

## Bylaws of the Greater Eastside Youth Lacrosse League

### **Article One—NAME**

The name of this organization shall be The Greater Eastside Youth Lacrosse League, which is will herein be referred to as GELL.

### **Article Two—PURPOSE**

GELL's purpose is to support our mission statement by providing an organization structure that enables youth lacrosse to operate, develop, and grow in our region.

### **Article Three—MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in GELL shall be open to any amateur, community based youth lacrosse organization which is not-for-profit, maintains an open membership, and is located within our geographical region as specified within our rules and regulations. Specifically, an organization sponsoring a youth lacrosse program may be a member of GELL if it meets the following conditions:

1. The organization must agree to promote the game of lacrosse among youth in a safe and sportsmanlike environment.
2. The organization must be not-for-profit.
3. The organization must have open registration. Registration must allow for participation regardless of sex, race, creed, color, or religion.
4. No player may be paid for his or her participation in the organization whether the same be money or other valuable consideration.
5. The organization must pay on a current basis all GELL dues, assessments, and fees.
6. The organization must maintain an appropriate liability insurance policy which minimum standards are set by the Board of Directors.
7. The organization must select a representative of the organization to be a member of GELL Board of Directors.
8. The organization must abide by and follow all GELL Bylaws and Rules & Regulations as adopted by the Board of Directors.
9. The organization must draw its players from a defined geographical region that is consistent with our play-for rules found within our rules and regulations.

Application for new membership must be made in writing to the Board of Directors. Applications may be submitted before at any properly scheduled meeting of the Board, but will only be considered for the pending season if they are received before the fall meeting (typically November). Members are not required to renew membership.

GELL members have the right to accept or reject any such application without cause. Such application will be decided by a simple majority vote. Newly approved members will receive Provisional membership for the first year after which simple majority will affirm their permanent membership.

#### **Article Four—BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. There shall be a Board of Directors of GELL consisting of one representative from each GELL member organization.
2. A board member may also be a member of the executive committee as outlined below, but does not gain a second vote for holding such position.

#### **Article Five—DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall conduct and transact the business of GELL. The Board shall be the sole governing body of GELL except as otherwise provided herein.

The Board shall represent GELL and shall have the power to amend the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations to further the purpose of GELL.

The Board shall elect an Executive Committee that will be comprised of at least: Administrative Director, a Policy Director, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Board of Directors may elect other officers from time to time as needed.

#### **Article Six—MEETINGS**

1. **Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting of GELL each year shall be the February meeting of the Board of Directors held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine. At least seven (7) days before the date of the annual meeting, the Secretary shall send notice of the time and place of the meeting to the designated representative of every member in good standing at his or her address as it appears in the GELL membership roll book.
2. **Regular Meetings:** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held periodically on an as-needed basis. Generally, it is expected that there will be at least 3 regular meetings during the period of January through June, and an additional 3 meetings between August and December. Board members should be aware of their obligation to attend these meetings prior to committing to taking the position. At least seven (7) days before the date of a regular meeting, the Secretary shall send notice of the time and place of the meeting to the designated representative of every member in good standing at his or her address as it appears in the GELL membership roll book.
3. **Officer Meetings:** As the officers will have the day-to-day responsibility for running operations, they may meet more frequently
4. **Special Meetings:** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Administrative Director when he/she deems it in the best interest of the organization. In addition, at the request of at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee or one third (1/3) of the members of the Board of Directors, the Administrative Director shall call a special meeting. At least seven (7) days before the date of a special meeting, the Secretary shall send notice of the time and place of the meeting to the designated representative of every member in good standing at his or her address as it appears in the GELL membership roll book.
5. **Quorum:** The presence of not less than fifty (50%) percent of the members shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this

organization. A meeting in which there is no quorum may be adjourned for a period of not more than three (3) weeks from the date scheduled and the secretary shall cause a notice of this scheduled meeting to be sent to all those members who were not present at the meeting originally called. A quorum as hereinbefore set forth shall be required at any adjourned meeting.

#### **Article Seven—VOTING**

1. Each member organization shall be entitled to one vote for each varsity high school team in good standing that it supports as the sole feeder system (“sole feeder” means that nearly all players enter the high school program from the youth program, but allowing for minor variances due to zoning). When an organization grows to support an additional high school team the additional voting privilege shall be ratified by the board at the next meeting after the high school team declares its status.
2. Except as otherwise provided herein, all votes of the Board of Directors shall be decided by a simple fifty-one (51%) percent majority of the members attending.
3. At all meetings, all votes shall be by voice, except that any questions may be voted upon by ballot if a fifty-one (51%) percent majority of the members attending so requires.
4. For efficiency, it may periodically be deemed necessary for a board vote by email. In such cases, responses shall be concise and clear (such as YES or NO). In these cases, failure to respond will be considered absentee. Failure to reach a quorum forces the issue to be resolved through a second email vote, or at the next in-person meeting.
5. In the event that a particular member is deemed in violation of the Bylaws, Rules, or Regulations of GELL, the membership may move to suspend that member’s voting privileges. Further, any member which is not current in its dues as set forth in these Bylaws shall not be entitled to cast a vote for any reason whatsoever at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### **Article Eight—ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business may be changed from time to time at the discretion of the Administrative Director.

#### **Article Nine—OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

GELL shall have the following officers: Administrative Director, Policy Director, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Board of Directors may elect other officers from time to time as needed. Individually, each officer will have the duties outlined below. Collectively, these officers comprise the Executive Committee and will hold the duties outlined below.

#### **Article Ten—DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. **Administrative Director:** The Administrative Director shall preside at all meetings. The Administrative Director shall appoint all officers and committees not required to be elected. The Administrative Director shall submit an annual report to the Board of Directors at its annual meeting. The Administrative

- Director shall communicate, collect and report all conditions of organizations. The Administrative Director shall serve a two-year term with elections to be conducted at the Fall Meeting to be held in October, November, or December of each and every year. An Administrative Director may serve one or more consecutive terms so long as he/she is duly elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Fall Meeting. The Administrative Director shall have the authority to execute checks, which must also be executed by the Treasurer.
2. **Policy Director:** The Policy Director shall perform such duties as may be delegated to him/her by the Administrative Director. The Policy Director shall succeed to the powers of the Administrative Director in his/her absence. The Policy Director shall serve a two-year term with elections to be conducted at the Fall Meeting to be held in October, November, or December of each and every year. A Policy Director may serve one or more consecutive terms so long as he/she is duly elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Fall Meeting. The Policy Director shall have the authority to execute checks, which must also be executed by the Treasurer.
  3. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee, file any certificate required by any statute, federal or state, keep an accurate roll of all members of the organization, give and serve all notices to members of the organization, be the official custodian of the records and seal of the organization, present to the membership at any meetings any communication addressed to the secretary of the organization, attend to all correspondence of the organization, and exercise all duties incident to the office of secretary. The Secretary shall serve a one-year term with election to be conducted at the Fall Meeting to be held in October, November, or December of each and every year. A Secretary may serve one or more consecutive terms so long as he/she is duly elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Fall Meeting. The Secretary shall have the authority to execute checks, which must also be executed by the Treasurer.
  4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies received of GELL and shall keep a specific, detailed, and accurate accounting of income and expenditures. The Treasurer shall submit a statement of the financial status of GELL at each and every Board of Directors meeting and as the Administrative Director may direct. The Treasurer must sign any and all checks distributed by GELL. The Treasurer shall serve a one-year term with election to be conducted at the Fall Meeting to be held in October, November, or December of each and every year. A Treasurer may serve one or more consecutive terms so long as he/she is duly elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Fall Meeting.
  5. No officer or director shall for reason of the office be entitled to receive any salary or compensation, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an officer or director from receiving any compensation from the organization for duties other than as a director or officer.
  6. **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee shall be responsible for executing the policies set by the Board of Directors and for carrying out the functions of the Board between meetings of the Board. It shall normally carry out its duties by telephone, correspondence, or meetings as determined by the

Administrative Director. All Executive Committee votes shall be by voice. The Executive Committee shall report all of its decisions to the next meeting of the Board of Directors for their review and ratification.

7. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the determination of Rules and Regulations violations including Rules violations, eligibility violations, flagrant violations of the Bylaws, and other such violations that may occur. Except as provided for under Paragraph 5 of this Article and under Article Twelve, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to make a binding decision regarding any and all violations.

Upon a showing of good cause, the Executive Committee shall be authorized to order and direct the replaying of any league game. Upon a showing of good cause, the Executive Committee shall be authorized to recommend suspension of any member organization for flagrant violations of the Bylaws, Rules, or Regulations of GELL.

8. The Executive Committee shall fulfill its duties under Article Twelve – Grievance & Disciplinary Proceedings.
9. *An Executive Committee decision or action may not be challenged or otherwise overruled except by a seventy-five (75%) percent majority vote of the Board of Directors, exclusive of Executive Committee members, sitting in a properly constituted meeting. In the event the decision or action is vacated by a seventy-five (75%) percent vote of the Board of Directors, exclusive of Executive Committee members, then the Board of Directors shall be entitled to vote on the issues so overruled and vacated. The Board of Directors shall conduct a vote to determine the issues previously determined by the Executive Committee. Only a seventy-five (75%) percent majority vote of the Board of Directors shall be effective to render a final decision on said issues. In the event the Board of Directors is unable after two votes to have a seventy-five (75%) percent majority vote a final decision on the issues overruled and vacated, then the initial decision or action of the Executive Committee shall be reinstated and be final.*

## **Article Twelve—GRIEVANCE & DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

1. **Grievance Statements:** Any person or organization alleging that he, she, or it has been aggrieved in any matter within the jurisdiction of GELL may, within four (4) days of the occurrence of the incident or of obtaining knowledge of the incident on which such alleged grievance is based, submit to the Administrative Director of GELL a written grievance statement. This statement shall specify the person or organization responsible for the alleged grievance, the nature of the grievance, and the relief desired. An extension of the time to file such statement may be granted by the Administrative Director in his/her sole discretion. In the event the Administrative Director is a party to a grievance, the Secretary shall fulfill the Administrative Director's responsibilities as described herein. If the Secretary and Administrative Director are both parties to the grievance, it shall be considered by the whole Board of Directors, which shall appoint a Review Board as provided for

in Paragraph 2 of this Article. In such event, the Review Board shall report directly to the entire Board of Directors.

2. **Referral to a Review Board:** The Administrative Director shall commence a proceeding by appointing, within three (3) days of receiving the statement of grievance, a Review Board of at least three persons to whom the matter shall be referred.
3. **Preliminary Action by Review Board:** If the Review Board determines that no reasonable grounds for a grievance exist, it shall within three (3) days make a written decision stating the grounds for its decision and shall deliver copies to the Administrative Director and the party alleging the grievance.
4. **Delivery of the Statement of Grievance – Right to Reply:** If the Review Board determines that there are reasonable grounds for such grievance, it shall deliver a copy of the statement of such grievance to the person or organization allegedly responsible for such grievance. Such person or organization shall have seven (7) days in which to reply. An extension of the time to file such statement may be granted by the Review Board in its sole discretion. The reply shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Review Board at the address specified by it and to the party alleging the grievance.
5. **Mediation by Review Board – Setting Time and Place for Hearing:** The Review Board shall then attempt to settle the grievance by mediation, If the attempt to mediate is unsuccessful, the Review Board shall set a place, date, and time for a hearing that is reasonably convenient for all parties. The hearing must be conducted as provided in Paragraph 6 of this Article.
6. **Hearing by Review Board – Findings & Decisions:** At the hearing, each party and the Review Board shall be entitled to call witnesses, whose testimony may be taken under oath as determined by the Review Board, produce evidence, and submit memoranda supporting his, her, or its position and shall be entitled to be represented by counsel. Stenographic minutes may be taken, the cost of which shall be borne equally by the party alleging the grievance and the party alleged to have committed the grievance, and otherwise, as assessed by the Review Board. Within five days after the conclusion of the hearing, any party wishing to do so may deliver a further written statement to the Review Board. The Review Board shall then make written findings of fact that shall be final and make a written decision that shall include grounds for the decision and recommended relief or disciplinary action, if any. It shall deliver a copy of its findings of fact and decision to the Administrative Director and to each party.
7. **Disciplinary Action:** In the event relief or disciplinary action is recommended by the Review Board, the Administrative Director shall make copies of the written findings and decision of the Review Board and distribute them to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall either affirm, amend, or remand the recommended relief or disciplinary action to the Review Board for further consideration and shall make a written decision which shall state the grounds for the decision. Copies of its decision shall be delivered to the parties and the Review Board. In the event relief or disciplinary action is to be taken, copies of the findings of fact and decision of the Review Board and the decision of the Executive Committee will be distributed to all members of the Board of Directors

and other parties affected by the relief or disciplinary action. Decisions of the Review Board will be treated as Executive Committee decisions by the Board of Directors as provided for under Article Eleven. Paragraph 5.

**Article Thirteen—SALARIES**

The Executive Committee shall hire and fix the compensation of any and all employees who they in their discretion may determine to be necessary in the conduct of the business of the organization.

**Article Fourteen—COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES**

All committees and delegates of GELL shall be appointed by the Administrative Director, except as otherwise provided herein. Their term of office shall be for a period of one year, or less if sooner terminated by the action of the Board of Directors.

**Article Fifteen—NOMINATIONS**

The Board of Directors shall nominate officers for the coming season at the June meeting at a general meeting.

**Article Sixteen—ANNUAL DUES**

Each member organization shall be required to pay annual dues in advance of the first game of each particular season. The amount of the dues may be increased or decreased by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors sitting in a properly constituted meeting.

**Article Seventeen—RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Board of Directors shall adopt such Rules and Regulations covering policy, organization, procedural, and competitive matters as it deems appropriate by a majority vote.

**Article Eighteen—AMENDMENTS**

1. These Bylaws may be altered, amended, repealed, or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than seventy-five (75%) percent of the Board of Directors sitting in a properly constituted meeting.
2. Any member may propose an Amendment to the Bylaws at any time by presenting it in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary shall distribute the proposed amendment to the Executive Committee which shall make a written recommendation, including the grounds for the recommendation, for or against the proposed change of the Bylaws.
3. The Secretary shall distribute the proposed amendment and the recommendation of the Executive Committee to all members at least seven (7) days prior to the next regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors at which the amendment shall be considered.

If the amendment is not approved, it shall not be tabled again for consideration by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors for a period of one year