

**SOUTH OF ENGLAND MEN'S LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
BYE-LAWS**

**A. FIXTURES & COMPETITIONS**

**1. ADMINISTRATION**

- (a) All the competitions shall be administered by the Competitions' Committee (hereinafter called "the Committee") on behalf of the Executive Committee. No member shall play in any competition which is not self-administered without first obtaining the permission of the committee. All correspondence shall be sent to and by the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures).
- (b) The committee shall draw up a schedule of all competition matches, indicating which team is to play at home; and shall send a copy of this schedule to the Hon. Secretary of member clubs by June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- (c) The clubs which have arranged friendly matches, tours or other special events shall advise the Hon Secretary (Competitions and Fixtures) thereof by May 31<sup>st</sup>. If possible no competition matches will be arranged to clash with the friendly, tour or other special event but where such an event does occur the competition fixture shall take preference.
- (d) The Hon Secretary (Competitions and Fixtures) will distribute to Clubs a draft fixture schedule for the following season no later than 21 days after the SEMLA AGM. The Hon Secretary (C & F ) will accommodate Club's wishes for Special Events, Friendly Matches, Tours etc. wherever possible, but where the interests of a number of clubs differ, the Committee shall arbitrate and its' decision will be final. Clubs may request alterations within 21 days of the issuing of the draft schedules, either in writing or by e-mail to the Hon. Secretary (C&F), following which the Hon Sec (C & F) will publish the final schedule for the following season.
- (e) In conjunction with the preparation of the fixture schedules for the forthcoming season, the Hon Secretary (Competitions and Fixtures) will propose to the Executive Committee the number of teams who shall be subject to promotion or relegation between the divisions within the East and West Leagues. The Executive Committee shall approve or amend the Hon Secretary's (C&F) proposal. The decision will be notified to Clubs with the draft and final fixture schedules.
- (f) The Hon Secretary (Competitions and Fixtures) at his discretion may schedule the Preliminary Round of the Flags to be held on a Sunday in the season.

**2. CONDUCT OF MATCHES**

- (a) All matches shall be played to the current E.L.A. Laws of Lacrosse.
- (b) Referees shall normally be appointed by the Hon. Secretary (Referees) for each match. In the event that the Hon. Secretary is unable to allocate a referee for a match, it is the responsibility of the Home team to provide a qualified referee.
- (c) The referee shall have the power to stop any game temporarily or finally at any time, if he considers that the conditions of the ground, weather or light are unsuitable for play. If there have been 60 minutes of actual play, then the score at the time of termination shall count as the result for any competition purposes. In all other cases the match shall be void and shall be replayed.

**3. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

Following each match it is the responsibility of the Home Team Captain to call the relevant News Agencies before 5pm on match day to report the result. Teams should also Email their results to the Fixtures Secretary within three days in order for the fixtures report to be updated.

#### 4. TROPHIES

Trophies presented to appropriate teams in the various competitions shall always remain the property of and be insured by the English Lacrosse Association. The club to which any trophy is presented shall be responsible for its care and safe keeping until it is returned to the Hon. Secretary (Equipment) which shall normally be not later than the first day of February after the club has received it. Flag and Six-a-side trophies shall be presented on the day of the event and League trophies at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

#### 5. START OF MATCHES

- (a) All afternoon games including flag matches shall commence at 2.00 p.m., unless otherwise mutually agreed between the captains of the two teams and advised to the referee. Provided nevertheless that the commencements of final ties may be varied as specified in the schedule.
- (b) If it is necessary to start at times other than the above because of park closing regulations etc., it is the responsibility of the home team to advise their opponents, the referee and the Hon Secretary (Referees) at least 7 days prior to the date of the match.
- (c) Home teams should confirm matches to visiting teams one week before the game.
- (d) If a game is unable to commence at the appointed time, e.g. because one or both teams are unable to commence play, a referee may delay the start of the game until the expiration of 15 minutes and adjust the length of the quarters accordingly. If at the expiration of 15 minutes one of the teams is still unable to commence play, the referee may award the game to the opposing team. If both teams are unable to commence play at this time then the referee may declare the match void.
- (e) If a game is unable to commence at the appointed time and no referee is present the captain should defer the start time by up to 15 minutes and if at the end of this period one of the teams is still unable to commence play the game shall be awarded to the opposing side. If both teams are unable to commence play the match shall be void.

#### 6. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

- (a) After the fixtures meeting, no further objections or changes may be made to the schedule. All matches shall be played as arranged and the team shall attend at the appointed time and place. A match shall not be postponed, cancelled or re-arranged without the permission of the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) and then only for reasons which the latter considers adequate. In all instances the home club or if no home club the promoting club shall be responsible for obtaining the required permission.
- (b) A match may, however, be postponed without the necessary permission if the ground is unfit for play and no suitable alternative is available. The home team shall advise the opposing club's Hon Match/Team Secretary, the referee and the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) promptly. Email is not an acceptable method of communication for postponement within 48 hours of the match. Home teams are responsible for ensuring contact by telephone with the visiting team. Notification to the

Hon. Secretary (C&F) may be by writing or email.

- (c) If a match is not played and the necessary permission has not been obtained save as provided for in sub-clause (b) hereof the Committee shall allocate or withhold points or award a walk-over or order the game to be played on a future date as it may consider fair and reasonable having due regard to the circumstances.
- (d) Postponed matches shall be re-arranged by the Committee.
- (e) Where a match is postponed then the two clubs involved would have four weeks to liaise and agree a new date. If it is not done in this period then the Hon Secretary (Competitions and Fixtures) will decide a date which will be non negotiable by the clubs involved.

## 7. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS IN COMPETITION MATCHES

- (a) Players in any competition game must be members of the respective clubs. No person may play for a club until he has fulfilled the entrance rules of that club and his name has been registered with the Association's Hon. Secretary.
- (b) If a person wishes to transfer playing membership from one club to another then the registration form must be countersigned by the Hon. Secretary of the club being left to confirm that the person is free from all financial obligations to that club.
- (c) A registered player of one club, may be registered as any form of member of another club, other than player but may not play for that club without officially transferring.
- (d) A member of a University/College or School Club may, however, also be registered as a member of, and play for, one other club, except as provided for in sub-clause (h) hereof, providing he is normally domiciled in the South of England during vacation periods.
- (e) In circumstances where a club is unable to field more than eight players, not more than two SEMLA registered members of another club may play, provided that the agreement of the opposing captain has been obtained prior to the match. Such permission must be obtained in written form and either signed by the opposing captain or, in the case of email from the captain's email account.
- (f) The list of players registered to a Club will be taken from the ELA database as of the date of the first league game each season. Transfer of players between Clubs during the league season will require the formal transfer process to be followed. Transfers between clubs during the close season may be administered by the player re-registering to a new club on the ELA website.
- (g)
  - i. If a club should enter more than one team in a competition, a regular member of one team of a club shall not play for a lower team of that club, unless he has been replaced on merit. A player so replaced shall remain in the lower team for a minimum of 3 competition games (League, Plate or Flag) unless permission to the contrary has been obtained from the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures).
  - ii. In any event, a player who has played for a team in 2 out of the 3 competition matches immediately preceding the date on which that team has no competition fixture, shall not play for any lower team in a competition on that day, unless permission has been obtained from the Hon. Assistant (Competitions & Fixtures).
- (h) Players shall not, in one season, play for more than one club in the Flag competition.

- (i) Players shall not be permitted to play in a Flag semi-final or final unless he has played a minimum of 3 competition matches (League, Plate or Flag) for his club during that season.
- (j) No player may play in a play-off match for promotion/relegation unless he has played a minimum of 3 competition matches (League, Plate or Flag) for the team concerned that season.
- (k) No player may be selected for a County team unless he is registered as a playing member for a club within that county.
- (l) No person may play for more than one county in any one season.
- (m) SEMLA endorses the dispensation for U16's to play in competitive SEMLA fixtures where dispensations have been granted by the English Lacrosse Association.

#### 8. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

- (a) The competition shall be called The League Championship.
- (b) The League shall normally consist of divisions of not more than 12 teams each. Normally each division shall consist of the same teams each season, except as affected by promotion and relegation, failure of teams to enter, or as decided by the Committee in exceptional circumstances.
- (c) On or before the 31<sup>st</sup> May in each year all clubs desiring to compete shall give notice, in writing, to the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) stating the names of the Secretaries and Treasurers, location of ground and number of teams it proposes to enter in the competition.
- (d) Any team entering the competition for the first time shall be allocated the division in which it shall compete by the Committee who shall have the power to change the division of any team, if necessary, to accommodate the new one.
- (e) Matches shall be played as directed by the competitions committee.
- (f) Three points shall be awarded to the winning team. Two points shall be awarded to each team in the event of a drawn game. One point shall be awarded to the losing team. Teams failing to fulfil a fixture shall be awarded no points.
- (g) For League table purposes a walk-over shall count as 10-0.
- (h) The Committee shall draw up a League Table by divisions, placing the teams in order according to the number of points gained. Should more than one team have the same number of points, then these teams shall be placed in order with the team which has the highest goal average (i.e. goals 'for' divided by goals 'against') first. Where the teams with the same number of points are involved in the Premiership title race, promotion or relegation, seasonal goal average shall be ignored and promotion or relegation shall be determined by the results of the games between those teams (including if necessary goal difference in those matches). Where this fails to separate the teams or there are more than two teams with same number of points, then the team with the most wins shall be placed ahead of the other team(s). Should this fail to resolve such matters, the same shall be determined by the spin of a coin made at the General Committee Meeting held in May, by the person chairing the said meeting.
- (i) At the end of the League season, the tenth placed club in the Premier Division shall be demoted to whichever of the regional leagues it so chooses. It shall be given a place in the

top division of the respective league. The tenth placed club's place in the Premiership shall be taken for the following season by the winner of a 'Play-off' game between the winners of the top division of the East and West regional leagues. If the loser of the East vs West play-off game so chooses they have the right to a play-off game against the ninth placed team of the Premiership the winner of which will take the place in the Premiership for the following season.

- (j) If a team fails to fulfil a fixture, it will be that club's sole responsibility to prove to the Hon. Secretary (C&F) that it was due to unavoidable external factors beyond their control. It will be the decision of the Hon. Secretary (C&F) to either accept the explanation and order a replay or to award the game as a 10-0 win to the opposing team.
- (k) In the event of an alleged infringement of the rules a protest may be made within 7 days to the Committee by the Hon. Secretary/Captain of any team concerned and if such protest be upheld the offending team shall forfeit the match or matches concerned and any points applicable to the said match or matches. Their opponents shall be awarded the match or matches as if they had won the same and the score of 10-0 recorded.
- (l) The Premier Division shall include no more than one team of any Club. The East and West Regional Leagues may include more than one team from a Club in the same Division.
- (m) In the event of law 8(l) being applied, then the right to compete in the East vs West Divisional Play-off for promotion to the Premiership shall pass to the first eligible Club in the respective Division calculated from the final Divisional positions from the first to last placed team.
- (n) Where a Club has two or more teams entered in the League or Flags Competitions and two or more of those teams are scheduled to play fixtures on the same day, then, in the circumstances that the Club cannot field sufficient players to fulfil all the fixtures, then the Club shall fulfil the fixture that is in the highest division first, and so on down the divisions until it cannot fulfil the fixture. Such fixtures as cannot be fulfilled will be notified to the Fixture Secretary in advance and will be subject to the clauses relating to postponed or conceded fixtures.
- (o) A club may field any number of substitutes for any League, Flags or Plate Competition game

Exceptional circumstances affecting the Club's ability to play the higher fixture(s) first must be notified to the Fixture Secretary in advance and any variation of this clause must be by written agreement from the Fixtures Secretary.

## 9. SOUTH OF ENGLAND FLAG COMPETITIONS

- (a) The competition shall be called the South of England Flag Competition.
- (b) The divisions and entries shall normally be as follows :-
  - Senior - All Premiership Teams
  - Intermediate - Teams from the top division of the East and West Divisions
  - Minor - All remaining teams in East and West Divisions

The Committee shall have power to change or decide the division in which any team is entered, and may, in special circumstances, make an exception to the above, having regard to the interests and fair opportunities to all concerned.

The committee may in implement the 'cascade' approach where by the top 8 teams (from the previous season) enter the senior flags. Round 1 losers plus all the other clubs compete in the Intermediate Flag, Round 1 losers will then compete in the Minor Flags.

- (c) The matches and grounds shall be decided by a draw held by the Committee at which one representative of each club shall have the right to be present for the purpose of observing the draw will take place.
- (d) Byes shall be drawn as necessary but no team shall have more than one bye in the competition except by opponents default.
- (e) Normally all teams shall have an equal chance in the draw. The Committee shall have power to seed teams based on the previous years League position.
- (f) The final tie shall normally be played on a neutral ground
- (g)
  - i. The tournament shall proceed on a knockout basis, the winners proceeding to the next round
  - ii. If the scores are equal at the expiration of normal playing time, the winner of the game shall be determined by the application of the ELA Rules 31.1 and 31.2 which determine overtime periods and 'sudden death' procedure.
  - iii. Should the team be unable to fulfil a fixture, a walk-over shall be awarded to their opponents.
- (h) In the event of an alleged infringement of the rules a protest may be made within 7 days to the Committee by the Hon. Secretary/Captain of any team concerned and if such protest be upheld the offending team shall forfeit the match which shall be awarded to their opponent.

## 10. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The organisation of this tournament shall be left to the discretion of the Committee.

## 11. SOUTH OF ENGLAND SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

- (a) The competition shall be called the South of England Six-a-Side Competition.
- (b) The Organising Committee shall be appointed by the Executive and shall control :-
  - (i) Divisions of the competition
  - (ii) Admission fees
  - (iii) Draw
  - (iv) Duration of games
  - (v) Substitution permitted
  - (vi) Rules in the event of injury

And be the sole arbiter in the event of appeals resulting from infringements to the rules.

- (c) Play shall be in accordance with the rules of Lacrosse as laid down by the E.L.A. except :-
  - (i) The goals shall be 40 yards apart
  - (ii) The back line shall not be less than 10 yards behind the respective goals.
  - (iii) The halfway line shall be drawn across the pitch through the centre spot and parallel to the goal lines.
  - (iv) Six players shall constitute a team

- (v) The off-side rule shall not apply
- (vi) The goalkeeper shall not be in, nor play in his opponents half of the field. This to be regarded as a Technical Foul

## B. REFEREES

### 1. PANEL

- (a) For a referee to be a member of the SEMLA Referees' Panel a referee must satisfy both of the following criteria: -
  - i) Either
    - a) Hold the English Standard Award (minimum), or
    - b) Hold a foreign lacrosse referee's qualification which is at least equal to the English Standard Award
  - ii) Be a member of the ELA
- (b) Persons satisfying the above criteria may then be invited by the Referees Committee to join the Referees Panel.

### 2. RESPONSIBILITY

The Referees Committee shall be responsible for:

- (a) Advising the Referees Panel of the details of the games they are to cover.
- (b) All matters and questions pertaining to the interpretation of the "Rules of Lacrosse" which have not been made clear by the E.L.A. and shall refer any difficulties in these matters to the E.L.A. via the Association Hon. Secretary.
- (c) Deciding all matters concerning Referees' conduct of matches within the scope of the "Rules of Lacrosse" and SEMLA Constitution and Bye-Laws.
- (d) Instituting any standards, examinations or training schemes for referees, and to make any rules concerning the standard and qualifications of Referees suitable for various games, subject to any E.L.A. requirements.
- (e) Issuing invitations to join the Referees Panel to suitably qualified persons.
- (f) To debar any Referee whom it is considered unsuitable to carry out the functions of a Referee satisfactorily or who does not conform with the Rules of Lacrosse or SEMLA Constitution and Bye-Laws.

### 3. EXPENSES

Referees are paid a Match Fee of £30 per game with effect from 14 June 2010. Only Panel Referees are paid this fee. To join the panel a referee needs to pass exams and be elected to the panel. If two Panel Referees are assigned to a game, they split the fee fifty-fifty. It will be the responsibility of the Home Team Captain to approach the Referee as soon as practical after the end of the game to give them the match fee, in cash. Home Teams should fund the cost of the Referee.

### 4. CLUB REFEREES

- (a) Each Club must maintain a minimum of N+1 active members each holding a minimum Basic Refereeing Award (where N is the number of teams that Club has entered into any of the leagues governed by SEMLA).
- (b) Each Club is responsible for the provision of a referee(s) for all Home matches. No match shall be played without a referee.
- (c) Failure by the Home Club to provide a referee(s) shall result in the award of the fixture to the Visiting Team unless the Visiting Captain agrees to provide one instead.
- (d) Clubs are responsible for notifying the Hon. Secretary (Referees) of the names of qualified referees and the standard which they have attained. Such notification must be made a minimum of once each season no later than Oct 31 by writing or email.
- (e) New Clubs must be able to provide the minimum number of names to the Hon. Secretary (Referee) by the end of their first season.

## 5. COMPLAINTS

### ***Remit***

1. The sub-committee shall deal with the following:
  - (i) any complaint concerning the conduct of a team or of an individual during a match;
  - (ii) the eligibility of any player in a match;
  - (iii) any other matter not covered by the disciplinary process
  - (iv) complaints shall be made by email or letter to the Honorary Secretary of SEMLA within 7 days of the game concerned. Included in the report must be the name and playing number of any player or players involved.
2. The sub-committee may, at its discretion, refer cases to the League South Committee for adjudication.

### ***Hearings***

1. All cases will be dealt with as within 30 days, and due consideration given to all information provided to the sub-committee.
2. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall contact the reported club secretary and captain of team concerned, notifying them of the nature of the complaint, and the date, time and venue of the hearing, and shall immediately confirm these in writing by email or letter. All Hearings will allow for the option of attendance by audio-conference telephone call. The secretary of any other club concerned shall also be notified in writing by email, fax or letter.
3. Written evidence from witnesses may be accepted by the sub-committee at its discretion, prior to a hearing by E mail or letter.
4. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall provide all sub-committee members with copies of all reports and other relevant information prior to the commencement of a hearing.
5. There must be no approach, either prior to hearings or afterwards, or attempt by any person to influence the members of the sub-committee or any other person involved. Any such approach or attempt may result in any such persons concerned being referred to the League South Committee for disciplinary action.
6. A fee of £50 (payable to 'SEMLA') will be charged to the club which registers the complaint. Such payment must be received by the SEMLA Treasurer prior to the commencement of the hearing, and shall be dealt with at the sub-committee's discretion. A receipt shall be provided to the club.

***Attendance at Hearings***

1. In the case of a reported player, the following shall be required to attend either in person or via an audio-conference telephone call:
  - (i) the reported player,
  - (ii) the Secretary of his club,
  - (iii) the Captain of his team,
  - (iv) the referee, and any other match official concerned,
  - (v) witnesses from the teams concerned.The Presidents or Chairmen of the relevant clubs may also attend.
2. Should the reported player fail to attend except for reasons of illness or being away from home, the case will be heard in his absence, any penalty imposed on the player will be valid, and he may be required to attend a subsequent meeting of the sub-committee to explain his absence.
3. Should any of the other persons required to attend under 1 above fail to do so, the sub-committee shall, at its discretion, decide whether to proceed.
4. In the case of a reported club, the following shall be required to attend either in person or via an audio-conference telephone call:
  - (i) the President or Chairman of the club concerned,
  - (ii) the Secretary of the club concerned,
  - (iii) the Captain of the team concerned,
  - (iv) the referee and any other match official concerned,
  - (v) witnesses from the teams concerned,
  - (vi) other witnesses as appropriate.
5. Any reported player or club shall have the right to bring to the hearing a person of their choosing to act as their adviser. Such adviser shall be present whilst evidence is submitted, but shall not participate in the proceedings except to advise the player or club concerned.

***Conduct of Hearings***

1. During the following sequence there must be no reference to any past disciplinary record of the player or club whose conduct is the subject of the hearing.
2. Where a referee's report is available, a copy of it shall be provided to the reported player, and/or to the relevant club secretary.
3. Where a referee's report is available it shall be read to the meeting.
4. Any additional evidence from witnesses shall be given.
5. The reported player or club will have the opportunity of questioning the evidence provided.
6. The reported player or club will have the opportunity of presenting their own evidence.
7. The referee will have the opportunity of questioning the evidence provided by the reported player or club.
8. Any additional written submissions, ego from persons with specialist knowledge; will be presented.
9. The reported player or club will be given the opportunity of a concluding statement regarding the original report and the evidence submitted.
10. The referee will be given the opportunity of a concluding statement regarding the original report and the evidence submitted.

11. All persons other than the sub-committee members shall withdraw, and the sub-committee shall consider the evidence, and reach a verdict.
12. If the sub-committee determines the player or club to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, their past disciplinary record may be taken into account in the determination of the penalty.
13. The player or club shall be immediately informed of the decision and any penalty, and the Secretary of the sub-committee shall confirm these in writing to the player and/or club secretary involved within 7 days of the hearing, together with the right and nature of appeal by E mail, fax or letter.

#### ***Penalties***

1. All penalties imposed by the sub-committee shall take immediate effect.
2. Suspensions of players for a specified number of matches are carried out on the basis of consecutive matches in which the player would otherwise play, (defined as League matches, Flags and Cup Competition matches or any combination thereof).
3. The sub-committee shall have the authority to suspend a player for whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
4. During the period of enforcement of a suspension, the player is also disqualified from playing in any other officially approved game of lacrosse.
5. The sub-committee shall have the authority to impose fines on clubs which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
6. The sub-committee shall have the authority to deduct a minimum of two points.
7. Reprimands and warnings as to future conduct shall be expunged from the record immediately after two years from the date of the hearing.

#### ***General***

1. Except as described above, the sub-committee shall under no circumstances enter into correspondence or discussions with clubs or individuals.

### C. APPEALS

#### ***Remit***

1. An Appeals Panel shall consider an appeal from a player or Club which has been subject to a disciplinary penalty imposed by the Complaints sub-committee.

#### ***Composition of the Appeals Panel***

1. The Panel shall consist of a maximum number of five members of the League South Committee, none of whom has been involved in the sub-committee hearing.
2. A quorum shall consist of three Panel members.
3. The Secretary of the Complaints sub-committee shall attend the appeal's hearing and maintain a record of the proceedings, but shall not otherwise participate, except as described below.

#### ***Lodging an Appeal***

1. An appellant must lodge his appeal in writing with the Secretary of the Complaints sub-committee within seven days of receiving the written confirmation of the sub-committee's decision, stating the grounds for the appeal.

2. In the case of a player, his appeal must be accompanied by written support from his club President, Chairman or Secretary.
3. The appeal must be accompanied by a cheque for £100 (payable to 'SEMLA'), which will be returned to the appellant should the appeal be upheld.

#### ***Original Penalty***

1. On receipt of the appeal, the penalty shall be immediately suspended.

#### ***Hearings***

1. All cases will be dealt with within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, and due consideration given to all information provided to the Panel.
2. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall convene the hearing, notifying the appellant and/or the relevant club secretaries of the date, time and venue.
3. The Panel may request written submissions from other parties prior to the hearing if considered appropriate.
4. Written evidence by email or letter from witnesses may be accepted by the Panel at its discretion prior to the hearing.
5. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall provide all Panel members with copies of all reports and other relevant information prior to the commencement of the hearing.
6. There must be no approach, either prior to hearings or afterwards, or attempt by any person to influence the members of the Panel or any other person involved. Any such approach or attempt may result in any such persons concerned being referred to the League South Committee for disciplinary action.

#### ***Attendance at Hearings***

1. In the case of a player appellant, the following shall be required to attend either in person or via an audio-conference telephone call:
  - a. the player,
  - b. the Secretary of his club,
  - c. the Captain of his team,
  - d. the referee and any other match official concerned,
  - e. witnesses from the teams concerned.The Presidents or Chairmen of the relevant clubs may also attend.
2. Should the player fail to attend, except for reasons of illness or being away from home, the case will be heard in his absence, any penalty imposed on the player will be valid, and he may be required to attend a subsequent meeting of the League South Committee to explain his absence. Any fee paid will be forfeited
3. Should any of the other persons required to attend under 1 above fail to do so, the Panel shall, at its discretion, decide whether to proceed.
4. In the case of a club appellant, the following shall be required to attend:
  - a. the President or Chairman of the club concerned,
  - b. the Secretary of the club concerned,
  - c. the Captain of the team concerned,
  - d. the referee, and any other match official concerned,
  - e. witnesses from the teams concerned,
  - f. other witnesses as appropriate.

5. Any appellant player or club shall have the right to bring to the hearing a person of their choosing to act as their adviser. Such adviser shall be present whilst evidence is submitted, but shall not participate in the proceedings except to advise the player or club concerned.

### ***Conduct of Hearings***

1. During the following sequence there must be no reference to any past disciplinary record of the appellant.
2. Where a referee's report is available it shall be read to the meeting.
3. The Secretary of the Complaints sub-committee shall report details of the sub-committee hearing.
4. The appellant will have the opportunity of presenting their case.
5. Any additional evidence from witnesses shall be given.
6. The referee and any other match officials will have the opportunity of presenting their case.
7. Any additional written submissions, ego from persons with specialist knowledge, will be presented.
8. All persons other than the Panel members shall withdraw, and the Panel shall consider the evidence and reach a verdict.
9. If the Panel determines the appellant to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, their past disciplinary record may be taken into account in the determination of the penalty.
10. The appellant shall be immediately informed of the decision and any penalty, and the Secretary of the sub-committee shall confirm these in writing to the appellant and/or club secretary involved within seven days of the hearing.

### ***Penalties***

1. All penalties imposed by the Panel shall take immediate effect.
2. Suspensions of players for a specified number of matches are carried out on the basis of consecutive matches in which the player would otherwise play, (defined as Senior League matches, Flags and Cup Competition matches or any combination thereof).
3. The Panel shall have the authority to suspend a player for whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
4. During the period of enforcement of a suspension, the player is also disqualified from playing in any other officially approved game of lacrosse.
5. The Panel shall have the authority to impose fines on clubs which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
6. If the Panel determines the appeal to be vexatious or frivolous, it shall, at its discretion, fine the club concerned an additional £50.
7. All fines must be made payable to 'SEMLA', and must be received by the Treasurer of SEMLA within any stated time scale.
8. The Panel shall have the authority to deduct a minimum of two points from any team which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
9. The Panel shall not have the authority to deduct points from any team other than the team involved in bringing the game into disrepute.

10. The Panel shall have the authority to impose a penalty on a club, the duration of which shall be whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
11. Reprimands and warnings as to future conduct shall be expunged from the record immediately after two years from the date of the appeal hearing.

### ***General***

1. Except as described above, the Panel shall under no circumstances enter into correspondence or discussions with clubs or individuals.
2. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final in each case.

### **D. FAST TRACK COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

1. This process is available for cases where both the Club or the Player/s involved agree to accept this Procedure. Should either Party not wish to invoke this Procedure they have the right to invoke the full Procedures detailed above.
2. At the discretion of the Committee the fast track procedure may be offered to the Club or Player/s concerned. If this is accepted then there will be an automatic two league points deduction in the case of the complaint being against the Club. In the case of the complaint being against the Player/s there will be a one match ban.
3. Where a team or player accepts the facts of the complaint against them, then they may opt for the Fast Track Procedure. This will not require a full hearing, but the Complaints Committee will consider the matter and impose any penalty in light of the agreed facts. The player or club have the right to submit an appeal, giving their reason against the penalty, in accordance with the appropriate Bye Laws.
4. The Club Secretary of the Player/s involved will ascertain from the Player/s if he/they is/are willing to accept the Fast Track Procedure and the consequent one match ban. The Club Secretary will provide the response to the Chair and/or Secretary of the Complaints Committee within 24 hours of the contact by the Chair or Secretary of the Complaints Committee. The contact from the Club Secretary to the Chair or Secretary of the Complaints Committee will in the first instance be by telephone to ensure communication and subsequently confirmed by letter or email.
5. If the Player/s or Club rejects the option of the Fast Track Disciplinary procedure then the full Disciplinary procedure will commence.
6. No Player/s or Club are eligible for the Fast track procedure on more than two occasions during any one season. Any subsequent expulsions must be dealt with by the full Complaints Procedure as detailed above.
7. The Chair and Secretary of the Complaints Committee will keep a record of the Players involved in the Fast Track Procedure to ensure that repeat offenders are identified.
8. Players or Clubs electing for the Fast Track Procedure will have the results of their cases notified to the opposition team or teams where they will serve their ban.
9. The results of the Fast Track Procedure will be published on the SEMLA website on the Complaints Hearings page.

NOTE : a) in the context of these Bye-Laws 'he' shall be taken to mean 'he or she' as appropriate.

## 6. DISCIPLINARY

### *Remit*

1. The sub-committee shall deal with the following:
  - (i) written reports, by email, fax or letter, submitted by referees consequent to their giving expulsion fouls (see Rule 77.4 of the Rules of Men's Field Lacrosse and Rules D 1 to D 6 .of the Rules of Flags and Cup Competitions),
  - (ii) written reports, by email, fax or letter, submitted by referees alleging the bringing of the game into disrepute by clubs at specific matches in which they officiated,
  - (iii) cases referred to it by the League South Committee, based on concerns of bringing the game into disrepute.
2. The sub-committee may, at its discretion, refer cases to the League South Committee for adjudication.

### *Hearings*

1. All cases will be dealt with as within 30 days, and due consideration given to all information provided to the sub-committee.
2. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall contact the reported player and his club secretary, notifying them of the nature of the complaint, and the date, time and venue of the hearing, and shall immediately confirm these in writing by email, fax or letter. All Hearings will allow for the option of attendance by audio-conference telephone call. The secretary of any other club concerned shall also be notified in writing by email, fax or letter.
3. In the case of clubs being reported, the Secretary of the sub-committee shall contact their secretaries, notifying them of the nature of the complaint, and the date, time and venue of the hearing, and shall immediately confirm these in writing by email, fax or letter.
4. The sub-committee may request written submissions from other parties prior to a hearing if considered appropriate by E mail, fax or letter.
5. Written evidence from witnesses may be accepted by the sub-committee at its discretion, prior to a hearing by E mail, fax or letter.
6. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall provide all sub-committee members with copies of all reports and other relevant information prior to the commencement of a hearing.
7. There must be no approach, either prior to hearings or afterwards, or attempt by any person to influence the members of the sub-committee or any other person involved. Any such approach or attempt may result in any such persons concerned being referred to the League South Committee for disciplinary action.
8. A fee of £50 (payable to 'SEMLA') will be charged to the club of any reported player, or in the case of a club being reported, to that club. Such payment must be received by the SEMLA Treasurer prior to the commencement of the hearing, and shall be dealt with at the sub-committee's discretion. A receipt shall be provided to the club.

### *Attendance at Hearings*

1. In the case of a reported player, the following shall be required to attend either in person or via an audio-conference telephone call:
  - (i) the reported player,
  - (ii) the Secretary of his club,
  - (iii) the Captain of his team,
  - (iv) the referee, and any other match official concerned,

- (v) witnesses from the teams concerned.  
The Presidents or Chairmen of the relevant clubs may also attend.
- 2. Should the reported player fail to attend except for reasons of illness or being away from home, the case will be heard in his absence, any penalty imposed on the player will be valid, and he may be required to attend a subsequent meeting of the sub-committee to explain his absence.
- 3. Should any of the other persons required to attend under 1 above fail to do so, the sub-committee shall, at its discretion, decide whether to proceed.
- 4. In the case of a reported club, the following shall be required to attend either in person or via an audio-conference telephone call:
  - (i) the President or Chairman of the club concerned,
  - (ii) the Secretary of the club concerned,
  - (iii) the Captain of the team concerned,
  - (iv) the referee and any other match official concerned,
  - (v) witnesses from the teams concerned,
  - (vi) other witnesses as appropriate.
- 5. Any reported player or club shall have the right to bring to the hearing a person of their choosing to act as their adviser. Such adviser shall be present whilst evidence is submitted, but shall not participate in the proceedings except to advise the player or club concerned.

#### ***Conduct of Hearings***

1. During the following sequence there must be no reference to any past disciplinary record of the player or club whose conduct is the subject of the hearing.
2. Where a referee's report is available, a copy of it shall be provided to the reported player, and/or to the relevant club secretary.
3. Where a referee's report is available it shall be read to the meeting.
4. Any additional evidence from witnesses shall be given.
5. The reported player or club will have the opportunity of questioning the evidence provided.
6. The reported player or club will have the opportunity of presenting their own evidence.
7. The referee will have the opportunity of questioning the evidence provided by the reported player or club.
8. Any additional written submissions, ego from persons with specialist knowledge; will be presented.
9. The reported player or club will be given the opportunity of a concluding statement regarding the original report and the evidence submitted.
10. The referee will be given the opportunity of a concluding statement regarding the original report and the evidence submitted.
11. All persons other than the sub-committee members shall withdraw, and the sub-committee shall consider the evidence, and reach a verdict.
12. If the sub-committee determines the player or club to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, their past disciplinary record may be taken into account in the determination of the penalty.
13. The player or club shall be immediately informed of the decision and any penalty, and the Secretary of the sub-committee shall confirm these in writing to the player and/or club secretary

involved within 7 days of the hearing, together with the right and nature of appeal by E mail, fax or letter.

### ***Penalties***

1. All penalties imposed by the sub-committee shall take immediate effect.
2. Suspensions of players for a specified number of matches are carried out on the basis of consecutive matches in which the player would otherwise play, (defined as League matches, Flags and Cup Competition matches or any combination thereof).
3. The sub-committee shall have the authority to suspend a player for whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
4. During the period of enforcement of a suspension, the player is also disqualified from playing in any other officially approved game of lacrosse.
5. The sub-committee shall have the authority to impose fines on clubs which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
6. All fines must be made payable to 'SEMLA', and must be received by the Treasurer of SEMLA within any stated time scale.
7. The sub-committee shall have the authority to deduct a maximum of two points from any team which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
8. The sub-committee shall not have the authority to deduct points from any team other than the team involved in bringing the game into disrepute.
9. The sub-committee shall have the authority to impose a penalty on a club, the duration of which shall be whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
10. Reprimands and warnings as to future conduct shall be expunged from the record immediately after two years from the date of the hearing.

### ***Expulsion Fouls - Mistaken Identity***

1. In the case of a player claiming 'mistaken identity' after being given an expulsion foul, the player concerned shall write immediately to the Secretary of the sub-committee, stating his claim.
2. The Secretary shall convene a hearing, and the procedures and conduct thereof shall be as described above, as appropriate.

### ***General***

2. Except as described above, the sub-committee shall under no circumstances enter into correspondence or discussions with clubs or individuals.

## **E. APPEALS**

### ***Remit***

1. An Appeals Panel shall consider an appeal from a player or Club which has been subject to a disciplinary penalty imposed by the Disciplinary sub-committee.

### ***Composition of the Appeals Panel***

1. The Panel shall consist of a maximum number of five members of the League South Committee, none of whom has been involved in the sub-committee hearing.
2. A quorum shall consist of three Panel members.

3. The Secretary of the Disciplinary sub-committee shall attend the appeal's hearing and maintain a record of the proceedings, but shall not otherwise participate, except as described below.

#### ***Lodging an Appeal***

1. An appellant must lodge his appeal in writing with the Secretary of the Disciplinary sub-committee within seven days of receiving the written confirmation of the sub-committee's decision, stating the grounds for the appeal.
2. In the case of a player, his appeal must be accompanied by written support from his club President, Chairman or Secretary.
3. The appeal must be accompanied by a cheque for £100 (payable to 'SEMLA'), which will be returned to the appellant should the appeal be upheld.

#### ***Original Penalty***

1. On receipt of the appeal, the penalty shall be immediately abrogated.

#### ***Hearings***

1. All cases will be dealt with within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, and due consideration given to all information provided to the Panel.
2. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall convene the hearing, notifying the appellant. and/or the relevant club secretaries of the date, time and venue.
3. The Panel may request written submissions from other parties prior to the hearing if considered appropriate.
4. Written evidence by email, fax or letter from witnesses may be accepted by the Panel at its discretion prior to the hearing.
5. The Secretary of the sub-committee shall provide all Panel members with copies of all reports and other relevant information prior to the commencement of the hearing.
6. There must be no approach, either prior to hearings or afterwards, or attempt by any person to influence the members of the Panel or any other person involved. Any such approach or attempt may result in any such persons concerned being referred to the League South Committee for disciplinary action.

#### ***Attendance at Hearings***

1. In the case of a player appellant, the following shall be required to attend either in person or via an audio-conference telephone call:
  - a. the player,
  - b. the Secretary of his club,
  - c. the Captain of his team,
  - d. the referee and any other match official concerned,
  - e. witnesses from the teams concerned.The Presidents or Chairmen of the relevant clubs may also attend.
2. Should the player fail to attend, except for reasons of illness or being away from home, the case will be heard in his absence, any penalty imposed on the player will be valid, and he may be required to attend a subsequent meeting of the League South Committee to explain his absence.
3. Should any of the other persons required to attend under 1 above fail to do so, the Panel shall, at its discretion, decide whether to proceed.
4. In the case of a club appellant, the following shall be required to attend:
  - a. the President or Chairman of the club concerned,

- b. the Secretary of the club concerned,
  - c. the Captain of the team concerned,
  - d. the referee, and any other match official concerned,
  - e. witnesses from the teams concerned,
  - f. other witnesses as appropriate.
5. Any appellant player or club shall have the right to bring to the hearing a person of their choosing to act as their adviser. Such adviser shall be present whilst evidence is submitted, but shall not participate in the proceedings except to advise the player or club concerned.

### ***Conduct of Hearings***

1. During the following sequence there must be no reference to any past disciplinary record of the appellant.
2. Where a referee's report is available it shall be read to the meeting.
3. The Secretary of the Disciplinary sub-committee shall report details of the sub-committee hearing.
4. The appellant will have the opportunity of presenting their case.
5. Any additional evidence from witnesses shall be given.
6. The referee and any other match officials will have the opportunity of presenting their case.
7. Any additional written submissions, ego from persons with specialist knowledge, will be presented.
8. All persons other than the Panel members shall withdraw, and the Panel shall consider the evidence and reach a verdict.
9. If the Panel determines the appellant to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, their past disciplinary record may be taken into account in the determination of the penalty.
10. The appellant shall be immediately informed of the decision and any penalty, and the Secretary of the sub-committee shall confirm these in writing to the appellant and/or club secretary involved within seven days of the hearing.

### ***Penalties***

1. All penalties imposed by the Panel shall take immediate effect.
2. Suspensions of players for a specified number of matches are carried out on the basis of consecutive matches in which the player would otherwise play, (defined as Senior League matches, Flags and Cup Competition matches or any combination thereof).
3. The Panel shall have the authority to suspend a player for whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
4. During the period of enforcement of a suspension, the player is also disqualified from playing in any other officially approved game of lacrosse.
5. The Panel shall have the authority to impose fines on clubs which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
6. If the Panel determines the appeal to be vexatious or frivolous, it shall, at its discretion, fine the club concerned an additional £50.
7. All fines must be made payable to 'SEMLA', and must be received by the Treasurer of SEMLA within any stated time scale.

8. The Panel shall have the authority to deduct a minimum of two points from any team which it determines to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.
9. The Panel shall not have the authority to deduct points from any team other than the team involved in bringing the game into disrepute.
10. The Panel shall have the authority to impose a penalty on a club, the duration of which shall be whatever period of time it deems appropriate.
11. Reprimands and warnings as to future conduct shall be expunged from the record immediately after two years from the date of the appeal hearing.

### ***General***

1. Except as described above, the Panel shall under no circumstances enter into correspondence or discussions with clubs or individuals.
2. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final in each case.

### **F. FAST TRACK DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

1. This process is available for disciplinary cases where both the Referee and the Player involved agree to accept this Procedure. Should either Party not wish to invoke this Procedure they have the right to invoke the full Procedures detailed above.
2. In the event that a Player is expelled from a match by a Referee, where it is not as a result of the five personal fouls rule, the Referee will decide if this is a suitable disciplinary procedure for the circumstances causing the expulsion. The maximum penalty for an initial offence under the procedure is a one match ban to be served at the next League or Flags game for the Player involved.
3. At the end of the match and within 48 hours at the maximum, the referee will inform the Chair and/or the Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee by letter or email of the expulsion event and provide a full report of the circumstances.
4. The Referee will indicate in the report if it is his recommendation that the case can be satisfactorily be handled by the Fast Track Procedure
5. The Chair or Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee will contact the Club Secretary of the Player involved within 24 hours of receipt of the Referee's report. Due to the timescales and uncertainty of other methods of communication, this will only be by telephone in the first instance to be confirmed by letter of email subsequently.
6. The Club Secretary of the Player involved will ascertain from the Player if he is willing to accept the Fast Track Procedure and the consequent one match ban. The Club Secretary will provide the response to the Chair and/or Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee within 24 hours of the contact by the Chair or Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee. The contact from the Club Secretary to the Chair or Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee will in the first instance be by telephone to ensure communication and subsequently confirmed by letter or email.
7. If the Player rejects the option of the Fast Track Disciplinary procedure then the full Disciplinary procedure will commence.
8. Should a Player be expelled a second time in one season, the automatic penalty of the Fast Track Procedure will be a two match ban.

9. No Player is eligible for the Fast track procedure on more than two occasions during any one season. Any subsequent expulsions must be dealt with by the full Disciplinary Procedure as detailed above.
10. The Chair and Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee will keep a record of the Players involved in the Fast Track Procedure to ensure that repeat offenders are identified.
11. Players electing for the Fast Track Procedure will have the results of their cases notified to the opposition team or teams where they will serve their ban.
12. The results of the Fast Track Procedure will be published on the SEMLA website on the Disciplinary Hearings page.

NOTE : a) in the context of these Bye-Laws 'he' shall be taken to mean 'he or she' as appropriate.