**South West Lacrosse**

**Premier and Division 1 Leagues and Invitational Cup 2021-22**

**Rules & Regulations**

1. **General**

1.01 All Senior Competitions administered by the South West Lacrosse (‘SWL’) Committee shall be played in accordance to the World Lacrosse 2020-22 rulebook and accompanying clarification Memorandum, with the following exceptions:

* Any rules concerning the timing of games at the League Tournaments
* The requirement to drop the stick after scoring a goal
* Stop-clock rules will be played during the last two minutes of the 4th quarter of Invitational Cup matches and the second half of League matches
* Any current Covid-19 restrictions and protocols must be followed

1.02 The SWL Committee will be responsible for making any decisions on competition matters during the season. Any decisions required during the season will be discussed and decisions will be based on the stated rules, or where there is no rule in place decisions will be based on prior precedent

1.03 Competition fees must be paid on receipt of the SWL invoice for team entries to be secured

1.04 Only one team from a club is able to participate in the Premier League

1.05 Every team playing in the Leagues or Invitational Cup should be wearing numbered shirts that are numbered both front and back (sizes as specified under WL rules). There should be no repetition of numbers between players on the same team

1.06 Should there be a colour ‘clash’ the first named team on the order of play (tournaments) or the home team (Cup matches) will be responsible for providing an alternative strip

1.07 All players must wear a correctly fitting mouth guard. Eye protection/goggles are optional, but must meet specifications set out by the Governing Body (EL) if a player chooses to wear them

1.08 Each club must name a minimum of two Level 1 Umpires and one Level 2 Umpire at the commencement of the season – it is hoped that clubs will have four Level 1 Umpires by the end of the season. SWL encourages all clubs to promote the training of umpires within their organisation and bursaries are available to help with the cost of the courses. Clubs entered into the Development League must name a minimum of one Level 1 Umpires

1.09 Clubs may update their Umpire List as many times during the season as they like. All updates must be sent to the SLA as soon as possible

1.10 If clubs are unable to provide umpires from within their membership they must provide external umpires, with current EL qualification and registration, for the competition they are entered into, at their cost. Those umpires’ names and EL numbers must be submitted to the Senior League Administrator (‘SLA’) along with the team lists before each competition day for eligibility checking

1.11 **Minimum age for players competing in the Leagues or Invitational Cup will be 14 on the day of competition**. If your team chooses to field any players aged 14 or 15 the SWL committee strongly recommends that parental consent is sought prior to competing. The SWL committee is able to offer advice and support for clubs to ensure correct safeguarding policies are in place for young people and vulnerable adults, but ultimate responsibility for this will lie with the club

1.12 In all competitions, teams will get 5 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, 0 points for a loss; teams that lose but get half or more than half the opposition's score will be allocated 1 point. In the event of a team conceding, -3 points will be taken from the conceding team if the match is conceded after 10.00pm on Thursday immediately prior to the fixture date and -1 point if conceded before Thursday 10.00pm. For conceded matches, goals entered is a 5-0 score line. Winning team is allocated 5 points and 5 goals and losing (ie conceding team) is allocated relevant points as above and no goals

1.13 In all competitions, when two or more teams have equal points, placings will be determined by goal difference. The team with the highest goal difference will be placed higher

a. If goal difference is also equal, the result (including goal difference) of the matches between the two teams will be looked at. The team that won (or has a better goal difference in the matches) will be placed higher

b. If the match results are also equal, total goals scored will be looked at. The team with more goals scored will be placed higher

c. If goals scored is still equal, the result will be determined on the toss of a coin

1.14 The winners of Division 1 will be promoted and the bottom placed team in the Premier League relegated to Division 1 in the following season unless the winners of Division 1 are the second team of a club already represented in the Premier League. In this instance no promotion/relegation will take place

**2. Membership and player eligibility**

2.01 Each club must ensure that all of their players and officials are Individual Members of England Lacrosse **and** affiliated to the club for which they are playing in SWL competitions. This is to ensure that all players are registered to England Lacrosse and thereby covered under our public liability insurance with the correct club affiliation, and that they are eligible to play. No personal or contact information will ever be given to third parties. Players can register themselves at:

 https://www.englandlacrosse.co.uk. Any player not individually registered with England Lacrosse will be unable to play in the Leagues or Invitational Cup until registered; if she does so the team will be subject to the sanctions listed in 2.04.c

2.02 Minimum age for players competing in the Leagues and Invitational Cup will be 14 on the day of competition

2.03 Process for checking player and umpire Eligibility:

1. All teams must submit a comprehensive team list of EIGHTEEN (18) players to the SLA no later than **5.00 pm on the Wednesday before each tournament or match.** The team list must also include those officials umpiring for the team. Players and officials must be listed with their EL Registration Number and their names must be spelt the same as their EL Registered name
2. Team lists will be cross-checked with the EL Database
3. All players and officials should be prepared to provide evidence of their eligibility to compete for their team or officiate. Spot checks and/or full registration card checks may take place during the stick check at the start of a competition day. Players may use their physical card or electronic e-mail/receipt as proof of registration
4. Any teams fielding unregistered/illegal players will be subject to the sanctions listed in 2.04.c

2.04 Challenging Eligibility

1. Teams will be able to challenge any player they believe to be fielded illegally at a League tournament or Cup match. The team captain must inform the SLA of the team and player number they wish to challenge and the reasonable cause to do so
2. The SLA may either refer to registration checks competed prior to each tournament or ask the captain of the challenged team to provide evidence of the player’s eligibility
3. If the player is illegal, the player will be excluded from the remainder of the tournament or Cup match. The team may also be subject to the following sanctions

1st instance – written warning from the SLA and £20 fine

2nd instance – written warning, further £20 fine and docked 5 league/cup points

3rd instance – written warning, further £50 fine and docked 10 league/cup points

Any further instances of failure to abide by rules will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the South West Lacrosse Committee and may result in the team being refused entry to SWL senior competitions the following season

**3. Invitational Cup**

* 1. The SLA will send out a confirmation email to all clubs by the Wednesday before each Cup fixture. All teams must reply to this message to confirm the weekend’s matches
	2. Contacts for all clubs wherever possible are made available by the SLA but teams are advised to confirm a contact from each of the clubs for the match day when confirming details during the preceding week
	3. All matches should take place on the dates specified at the commencement of the season; only with agreement of **both** teams and the SLA can a fixture be rearranged for reasons other than adverse weather/pitch condition/Covid-19 restrictions
	4. The ‘home’ listed team is responsible for arranging pitch hire
	5. Each team is responsible for providing ONE umpire each
	6. It is the responsibility of the home team to liaise with the opposing team regarding details for the weekend and inform of any cancellation due to adverse weather/pitch conditions. Cancellations must be made via phone, email or text to the opposing team. The SLA must always be informed via email. If the venue cancels the match, other venues should be considered based on the closest distance to the original venue. The game should be moved if this is possible. This must be confirmed 36 hours ahead of the match
	7. If there is bad weather and the match is going ahead, reasonable condition of the pitches must be taken into consideration. Both team captains must agree to playing if the pitches are bad. If both captains do not agree, then this will be taken as a postponed match due to adverse weather conditions. Photo evidence of the condition of the pitches will be required and submitted to the SLA
	8. If there are potential adverse weather conditions foreseen and the home team can find an alternative venue, the new venue must be agreed 36 hours before the start time of the game. If not agreed by the away team and the original venue is unplayable, this will be considered a postponed match
	9. If matches are cancelled they are only eligible to be replayed if they were postponed due to pitch conditions or adverse weather conditions - a team pulling out due to insufficient numbers is classified as a conceded match and relevant points allocated/subtracted depending on time of cancellation
	10. Opposing teams are advised to enforce this rule and take the points for the match. If both teams agree at a later date that they will actually play the match then the points can be amended. If both teams agree to a rearranged match, the home team will reschedule the match, book and pay for the venue and umpires organised as per Cup rules above
	11. To rearrange any weather-postponed matches the home team may provide a list of 3 alternative dates. If no agreeable date can be found, then the match will be void (a nil-nil draw will be registered with zero points allocated)
	12. The date of the rearranged match must be at least two weeks before the scheduled play-off fixture at the end of the season
	13. If the rearranged match is unable to be replayed on the date chosen due to pitch condition or adverse weather and there is insufficient time before the end of the season to allow it to be re-arranged again, then the match will be void (a nil-nil draw will be registered with zero points allocated)
	14. Cancellations that occur as a result of government restrictions due to Covid-19 will be deemed a draw with a 5-5 score unless the match can be rearranged and played at a later date, subject to 3.12 above
	15. Teams are to liaise directly with each other but must copy (‘cc’) the SLA on emails in order to keep her informed (seniorleague@southwestlacrosse.co.uk)
	16. The fixtures will be full length matches of 4x15 minute quarters with 2 minutes between first/second and third/fourth quarters; team captains to agree with the officials whether 5 or 10 minutes to be taken at half time
	17. Either team can request a 10-minute delay to the agreed start time of the match at the umpire’s discretion. This request has to be made to the umpire 5 minutes before the scheduled start time of the match
	18. Stop-clock rules will be played during the last 2 minutes of the 4th quarter
	19. Teams will send their results to the SLA by 8pm on the Sunday of the match. This is the responsibility of both teams in order to verify the score. Failure to send in results by this deadline will result in a 2-point deduction for any team that fails to send it in
	20. If teams playing in matches in the Cup competition are short of players such that the match might have to be conceded on the day, then it is possible for both teams to agree to play for 15 minutes as a Cup match. The result of the match will be a win for the side fielding the full team, regardless of the final score. In this instance, both teams must sign a piece of paper prior to the start of the match agreeing that the match they are about to play will stand as a Cup match, that they will play for 15 minutes and the goals scored in the 15 minutes will stand as the final result. This means that the team playing short (who would have conceded and received -3 points) will get zero points and the winning team will get 5 points for a win. The points will be allocated in this way irrespective of whether the team playing short gets more goals - they agreed at the start of the match that they are in essence conceding the match but getting zero points instead of -3 - but the goals scored by each team in the 15 minutes will be included in their goal tally for the competition. After the 15 minutes game, the teams can switch around to borrow/share players to ensure that a good game of lacrosse is achieved for both teams
	21. All EL/WL rules, pitch markings and approved crosses should be adhered to
	22. Any changes to existing EL/WL rules affecting the domestic game (and the timing of their coming into force) will be communicated from England Lacrosse to the SWL Committee, and then adopted where appropriate
	23. It is the responsibility of both teams to bring a **first aid kit**, including ice packs, with them to each fixture
	24. It is up to the home team as to whether they choose to provide teas for the visiting team
	25. Any team failing to abide by the rules of the Invitational Cup can expect the following sanctions to be levied against them:

1st instance – written warning from the SLA and £20 fine

2nd instance – written warning, further £20 fine and docked 5 cup points

3rd instance – written warning, further £50 fine and docked 10 cup points

Any further instances of failure to abide by rules will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the South West Lacrosse Committee and may result in the team being refused entry to the Invitational Cup the following season

**4**. **Premier and Division 1 Leagues**

4.01 All league matches will be played at tournaments taking place on a Sunday on the dates publicised at the commencement of the season: 5 dates are scheduled, with a 6th reserved in case of postponement earlier in the season

4.02 Any cancellations of the tournament will be made by 6pm the day before the tournament. The SLA will contact each club via phone and e-mail to confirm the cancellation. The SLA will use the SWL website and facebook page to communicate if a tournament is cancelled. It is the responsibility of each club captain to check these forums in case of cancellation

4.03 Tournaments will only be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions and/or unsafe pitch conditions, or Covid-19 restrictions. Every effort will be made to rearrange the tournament within the league season; however, if this is not possible, the tournament shall remain un-played and no teams will receive points

4.04 All EL/WL rules, pitch markings and approved crosses should be adhered to

4.05 Any changes to existing EL/WL rules affecting the domestic game (and the timing of their coming into force) will be communicated from England Lacrosse to the SWL Committee, and then adopted where appropriate

4.06 It is the responsibility of all teams to bring a **first aid kit**, including ice packs, with them to each tournament. The SLA will be designated first aider at each tournament; however, if your team has any qualified first aiders present, they must make themselves known at registration

4.07 Each team must bring a minimum of one Level 1 qualified umpire to each tournament. The umpire provided will not be required to officiate any games their team is playing in. Failure to provide one umpire will result in sanctions, listed below

4.08 All teams entered into the Leagues are expected to attend every tournament day in the season. Teams must submit their team sheet of players, including the names of their two umpires, to the SLA **no later than 5pm the Wednesday before each tournament**. Any team failing to provide a team sheet by the given deadline will not be allowed to play in the tournament and sanctions may be imposed as outlined below

4.09 Any team withdrawing after the above deadline will be subject to sanctions outlined below

4.10 Any team failing to abide by the rules of the League can expect the following sanctions to be levied against them:

 1st instance – written warning from the SLA and £20 fine

 2nd instance – written warning, further £20 fine and docked 5 league/cup points

3rd instance – written warning, further £50 fine and docked 10 league/cup points

 Any further instances of failure to abide by rules will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the South West Lacrosse Committee and may result in the team being refused entry to the League the following season