



Relationships with other Groups

Interfacing with your USL Chapter

- All chapters should have a website; this will help to familiarize one with the chapter's leaders and policies.
- Introduce yourself to the president of the chapter and inquire how to assist the chapter (committees)
- Attend chapter meetings, delegate someone from the Board who can attend the meetings and share information with the board.
- Some chapters have officiating representatives for both the women's and men's officials where money and assistance requests go through to the chapter. If the local chapter does not have these positions in place, it might be a good suggestion.
- Encourage local board members to be active with chapter events such as golf tournaments, senior play days, fundraising activities and benefits, hall of fame, recognition dinners/gatherings, etc...

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

The NCAA is a governing body for many college and university athletic programs to which some schools in the area may belong. The game schedules and assigning for these schools are most likely done by an independent assigner chosen by the school or conference to which that school is affiliated. The rules for NCAA are different than USL and officials who officiate these games must attend a separate rules interpretation. Additionally, these officials will need to purchase the NCAA rulebook. There is an "NCAA Rules Interpreter" and an "NCAA coordinator of officials". Refer to your USL Policy Manual for the contact information of the current administrators.

Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Associates (WCLA)

The US Lacrosse Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Associate teams (WCLA) are student organized club teams. WCLA teams have an organized national structure through US Lacrosse. Leagues and teams exist across the country. More information on the national structure and news can be found at <http://www.lacrosse.org/womenscollegiatelacrosseassociates/WCLAhome>

In terms of working with these teams as an established or new umpiring board, the following steps are suggested:

- 1.) Email or call the contact person for the club.
- 2.) Find out if the league has its own assigner. Many WCLA leagues geographically span several local boards. If the league has its own assigner, encourage teams to use that assigner. If there is not one assigner for the league, encourage the team to use the assigner that is most appropriate for their geography/level of play.
- 3.) As new teams are created work with players/ leaders to help guide them in their relationship with the assigner and LUB.
- 4.) With any WCLA team, understand these games are critical: like with NCAA teams, any game result is securitized for national rankings and a possible berth in the national championship. In traditional lacrosse areas - where many "higher level" college games occur - the importance of the games for WCLA teams should be emphasized with officials.
- 5.) Because of the importance of WCLA competition, every effort should be made to have district level officials or above assigned to these a games. A 3-person officiating system is preferable and should be implemented.



Other notes on WCLA teams:

- 1) Some teams, especially those in urban areas, are truly challenged with field space. Be understanding and respectful of the constraints each team may work under.
- 2) Many clubs think of "the refs" last when they are creating a game schedule (field, opponent/s, etc.) The WCLA teams are very diverse --- some hire officials at the last minute because of school policy regarding field availability, others do not understand the normal timeline or protocol. Again, work with the team as best as possible then educate the team leader on the correct policy.
- 3) DEFINITELY recruit officials from college club teams. There may be no better job for a college student who loves lacrosse than being on a field and being paid for it. This may provide to be a good recruiting source for the LB.
- 4) The contact person for a WCLA team may be a coach, but more likely a player/captain who's a student at the school.
- 5) If payment has not been received from a WCLA team, try to collect through the recreation department rather than the athletic department. Contact the assigner for additional assistance in securing game fees.
- 6) US Lacrosse's recommended fee schedule includes fees for WCLA teams. Contact US Lacrosse for that information. Also understand that a local league/assigner may pay officials differently.
- 7) WCLA teams often line their own fields. If a field is lined incorrectly and to facilitate proper field lining, refer to http://www.lacrosse.org/the_sport/pdf/howtoline2007.pdf
- 8) Ultimately, do not compromise safety, but work with WCLA teams to allow the game to be played. If there is a safety issue that forces the cancellation of the game, inform the home team so the problem/s can be corrected for future contests.

In summary, WCLA teams encompass a wide range from competitive DII or DIII team to a low-level high school team. As an officiating board, educate the WCLA teams about their relationship with officials. Since the leadership turnover is frequent with the clubs, expect that education will be an annual effort.

Post-Collegiate Club (PCC)

Post Collegiate Club teams are composed of lacrosse players who want to continue to play lacrosse after college or high school. The level of play can vary since play is open to all players whether they are new to the game or have played at the D1 level.

To find out if there are any post-collegiate clubs in your area, check with your Region and/or Super Region Chair or check with US Lacrosse at <http://www.uslacrosse.org/wdpcc/teamcontacts.phtml>

National Federation of High Schools (NFHS)

www.nfhs.org

"The NFHS is recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs." The NFHS adopts and recognizes the USL rules as the official rules for girls' lacrosse.