing Season a helmetless photograph of each player on such team's roster on its roster page on the MCLA Website, (iii) maintain at all times during the Playing Season a team photograph and photographs of all team coaches on its page on the MCLA Website and (iv) otherwise be in good standing with its conference. If a player is added to a team after the deadlines set forth above, the team must (x) submit a Rules Acknowledgement and Roster Verification executed by such player at least four days prior to such player participating in any MCLA games and (y) post a helmetless photograph of such player on its roster page on the MCLA Website prior to such player participating in any MCLA games. Teams that have not submitted or posted, as applicable, their Rules Acknowledgement, Roster Verification and required player, coach and team photographs on or before the applicable date set forth above shall pay to the MCLA a fine of up to \$100 per player/coach/team per game played prior to submitting or posting, as applicable, the Rules Acknowledgement, Roster Verification and photographs. A team shall not be eligible to play any MCLA games in any season prior to submitting its Rules

Acknowledgement and Roster Verification, paying any late fees and being in good standing with its conference. Any team that plays any MCLA games prior to satisfying the foregoing requirements, or plays a player that has not submitted a Rules Acknowledgement or Roster Verification or posted the required photographs in the timeframes set forth above, shall also be subject to sanction by the MCLA as determined by the Executive Committee (up to and including, without limitation, forfeiture of any games played).

#### ARTICLE 4 COMPETITION

4.1 Rules. All MCLA games, other than scrimmages, will be played under then current NCAA lacrosse rulebook. The only current exception is a visible “GOAL MOUTH” which is not be required for MCLA teams. The MCLA will also play with a 80 second shot clock that will reset to 80 seconds instead of the NCAA 60 seconds until the 2026 season when all teams will need to be in compliance with the current NCAA rules on shot clocks. Starting in 2025 all teams will be required to use the Optic Yellow Pearl lacrosse balls for all regular season and postseason play. Conferences may adopt rules for scrimmages among their teams, otherwise teams may agree to rules for scrimmages. If no deviations are agreed to prior to a scrimmage, then current NCAA lacrosse rules shall apply.

#### 4.2 Scheduling.

(a) General. Each team is responsible for scheduling its MCLA games for each Regular Season on or before the December 1 immediately preceding such season. Once complete, each team shall submit its schedule to its conference Director or such other person as a conference may designate. Once the conference Director, or such other person as the conference may designate, has verified the schedules of the teams in the conference he shall upload the schedules to the MCLA Website. Each conference shall be responsible for tracking the schedules of the teams in such conference and shall be responsible for enforcing the change and other policies set forth herein. Once the conference assigning the game, the home team and visiting team all confirm the game on the MCLA site the game is considered official. Conferences may be sanctioned by the MCLA if they fail to enforce the policies set forth herein. Scrimmages will be listed on the MCLA master schedule and website for each team, however scores and statistics need not be captured or displayed.

#### (b) Changes/Cancellations.

(i) General. Each team shall be responsible for keeping the other team, CAA and officials informed of any potential game changes.

(ii) Changes at the team's request. Any schedule change requests after December 1 must be approved by the home or host team’s CAA and Conference Director. The team requesting such change shall be responsible for paying the change fees required by stated CAA and Conference agreement. After December 1, any team that causes a scheduled (which means it was approved by Host team, visiting team and hosting conference representative on the backend of the MCLA site) game not to be

played as scheduled, or rescheduled, shall be deemed to have changed or cancelled, as applicable, the game and must pay the change fees set forth herein. 7

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(iii) Act of God/Act of Institution. Upon the occurrence of an Act of God or Act of Institution that would cause a game to be cancelled or postponed from its agreed time, the team shall notify the CAA, conference Director and opposing team immediately upon learning of such an Act of God or Act of Institution. The affected teams shall use good faith efforts to reschedule any game cancelled as a result of an Act of God or Act of Institution. For conference games, the teams shall split any change fees resulting from such change. For out of conference games, the home or host team shall be responsible for any change fees resulting from such change.

(iv) Cancellation of Out of Conference Games. If any team cancels a game against an out of conference opponent after the approval process has been completed (each team and the host conference approves the game on the backend of the MCLA.us website) and after the start to the MCLA playing season; other than as a result of an Act of God or an Act of Institution. Any team that cancels a OOC after the official start to the MCLA Playing Season, they will be fined \$5000 and be ineligible for any post season games for that playing season and the teams following year of play. To the extent such amounts are received by the MCLA from the cancelling team, the MCLA shall pay all documented costs resulting from such cancellation to the opposing team and its conference. Any such cancelled game shall be recorded as “no contest” for both teams, but the non-cancelling team shall receive credit towards its out of conference minimum requirements for participation as an at-large team for the National Championship Tournament. Upon petition by the cancelling team prior to the Summer Meeting following the applicable Playing Season, the Executive Committee may waive or reduce the foregoing fine and costs.

(v) Due Notice. Any team that cancels a game, whether as a result of an Act of God, Act of Institution or otherwise, without due notice is also subject to punishment ranging from a nuisance fee to actual costs incurred by the opposing team and any officials. “Due notice” shall be determined on a case by case basis by the conference Director, or such other person as the conference may designate, based on the circumstances, but shall be deemed given with respect to an Act of God or Act of Institution if notice is given to each of the opposing team, the CAA and conference Director via telephone within 2 hours of learning of the changed condition. Email notice given within 48 hours of game time shall not be considered due notice.

(vi) Forfeiture of Games. If a team forfeits a game for any reason (including as a result of sanctions), such team shall be ineligible to participate in the National Championship Tournament for both the current Playing Season and the immediately succeeding Playing Season.

~~(c) Change/Cancellation/Late Fees. Teams shall pay the following minimum change/late fees to their conference, in each case in the time period set forth in the applicable conference’s rules and regulations; provided, that if the applicable conference’s rules and regulations are silent with respect to payment of such fees, they shall be paid within 10 days of the occurrence of any of the following events. Conferences~~



may collect additional amounts at their discretion.

- ~~(i) For each game scheduled after December 1st: \$100~~
- ~~(ii) For game changes made less than 14 days but more than 48 hours before the originally scheduled date of the game if the crew remains the same: \$40~~
- ~~(iii) For game changes made more than 48 hours before the originally scheduled date of the game if there is a change in the crew: \$100~~
- ~~(iv) For game changes made less than 48 hours before the originally scheduled date of the game if there is no change in the crew: \$100~~
- ~~(v) For a game change made less than 48 hours before the originally scheduled date of the game if there is a change in the crew: \$190~~
- ~~(vi) For cancellations of conference games for any reason other than for an Act of God or an Act of Institution: \$50~~
- ~~(vii) For any other game changes (time, site): \$50~~
- (viii) For failure to post game scores on the MCLA Website within the timeframe set forth in Section 5(b)(ii)(1) below: up to \$50 per game
- (ix) For failure to post player statistics on the MCLA Website within the timeframe set forth in Section 5(b)(ii)(2) below: up to \$100 per game

#### 4.3 National Championship Tournament.

(a) Date/Location. The dates for each National Championship Tournament will be determined by the Executive Committee at the Summer Meeting preceding such tournament. Site selection is determined by written proposals or personal presentations to the Executive Committee a minimum of 18 months prior to the applicable tournament.

(b) Field/Seeding. The National Championship Tournament field shall consist of 16 teams for each of Division I and Division II. Each division shall have a traditional 16-team single elimination bracket to determine a champion. The teams participating in the National Championship Tournament are seeded by the Tournament Selection Committee. For each Division, match-ups in the first round are determined by pairing the highest seeds and the lowest remaining seed available (e.g. 16 versus 1, 15 versus 2). Each team earning an invitation to the National Tournament must elect to either PLAY or NOT PLAY in the single consolation games (if they lose on the opening day) by Tuesday of the week leading up to the tournament. No additional consolation games will be played after a team has played 2 games. A third place game will not be played for either Division. Any team that does not field a full team for a consolation game shall be ineligible for the National Championship Tournament for the next two Playing Seasons and such team's conference shall forfeit its right to grant an AQ (as defined below) to the

National Championship Tournament for the next Playing Season in the Division of which the violation occurred. NOTE- In 2025 the MCLA will offer a new 6s tournament for all teams losing on the first or second day.

(c) Qualifying.

(i) A member conference will be eligible to receive an automatic qualifying bid (an “AQ”) to either or both the Division I and/or Division II brackets if the conference has at least six (6) tournament eligible teams under Section 4.3(c)(ii) below for such Division. To maintain the AQ 50% of the conferences qualifying membership must meet the minimum number of OOC games. For Division I it is three OOC games and DII it is two OOC games. Each conference must still have the minimum number of teams meeting the MCLA required number of games required for membership.

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(ii) To be eligible to compete in the National Championship Tournament (1) by the conclusion of the respective conference tournament, a team must play games against a minimum of 8 different MCLA teams, at least 6 of which must be in the same Division as the applicable team, and (2) a team must otherwise be in good standing with the MCLA and its conference.

(iii) Each conference may, as applicable, designate whether its AQ will be awarded to its Regular Season or conference tournament champion. Such designation must be made at the Winter Meeting immediately prior to the start of the applicable Playing Season and the failure to so designate shall result in the conference losing its AQ. AQs are only applicable for the National Championship Tournament for the Playing Season in which they are granted. If a team receiving an AQ cannot participate in the National Championship Tournament that conference’s AQ is forfeited and becomes an at-large bid to be selected by the Tournament Selection Committee. If a team declines or loses (due to failure to satisfy the eligibility requirements or other violation) an AQ, (1) the applicable conference shall forfeit its right to grant an AQ to the National Championship Tournament for the next Playing Season and (2) such team shall be ineligible for the National Championship Tournament in their next Playing Season.

(iv) After the AQs have been awarded, the field for the tournament shall be filled with at-large bids selected by the Tournament Selection Committee. To qualify for an at-large bid, Division I teams must play a minimum of 3 MCLA games against different non-conference opponents in their Division and Division II teams must play a minimum of 2 MCLA games against different non-conference opponents in their Division. If a team qualifying for an at-large bid cannot participate in the National Championship Tournament, its bid will be awarded to the next highest alternate selected by the Tournament Selection Committee until such time as the tournament field is full. There is no limit to the number of at-large bids that can be awarded to teams in a conference. If a team accepts an at-large bid to participate in the National Championship Tournament and subsequently fails to participate or withdraws from the tournament prior to the completion of all of its games, such team shall be ineligible for the National Championship Tournament the next Playing Season.

(v) Teams must provide proof of player eligibility to the National Eligibility Coordinator as part of registration.

(vi) Teams must select their option for playing in a consolation game or 6s tournament if they lose the opening round of the National Tournament prior to their bid to the National Tournament by Tuesday prior to the opening round of the National Tournament.

(d) Tournament Selection Committee. The “Tournament Selection Committee” shall consist of the Director of Competition (or any similar successor title), the President and one representative from each conference, which representatives shall be selected by the Board of Directors by January 15 each year for the upcoming Playing Season. Directors and members of the Executive Committee are eligible to participate on the Tournament Selection Committee. The Tournament Selection Committee shall be elected each year, but there shall be no limit on the number of times any person can serve on the Tournament Selection Committee. The President shall be a non-voting member of the Tournament Selection Committee, and the Director of Competition (or any similar successor title) shall only vote on matters in the event a tie exists among the other members of the Tournament Selection Committee.

## ARTICLE 5 ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINES

(a) Conference Deadlines. Each conference must have completed, or caused the teams within such conference to complete, the following items each year on or before the dates set forth below:

- (i) Hold fall meeting for teams in conference: before Oct 15;
- (ii) Complete game schedules for upcoming Regular Season: December 1;
- (iii) Pay MCLA dues to MCLA for teams in conference: December 10;
- (iv) Determine conference champion: no later than 2 Sundays prior to the start of the National Championship Tournament.

(b) Team Deadlines.

(i) Each team must have completed the following items each year on or before the dates set forth below:

(1) Submit team roster and Roster Verification for upcoming season to the Conference Eligibility Coordinator: One week prior to team’s first scheduled MCLA game and also submit a second eligibility check within two weeks of their conference tournament and no later than 48 hours prior to the first tournament game;

(2) Submit Rules Acknowledgement and Consent Form to Conference Eligibility Coordinator: One week prior to the team's first scheduled MCLA game;

(3) Post helmetless photograph of each player and roster on the MCLA Website: One week prior to the team's first scheduled MCLA game;

(4) Post team and coaches photographs on the MCLA Website: Prior to the team's first scheduled MCLA game;

(5) Submit 2<sup>nd</sup> eligibility check to the Conference Eligibility Coordinator and National Eligibility Coordinator 48 hours prior to start of conference championship.

(ii) Each team must have completed the following for each MCLA game within the following timeframes:

(1) Post the game Score on the MCLA Website within one hour of the end of the game;

(2) Post the player statistics on the MCLA Website within 72 hours of the end of the game.

(c) Extensions and Appeals.

(i) Upon petition by a conference, the Executive Committee may extend any or all deadlines listed above for a period of up to 30 days.

(ii) Eligibility appeals, including those for injuries and other medical conditions, may only be made to the National Eligibility Coordinator in accordance with Section 3.2 hereof.

## ARTICLE 6 ENFORCEMENT

6.1 General. It is the mission of the following provisions to eliminate violations of both MCLA and conference rules and regulations and impose appropriate penalties should violations occur.

6.2 Violations. Any suspected violations of the Bylaws, Operating Policies, Conference Documents or other rules and regulations of the MCLA or any conference shall be reported simultaneously to the MCLA Competition Director, the National Eligibility Coordinator and the Director of the conference to which the team or player in question belongs.

(a) The conference to which the team or player in question belongs shall be responsible for investigating any allegations that a team or player has failed to comply with MCLA or applicable conference rules and regulations. A conference may initiate an investigation on its own motion when it discovers or otherwise receives information that a team or player is, has been or may have been in violation of MCLA or conference rules

and regulations. Self-reporting shall be considered in establishing penalties, and if a team or player uncovers a violation before its being reported to the MCLA and the conference, such disclosure shall be considered a mitigating factor in determining any penalty.

(b) Each conference shall establish investigative and procedural guidelines. Each team and player has an affirmative obligation to assist the conference and MCLA in developing full information to determine whether a possible violation has occurred and the details of the infraction. The foregoing cooperative principle requires that all teams and players protect the integrity of an investigation. A failure to do so may result in additional penalties.

(c) If a conference determines that an infraction does exist it shall determine the appropriate corrective action or penalty, which may include any one or more of the sanctions set forth in Section 6.4 below. Actions taken by or penalties imposed by a conference may be reviewed by the Executive Committee, at the Executive Committee's discretion. The Executive Committee can approve or alter any and all conference sanctions, or impose additional sanctions as appropriate to ensure that teams and players in different conferences are treated similarly.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any violations of MCLA or conference rules and regulations that are reported within 7 days of a conference's playoffs (and through the remainder of the season) will be investigated by a designee of the Executive Committee, then heard by the Executive Committee to determine playoff eligibility for conference and MCLA playoffs and any other post-season tournaments.

### 6.3 Appeals.

(a) Each team shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Committee actions taken or penalties imposed by its conference in reference to any violation. To appeal, the team must submit a written notice of its appeal and any supporting documentation within 20 days of the date the team receives the conference's decision to either the National Eligibility Coordinator or Competition Coordinator for eligibility appeals and the President for all other appeals. A team may request the opportunity to appear in person or through participation in a telephone conference call. If no such request is made, or if the request is denied, the Executive Committee will review the team's appeal on the basis of the written appeal provided by the team and the record created by the conference in its investigation. Any appeals must be brought by a team, no individual player may bring an appeal.

(b) Decisions of the Executive Committee pursuant to clause (a) above may be appealed to the Board of Directors. *Decisions of the Board of Directors on any such appeal shall be final.* To appeal, the team must submit a written notice of its appeal and any supporting documentation within 10 days of the date the team receives the Executive Committee's decision to either the National Eligibility Coordinator for eligibility appeals or Competition Coordinator for playing issues and the President for all other appeals. A

team may request the opportunity to appear in person or through participation in a telephone conference call. If no such request is made, or if the request is denied, the Board of Directors will review the team's appeal on the basis of the written appeal provided by the team and the record created by the conference and Executive Committee in its investigation. Any appeals must be brought by a team, no individual player may bring an appeal.

6.4 Sanctions. Conferences and the Executive Committee, upon determining that a violation has taken place, may impose any one, or combination, of the following sanctions:

- (a) Fines;
- (b) Public reprimand;
- (c) Expulsion of a player, team, coach or conference from the MCLA;
- (d) Suspension of player, team, coach or conference from MCLA sanctioned play, including any post-season tournaments and the National Championship Tournament;
- (e) Forfeiture of games;
- (f) Denial of awards;
- (g) Removal from the national poll and/or bid to the National Championship Tournament;
- (h) Loss of AQ or at-large bids to National Championship Tournament;
- (i) Requirement that a team relinquish any voting privilege it may have in its conference for a period of time; and/or
- (j) Reimbursement of another party's travel costs and/or officials' costs.

Teams or conferences failing to pay monetary sanctions (including late and other fees set forth herein) within 20 days, but no later than the start of their conference's championship, are subject to additional sanctions. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein or the Bylaws, the expulsion of a player, team, coach or conference from the MCLA shall require confirmation by an affirmative vote of 66% of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, taken together, present at a meeting where a quorum is present.

6.5 Statute of Limitations. The MCLA and conferences shall not investigate allegations of violations occurring more than 4 years before the date a possible violation is discovered; provided, that the following shall not be subject to the foregoing limitation:

- (a) allegations involving violations affecting the eligibility of a current player;

(b) allegations in a case in which information is developed to indicate a pattern of willful violations on the part of a team, player or institution involved, which began before but continued into the 4-year period; and

(c) allegations that indicate a blatant disregard for the MCLA's fundamental eligibility regulations or that involve an effort to conceal the occurrence of the violation.

6.6 Restitution. If (a) a player who is ineligible for MCLA play, or (b) a team that has been barred from MCLA play (regular or post-season) is permitted to participate in MCLA play, in either case, as a result of a court order or injunction, and such order or injunction is voluntarily vacated, stayed or reversed or it is finally determined by a court that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, the Executive Committee may take any one or more of the following actions against the applicable team and/or player in the interest of restitution and fairness to other teams and players participating in the MCLA:

(a) Require that individual or team records and performances achieved during such participation be vacated or stricken;

(b) Determine that a player be ineligible for future play, despite the correction of any eligibility violations;

(c) Determine that a team be ineligible for future invitational and post-season tournaments;

(d) Require that the team or player reimburse the conference and MCLA for any costs or expenses (including attorney's fees) in defending the court order or injunction; and

(e) Require that the team or player be assessed a financial penalty.

Teams or players failing to pay any amounts required to be reimbursed or any penalties assessed may, at the Executive Committee's discretion, be barred from future MCLA sanctioned play until such amounts have been paid. Such suspension may be imposed on the team to which an offending player is or was associated.

## ARTICLE 7 MCLA AWARDS

7.1 All America Awards. To recognize individual playing excellence, the MCLA will provide the following "MCLA All America" awards for Division I and Division II:

(a) All America First Team and Second Team consisting of: 4 Attack, 4 Midfield, 4 Defense, 1 Goal, 1 FOGO, 1 Defensive Specialist and 1 Long Stick Midfield.

(b) All America Third Team consisting of: 5 Attack, 5 Midfield, 5 Defense, 2 Goal, 1 FOGO, 1 Defensive Specialist and 1 Long Stick Midfield.

(c) All America Honorable Mention will be limited to 32 players. The committee will not be limited to specific position limits.

All MCLA All America award recipients shall be determined by the Awards Committee for each Division. Players earning any All Conference Award are eligible for All America nomination. The Awards Committee shall consist of the Director of Athlete Programs (or any similar successor title) and additional people selected by the conference Directors for each Division. Directors and members of the Executive Committee are eligible to serve on the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee shall be selected each year, but there shall be no limit on the number of times any person can serve on such committee. The Director of Athlete Programs shall be the chairperson of the committees for each Division. The Director of Athlete Programs and the applicable Awards Committee shall administer any other awards (player of the year, etc.) deemed appropriate.

7.2 MCLA Scholar Athlete. To recognize individual playing and academic excellence, the MCLA will provide “MCLA Scholar Athlete” awards to players designated to their conference all-conference team (any level) that have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale) through the most recently completed term of study. Conference Directors or their designees will collect transcripts for eligible players and submit them (through electronic or other means) to the Director of Athlete Programs prior to June 1 of each year.

7.3 MCLA Coach of the Year. The MCLA will recognize a coach of the year for each Division for each Playing Season. Nominations are to be sent to the Director of Athlete Programs. Based on the nominations received in accordance with the foregoing, the Awards Committee for the applicable Division shall vote on the coach of the year. The recipient of coach of the year award shall be the nominee receiving the most votes of those cast. Any Awards Committee member failing to vote by the designated time shall forfeit his or her right to vote for such award.

7.4 Sam Sadtler Service Award. Nominations are to be sent to the Director of Athlete Programs. Based on the nominations received in accordance with the foregoing, the Executive Committee shall vote on the recipient of the Sam Sadtler Service Award. The recipient of the award shall be the nominee receiving the most votes of those cast. Any Executive Committee member failing to vote by the designated time shall forfeit his or her right to vote for such award.

7.5 Conference Awards. Each conference will award all-conference team honors, with designations of first and second team and, at the conference’s option, third team. Each team shall consist of: 3 Attack, 3 Midfield, 3 Defense, 1 Goal, 1 FOGO, 1 Defensive Specialist and 1 Long Stick Midfield. Any remaining nominees shall receive Honorable Mention. Each conference shall also designate a Coach of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year.