

**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 (C&F), hereby referred to as Hon. Secretary (C&F).
- (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 20th.
- (c) The clubs which have arranged friendly matches, tours or other special events shall advise the Hon. Secretary (C&F) thereof by May 31st. 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 (C&F) 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. Secretary (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 (C&F) will propose to the Executive Committee the number of teams who shall be subject to promotion or relegation between divisions. 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 (C&F) 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.

This applies to all matches in which team, or teams, from the Premier Division, Division One and Division Two. In matches involving teams from other divisions, then it is desirable that there should be a qualified referee, but if one is not available, then the captains of the two teams concerned, shall agree upon a referee, or referees, before the start of the match. In all circumstances the obligation is on the home team to provide the referee unless both captains agree otherwise.

- (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 Hon. Secretary (C&F) 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 which shall normally be not later than the first day of February after the club has received it. Flags 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 flags 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 (C&F) 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 (C&F)

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 rearranged 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 (C&F) will decide a date which will be non-negotiable by the clubs involved.
- (f) When teams have two or more players called up to international duty and those players would not be available for club matches the affected Club should have the right to have the affected matches rearranged. A minimum period of eight weeks' notice is required for the Hon. Secretary (C&F) to agree alternative dates with the affected Clubs.
- (g) All matches that have failed to be rearranged 8 weeks before the last date in the season or the last Saturday in April, whichever is sooner, will be automatically rearranged by the Hon. Secretary (C&F) which will be non-negotiable by the teams involved.
- (h) All matches postponed within the last 8 weeks of the season will be automatically rearranged by the Hon. Secretary (C&F) which will be non-negotiable by the teams 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. An exemption is clause 7(n).
- (d) A member of a University or College, which has a team or teams playing in a SEMLA League or Local League, may also be registered as a member of, and play for, one other SEMLA club when their University or College has no scheduled or rearranged matches for that weekend. In all circumstances this variation is subject to 7(h).
- (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 (SEMLA League, Local League or Flags) unless permission to the contrary has been obtained from the Hon. Secretary (C&F).
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. Secretary (C&F).
- (h) Players shall not, in one season, play for more than one club in any of the Flags competitions.
- (i) Players shall not be permitted to play in a Flags semi-final or final unless he has played a minimum of 3 competition matches (SEMLA League, Local League or Flags) 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 (SEMLA League, Local League or Flags) 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.
- (n) Players for a club (not a team within that club) competing in one of either the SEMLA League or the Local League may play for a different club in the other competition in the same season provided they are registered with both clubs.

8. SEMLA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

- (a) The competition shall be called The SEMLA League Championship, shortened when required to the SEMLA League.
- (b) The SEMLA League shall normally consist of divisions of not more than 7 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. Three top divisions, Premier Division, Division One and Division Two shall contain the top 21 ranked teams across the SEMLA geography. All remaining teams shall play in regional divisions, West (South), West (North), East (South) and East (North). A team may choose which regional division they compete in via agreement with the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures).
- (c) On or before the 31st May in each year all clubs desiring to compete shall give notice, in writing, to the Hon. Secretary (C&F) 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) Four points shall be awarded to the winning team.
Three points shall be awarded to each team in the event of a drawn game.
Two points shall be awarded to the losing team.
Zero points for conceding a match.
Minus one point for conceding a match with less than 24 hours' notice.
- (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 Division 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 SEMLA League season, there will be automatic promotion and relegation of the top/bottom two teams between the Premier Division, Division One and Division Two. Within regional divisions there will be automatic promotion and relegation of the top/bottom team. The winners of the top regional division shall have the right to compete in two regional division play-off fixtures. The winners of West (South) shall play the winners of West (North), and the winners of East (South) shall play the winners of East (North). On a separate fixtures date, the two winning teams shall play to decide play-off winners and 2nd place, and the two losing teams that play to decide 3rd and 4th place. The 6th and 7th placed teams in the Division Two shall be demoted to the regional division they so choose, replaced by the winner and 2nd place of the regional division play-offs.

An exception to relegation from the Premier Division is if either or both the two highest ranked 1st teams in Division One finish in 6th and/or 7th place and are relegated from Division One. In such circumstances the Premier Division team(s) are not relegated.

A team that earns promotion to any SEMLA League or Local League division may decline promotion. This must be notified in writing to the Hon. Secretary (C&F) prior to the SEMLA AGM.

- (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 SEMLA League Premier Division shall include no more than one team of any Club. All other divisions, including regional divisions may include more than one team from a Club in the same division.

- (m) In the event of law 8(l) being applied, then promotion to the Premier Division shall pass to the first eligible Club in Division One calculated from the final Division One positions from the first to last placed team.
- (n) Where a Club has two or more teams entered in the SEMLA League, Local 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 Hon Secretary (C&F) in advance and will be subject to the clauses relating to postponed or conceded fixtures.

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

- (o) A club may field any number of substitutes for any SEMLA League, Local League or Flags competition game.

9. SEMLA LOCAL LEAGUE COMPETITION

- (a) The competition shall be called The SEMLA Local League Competition, shortened when required to the Local League.
- (b) The Local League shall consist of geographical regions containing one or more divisions. Where feasible, geographic regions shall encompass clubs within 90 minutes travel time, with a target average travel time of less than 60 minutes. The number of teams in each division shall be aligned alongside SEMLA League fixtures to achieve, where possible an 18-game season for each team competing in both the SEMLA League and Local League. The minimum size of any division shall be three teams. 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. A team may choose which Local League region they compete in via agreement with the Hon Secretary (C&F).
- (c) At the end of the Local League season there will be automatic promotion and relegation of the top/bottom team between each Division.
- (d) All Local League divisions may include more than one team from the same Club.
- (e) The following SEMLA League bye-laws apply to the Local League; 8(c), 8(d), 8(e), 8(f), 8(g), 8(h), 8(j), 8(k), 8(n), 8(o).

10. 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 - The top 16 ranked teams from different Clubs based on final SEMLA League division tables. No Club shall be able to enter two teams into the Senior Flags competition.

Intermediate – The 8 losers of the Senior Flags Round 1 plus the next 24 ranked teams based on SEMLA League positions from the preceding year. Below SEMLA Division Two, team rankings will be based on regional league position followed by goal average.

Minor - The 16 losers of the Intermediate Flags Round 1 plus all remaining SEMLA League teams and any Local League teams wishing to enter the Flags competition.

The Committee shall have power to change or decide the Flags competition 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.

- (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) The draw for Round 1 of the Senior Flags shall be seeded so that the top 8 ranked teams cannot be drawn together.
- (f) The final tie shall normally be played on a neutral ground.
- (g) The tournament shall proceed on a knockout basis, the winners proceeding to the next round. 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. 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.
- (i) Neutral venues for Intermediate or Minor Flags fixtures:-
 - i. If the Intermediate or Minor Flags draw results in home and away teams from different SEMLA League regional divisions and the travelling distance for the away team is notionally greater than 100 miles each way, then the away team may request a neutral venue by contacting the opposition team captain and the Hon. Secretary (C&F) within 3 working days after the draw. If this time is exceeded the fixture shall be played at the home club unless otherwise decided by the Hon. Secretary (C&F).
 - ii. The request may be declined at the discretion of the Hon. Secretary (C&F). If so the fixture shall be played at the home club.
 - iii. If accepted by the Hon. Secretary (C&F) then the home club must accept or decline within a further 3 working days. If this time is exceeded, then a neutral venue shall be sought unless otherwise decided by the Hon. Secretary (C&F).
 - iv. If accepted by the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) but declined by the home club then the fixture shall be played at the home club.
 - v. If accepted by both the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) and the home club then;
 - a. Both clubs and the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) will seek to find a neutral venue, equidistant (where possible) between the clubs, acknowledging that the face-off time may have to be before or after any existing scheduled game(s) at that venue.
 - b. Pitch hire and referee costs shall be shared 50/50 between the two clubs. Referee(s) shall be paid on the day split 50/50 by the two clubs. The neutral venue host club shall invoice the two clubs 50/50 for the cost of pitch hire. The host club shall not

invoice for a value more than the normal cost for booking their pitch for a home game.

- c. If a neutral venue cannot be confirmed within 7 working days of the scheduled Flags fixture then the fixture shall be played at the home club, who are then responsible for pitch hire and referee costs, otherwise, by agreement, the fixture is postponed or conceded by either team.

- vi. Clubs in likely locations to host neutral venue Flags fixtures should inform the Hon. Secretary (Competitions & Fixtures) that they could host such games, ideally once the new season fixtures are published, otherwise at least two weeks before each round of the Intermediate or Minor Flags.

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 opponent's 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.
- (f) When a Panel Referee is appointed by the Referees' Committee to a game and where the said Panel Referee is not also registered as a Home Referee, then the Home Club must provide a referee as required in clause 4b.

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.
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2. The sub-committee may, at its discretion, refer cases to the League South Committee for adjudication.

Hearings

2. All cases will be dealt with as within 30 days, and due consideration given to all information provided to the sub-committee.
3. 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.
4. Written evidence from witnesses may be accepted by the sub-committee at its discretion, prior to a hearing by E mail or letter.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 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.

E. 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.

F. 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 clubs concerned,
 - b. the Secretary of the clubs 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.

G. FAST TRACK DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. This process is available for expulsion cases where a recommendation is made by the Head Referee of the match that the Fast Track procedure should be applied and where the recommendation is reviewed and agreed by the Chair of the Disciplinary and Complaints Committee (or his appointed Deputy, see clauses, 17, 18 and 19 below)
2. This Procedure covers expulsions where it is not as a result of the five personal fouls rule.
3. At the end of the match and within 48 hours at the maximum, the referee will inform the Chair and Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee by letter or email of the expulsion event and provide a full report of the circumstances leading to the expulsion.
4. The Referee will indicate in the report if it is his recommendation that the case can be satisfactorily handled by the Fast Track Procedure
5. The Chair will review the Referee's report of the circumstances and decide if the Fast Track Procedure is an appropriate penalty.
6. If the Chair accepts the recommendation of the fast track procedure, he will contact initially by telephone and within 24 hours from receipt of the referee's report, the Club Secretary of the player involved informing him of the expulsion foul and all relevant details. Later to be confirmed by email or letter.
7. The Club Secretary involved will ascertain from the player in question if he is willing to accept the Fast Track Procedure. The Club Secretary will give the decision to the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee by telephone, and within 24 hours of originally being contacted.
8. If the Fast Track Procedure is not accepted by the player involved, the full disciplinary process will be evoked as per the SEMLA bye laws.
9. Should the Fast Track Procedure not be accepted by the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee, then the matter will be referred for arbitration by either the President or Secretary of SEMLA. The Club Secretary of the player involved will be kept informed of the matter.
10. Depending on the outcome of the arbitration, either the Fast Track Procedure will be applied or there will be a full hearing of the case by the Disciplinary Committee. The Club Secretary of the club concerned to be informed of the outcome of the arbitration within 24 hours of it being made.
11. The maximum penalty for an initial offence under the Fast Track Procedure is a one match ban to be served at the next League of Flags game for the player involved.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The Chair of the Disciplinary Committee will keep a record of the players involved in the Fast Track Procedure to ensure that repeat offenders are identified.
15. Players electing the Fast Track Procedure will have the results of their cases notified to the opposition team or teams where they will serve their ban. The Referee Secretary will also be informed.
16. The results of the Fast Track Procedure will be published on the SEMLA website on the Disciplinary Hearings page.

17. In the event that the Chair is affected by a possible conflict of interest, he shall appoint a non-conflicted member of the Executive Committee to review the referee's report and to follow the procedure as described above.
18. To allow for circumstances where the Chair may be unavailable to perform his duties, the Chair shall, in advance, appoint a deputy who shall serve as the automatic alternative for this Procedure.
19. If both the Chair and Deputy are either conflicted or unavailable, the responsibility shall pass to either the President or the Hon Secretary of SEMLA.

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