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**THOMPSON-OKANAGAN JUNIOR LACROSSE LEAGUE
LEAGUE AGREEMENT - 2024**

Revised by TOJLL Executive November 23 2024

Ratified by BCLA Executive – TBA

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League. (TOJLL)

Article II: Affiliation

The League Agreement of this Organization shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed by the British Columbia Lacrosse Association and the Canadian Lacrosse Association.

Article III: Purpose

The purpose of the Organization shall be to administer the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

Article IV: Objectives

The objectives of the Organization shall be:

- a) To provide an opportunity for young people to play lacrosse at the junior age level.
- b) To improve the image of lacrosse in general and the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League in particular.
- c) To foster and promote good sportsmanship and fair play in team sport.

Article V: Membership

Membership in the Organization shall consist of each team playing in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

Article VI: League Annual Meeting

The League Annual Meeting shall be held no later than November 30th of each year. The order of business will be the elections of officers and any changes to the League Agreement.

Voting at the Annual Meeting shall be as follows: Each member team is entitled to one vote. Should there be a tie vote on any issue, the Commissioner will cast a vote to break the tie.

Article VII: Amendments

This document may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members at the League Annual Meeting. Such proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner 30 days prior to the League Annual Meeting and forwarded to each member club 15 days before such a meeting. This document may also be amended by a unanimous vote to open and then by two-thirds vote to amend at any properly called League Meeting.

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LEAGUE OPERATION

Section 1: Governing Body

- a) The governing body of the organization shall consist of the executive officers and one representative from each club.
 - i) Club representation will be referred to as the Governor and each club will also have an Alternative (2 nd) Governor as a back up if the listed Governor cannot represent their team for whatever reason. (amended Nov 2024)
- b) The Commissioner shall vote only to break a tie.
- c) Quorum will be a simple majority. A simple majority (51+%) of all teams in good standing shall constitute a quorum for all Governor’s meetings.

Section 2: Executive Officers

- a) **League Commissioner:** The League Commissioner shall be selected by a two-thirds vote of the member clubs and, if ratified by the BCLA, shall serve for a two year term. To be elected on even years.
 - i) The Commissioner **MUST** not be affiliated with any league team. Should a Commissioner have team affiliation (player participating) an alternate Game Commissioner will be chosen to address any issues that present a conflict – TOJLL will have to approve and acknowledge perceived conflict. ii) The Commissioner will be issued funds to cover mileage based on BCLA mileage rates.
- b) **Secretary:** Shall be elected at the League Annual Meeting and serve for a one-year term. This position shall not require a vote.
- c) **Treasurer:** Shall be elected at the League Annual Meeting and serve for a one-year term. This position shall not require a vote.
- d) **Past Commissioner:** A retiring/resigning Commissioner shall remain as an Executive Officer for a one-year term. The Past Commissioner **MUST** not be affiliated with any league team.
- e) **Game Commissioner:** Game Commissioners shall be selected by TOJLL as needed and are subject to the approval of the Governors by simple email majority. (amended Nov 2024)

Section 3: Duties of Executive Officers

Commissioner: It shall be his/her duty to:

- a) Administer the League affairs according to policy directed by the governing body. He/She shall represent this organization on the Senior Directorate of the BCLA and carry the League vote.
- b) Call and chair all League meetings and cause them to be circulated to all member clubs the minutes of such meetings. He/she shall give 7 days notice of each meeting.
- c) Be responsible for the financial affairs and records of the League and shall have records audited prior to the League Annual Meeting.
- d) Be responsible for ensuring that all players are properly registered before appearing in any game, either exhibition or League and that all teams are properly registered with the BCLA. and CLA according to the Constitution and By-laws of those Associations.
- e) Bill, or cause to be billed, each member club for League expenses. He/she shall disburse such monies to the proper claimants in the name of the club and/or League.
- f) Annually prepare and distribute for signature, the League Agreement to the member clubs. Such agreement shall incorporate parts of the Operating Policy and other requirements as indicated by the BCLA executive, of the BCLA Constitution and Bylaws.

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- g) Represent the League in all discussions with the BC Lacrosse Officials Association and be responsible for negotiating any fee structure or grievance between them, (BCLOA), and this organization.
- h) Ensure that the BCLOA officials are assigned to all League and sanctioned exhibition games.
- i) Appoint a scheduler, statistician and web master.

Secretary: It shall be his/her duty to:

- a) Be responsible for assisting the Commissioner in keeping records of the organization.

Treasurer: It shall be his/her duty to:

- a) Be responsible for handling the financial operations of the League, and for providing updated bank status statements of the League as directed by the Commissioner. (amended Nov 2024)

Past Commissioner: It shall be his/her duty to:

- a) Perform any or all of the aforementioned duties as directed by the Commissioner.

Section 4: Election of Officers

- 1) Nominations for the positions of Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer will be received in writing thirty (30) days prior to the annual general meeting.
- 2) Nominations may also be accepted from the floor at the annual general meeting.
- 3) Any nominee not present to accept the nomination must signify his acceptance in writing to the Commissioner prior to the meeting, to be eligible to run for office.
- 4) A simple majority by secret ballot will be required for a candidate to be elected.
- 5) Addition of Interim Officers If a current Officer vacates their position prior to their term ending, an Interim Officer may be appointed by the Commissioner, to be approved by the current Governing Body by a simple majority vote, to fill the role until the next scheduled AGM. (added Nov 2024)

Section 5: Responsibilities of Members:

It shall be the responsibility of each member club to:

- a) Designate in writing its delegates and alternates to the Commissioner no later than February 1st of each year.
- b) The Governor or their approved Alternate will attend all League meetings. Failure to attend a League meeting called by the Commissioner, provided that Section 3(b) is adhered to, will justify a fine of \$25.00.
- c) File a list of officers, their addresses and phone numbers, with the Commissioner by February 1st of each year.
- d) File game dates and alternate arena dates with the Commissioner by February 15th of each year.
- e) The physical registration card or a digital copy of player registration forms and signed insurance waivers must be sent to the Commissioner prior to such players participating in a League or exhibition game. The registration form must be filed in accordance with BCLA Operating Policy. If the digital copy is sent, the hard copies must be received by the Commissioner within 10 days of the player registration. Failure to provide the registration prior to game play will result in the player being ineligible to play. Failure to provide the hard copy registration within 10 days will result in a fine of \$25.00 per player.
- f) Submit team rosters to the Commissioner at least 10 days prior to the League opening game. Such rosters must consist of at least 12 intermediate/junior age carded players as per the BCLA Senior Directorate Operating Policy.
- g) Completed Form 100B's must be submitted to the Commissioner prior to the 1st game (exhibition or league) of the playing year. Failure to do so will deem the coaches ineligible until such time as the Commissioner receives the form. Any modifications/additions must be sent to the Commissioner and BCLA prior to the next game.

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- h) Submit a completed Team Application Renewal Form and all team and insurance fees directly to the League Commissioner by Jan 1st of each new playing year. Each club will be responsible for picking up registration cards and will pay for them as they are used.
- i) Registration fees for individual clubs are payable to the league treasurer and will be paid by him/her to the BCLA in their entirety.
- j) The HOME team is responsible for keeping valid statistics for a game. They must ensure to have sufficient personal to properly keep time, score, penalties and shots. Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$25.00.
- k) The **HOME** team is responsible for sending a digital copy of the score sheet to the Commissioner and the Web Master by noon of the next day of a game. Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$250.00.
- l) The **HOME** team is responsible for mailing the score sheet to the Commissioner and the Statistician within 48 hours of a game. Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$50.00.
- m) The **HOME** team is to provide one dozen clean white balls for each game. Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$10.00.
- n) A minimum of seven days notice must be given by a team unable to fulfill a League or play-off commitment. Failure to do so will result in a team fine and all relative expenses resulting from the “NO SHOW” being paid to the hosting team, except in unusual circumstances as determined by the Commissioner or their designate.
- o) A team wishing to relocate in order to play in another arena must give reasons in writing to the League. A two thirds vote in favour of the move is required before such a move will be permitted, except for a single game occurrence.
- p) Referee’s fees will be approved to be paid at the start of each game. Should only one referee show up for a game, it must not be played, however, the referee that does report for the game must be paid with this policy.
- q) All member clubs shall comply with other directives issued by the Commissioner, consistent with this policy.

Section 6: Dues

The Treasurer shall prepare a projected budget for the League following each year’s AGM. This budget shall be an agenda item to be reviewed by the Governing body at the first general meeting of the new year following the AGM. The budget shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the Governing body. The budget will define the dues each team is to pay for the season. The payment terms of these dues will be decided upon at that same meeting, and will be valid for that season. All past due team fees/fines must be paid in full by a player prior to a trade (see Section 9k/l) to another team being approved by the league. (amended Nov 2024)

Section 7: Membership

- a) Application for membership in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League by any group wishing to enter a team shall be in writing to the Commissioner prior to January 1st. All member clubs will be notified by the Commissioner.
- b) Applications shall indicate financial stability, access to players and adequate arena facilities and arrangements. An entry bond of \$200.00 shall accompany the application, and will be non-refundable.(amended Nov 2024)
- c) Representatives of any group applying for membership shall be called to a regular or special meeting (at the direction of the governing body) to appear and support the application.
- d) Approval of the application requires a two-thirds majority vote of the governing body.

Section 8: Boundaries

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a) A U16 player graduating from a minor lacrosse association must sign with and/or be drafted by a junior team within the same school district boundaries. Said player remains the property of the team by whom he was drafted and/or signed to until such time as the player is properly released or graduates from the junior league. A released player would still be subject to the BCLA residency rule.

C) The team with the lowest points from the previous season shall have first pick in the draft.

b) Where there are two or more teams within the set boundaries a draft shall be held.

Section 9: Procedure for encompassing new teams in a boundary where one already exists, or combining 2 existing neighboring boundaries

9.1: Encompassing new teams in a boundary where one already exists In the event of an area within a set residency boundary expanding to more than one club, the following ground rules shall apply: (added Nov 2024)

a) The new club shall meet the criteria of the League Operating Policy

b) They shall be entitled to draft graduating U16 players and remaining unprotected players until they register up to the same number as the existing team has returning players. The existing club must submit their lists by February 1st of the playing year.

c) The remaining unprotected players shall be put into a pool for these two teams to draft. The existing club will have first selection. The draft will cease at 25 players per team.

d) In the event that two new clubs are formed, a draft out of the graduating U16 players and unprotected players between the two new clubs shall commence up to the number of players that the existing club has returning that year. First pick will be determined by the flip of a coin.

e) The remaining players shall be put into a pool for the remaining teams to draft. The existing club will have first selection, the new team that selected second will have the second pick and the new team who drafted first will have the third pick of up to 25 players per team. The draft will continue in both incidents until all available players are drafted up to 25 players per team.(amended Nov 2024)

f) If an area has two existing clubs and a third club is created – the new club will draft the average number of returning players of the two existing clubs. The remaining unprotected players will be drafted, the last place existing team will draft first, the second existing team will draft second and the new club will draft last.

g) If an area has two teams and one club withdraws from the league, the remaining players shall be eligible to play for the remaining club under the residency rule. If there is no club in the residency boundary, the players can be drafted by the remaining non residence teams in the league.

h) Any new player to the area after the selection process has been completed, shall go to the club with the next existing pick if the clubs are not at full roster.

i) If a new player to the area is available before the selection process, he shall be put into the pool of players that are graduating.

j) In the event that there are enough players to warrant a fourth team, a Junior B League will be considered with tryouts of all eligible players (new and existing).

k) If there are no new clubs joining, the team that ends in last place will draft first from the list of graduating midgets and unprotected players up to 25 players. Teams may trade players for draft positions.

l) Teams may participate in trades up to the final signing date of July 15th if the player was released prior to July 1st as per the BCLA Senior Directorate Operating Policy.

9.2: Combining 2 existing boundaries to create 1 team To be considered by the league in the event that one or both of 2 neighboring teams are suffering from low player registrations, to the extent that one or both of the teams are not expected to be formed.

A proposal to combine 2 boundaries can be brought to the league for consideration, as long as the following criteria and procedures are met and followed: (added Nov 2024)

9.2.1 Criteria (added Nov 2024)

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- a) The proposal will need to show diligence in investigating that for a minimum of 2 subsequent years, the number of graduating players in their boundaries will be sufficient to sustain 2 teams.
- b) The proposal will need to show that the intent is to rebuild box lacrosse with their boundaries
- c) The proposal will need to show that the proposed combined boundary will not create a team so large that players will not be given the opportunity to play
- d) The proposed new team will play under a new banner, different from either of the existing teams wishing to combine.

9.2.2 Procedure (added Nov 2024)

- a) The proposal will only be accepted to be reviewed the following year after 1 or both teams could not be formed due to low registration
- b) If the proposal meets the criteria of 9.2.1, as decided upon by the governing body, Section 7 of the league agreement will be followed
- c) If in the future, registration numbers grow to the extent that the 2 teams can once again be formed under the original residency boundaries, Section 7 of the league agreement will be followed.

Section 10: Player Roster

- a) Each club must declare a list of players subject to the BCLA Operating Policy and all dates involving player transactions must meet the conditions imposed by said policy.
- b) Clubs may use players from a lower league provided all requirements of the BCLA Operating policy are met.
- c) U16 aged players may be called up on a per game basis should the Junior team not be able to field a complete game roster of 18 or less Junior eligible runners. A team may pull as many U16's as required to complete the entire game roster. U16 players must be indicated by a "U16" on the score sheet.
- d) A U16 goalie may be called up on a per game basis if the junior team has one (1) or less available goalie(s). There are no restrictions on his/her playing status.
- e) No club may be permitted to register or play more than four (4) imports (out of province players) during any one season. An imported player, who makes their permanent residence in British Columbia until the second season, shall not be considered an import in the second year of residence.(amended Nov 2024)

Section 11: Player Registration Requirement

- a) Prior to the 1st game of the season all players wanting to play Junior Lacrosse must register with their home (local) association
- b) any player not registering prior to that date may be considered a "Hold Out" player, and "Hold Out" players will be unable to play that season as determined by the commissioner.
- c) any "Hold Out" players may request to play with another team the following season. A written request with their intentions and rationale must be received by the TOJLL prior to registering the following season. Should no written request be received by a League Executive, review will be required prior to any approval.
- d) If a team is unable to floor a team for the season (declared at the scheduling meeting), the registered players can try out for other teams within the TOJLL. These players will be considered "On Loan" for the season and must register again with their home (local) association at the start of the new season.
- e) Permanent releases for players will be considered based on the BCLA Operating Policy.

Section 12: Team Player Protection

- a) Players leaving the TOJLL to play in another league:
 - i) Will, upon their return to the TOJLL, remain the property of the team by whom they were originally drafted,
 - ii) Or to whom they were previously signed,
 - iii) Or to whom they belong by virtue of the TOJLL residency rule, until such time as they are

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properly released, or graduate from the junior league.

Section 13: Discipline

- a) The Commissioner and the remainder of the Board of Governors shall be responsible for settling disputes between member clubs.
- b) The Commissioner or the remainder of the Board of Governors shall bring to the attention of the individual club management any actions not considered acceptable to the League or the public and may cause said club, executive member, or player to post a performance bond. Suspensions may also be assessed.
- c) When a club feels a protest is in order, the procedure is as follows:
 - 1. The Commissioner or their Designate is to be notified in person or by telephone after 24 hours following the incident, but within 48 hours.
 - 2. The Commissioner or their Designate is to be advised in writing, signed by the club manager of the protesting team, not more than 96 hours (post-marked) following the incident.
 - 3. Communication from coaches or members of teams regarding game disagreements must go through the association's Governor or Alternate unless they are asked for more information from the Commissioner or Designate.
- d) the League executive have the full Authority through majority vote at a special or regular meeting to provide discipline for reported "Spectators" as per the following options:
 - 1 – a written "Warning Letter" to the persons involved which may request a written apology for their actions.
 - 2 – a Suspension of minimum 3-5 games on the second offence as agreed by TOJLL Executive.
 - 3 – A Suspension from all TOJLL games for a period as agreed upon by the League Executive for any additional offences and which may include permanent suspensions.
 - 4 – the Suspensions provided may be subject to appeal per BCLA Operating Policies – Senior Box.

Section 14: Team Responsibilities:

- a) Any team receiving a game with 40+ minutes in penalties will receive a warning notice from the league, not including 10 minute misconducts.
- b) Any team receiving a second game with 40+ minutes in penalties will receive a one (1) game suspension for the coach and up to \$150.00 fine, not including 10 minute misconducts.
- c) Any team receiving 40+ minutes of penalties in a 3rd game will receive a \$250.00 fine and the coach will serve a 3 game suspension, not including 10 minute misconducts.

Section 15: Championships

- a) Teams involved in Championship playoffs must be given forty-eight (48) hours between the completion of one series of playoff games and the commencement of the next series of playoff games.
- b) The league will pay the entry fee for the league representative to attend the Provincial Championships.
- c) In the year that the Provincials are held on Vancouver Island, a \$500.00 travel grant will be given to the team attending to cover ferry costs; cost to be divided evenly between all member teams of the TOJLL.
- d) When the Provincial Championships rotates to the Thompson/Okanagan we will use the most up-to-date JUNIOR 'B' PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIRECTIVE as a guideline to run the Championship. The Directive will be considered an addendum to this League Agreement.
- e) To qualify for league and provincial play-offs, a player must be signed to a current TOJLL team, and play one regular season game. Must have been listed and participated in one TOJLL game and three regular season league games for a Lacrosse Canada Sanctioned Junior B1, or lower division team. The only exception would be a player who was placed on an injury list and could prove the injury to be valid. (amended Nov 2024)

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Section 16: Media

a) A team representative will be made available to the media after a 15-minute cool-down period from the end of the game. Any team in violation of this availability is to be investigated by the TOJLL Board of Governors.

Section 17: League Playing Rules

a) Players or team management personnel leaving the player's bench or the penalty box to participate in an altercation on or near the playing area shall be assessed a minimum of three (3) games suspension and a fine of up to \$50.00.

b) Match Penalties shall be assessed a minimum of three (3) games suspension and a fine of up to \$50.00.

c) For obscene gestures or verbal abuse there shall be a minimum of one (1) game suspension. A fine may also be levied at the discretion of the Commissioner. Consideration of the action will be levied against the BCLA Code of Conduct and the action will be reviewed.

d) All teams are responsible for any damage etc. to their dressing rooms. It is expected that the rooms be kept clean and tidy.

e) Any team failing to play scheduled games, League play-off or exhibition, shall result in \$250.00 fine per game missed, and reasonable costs to the home team (floor rental/referee fees). Fines must be paid before said team may resume play. See Section 5n) in regard to the cancellation policy. All Postponements to be reviewed under BCLA Section 16 – Senior Directorate OP.

f) If a game is delayed more than 30 minutes beyond the scheduled starting time, the Referee may call the game in the absence of the Commissioner. The offending team shall be fined a minimum of \$250.00, may be suspended and may be required to appear before the TOJLL Governors.

g) Home teams are responsible for the condition of goal nets. Unsatisfactory nets may result in a fine of \$25.00.

h) CLA rules shall apply to both League and Provincial play-offs.

i) Fighting Rule: called as per CLA Rule 45 - Fighting (A major and game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player/goalkeeper who fights)

Additional penalties will be applied in the following circumstance:

Major Penalty for fighting in the last 10 minutes of the game. 1st occurrence- no suspension. If a player receives a 2nd fighting major in the last 10 minutes of the game, they will be assessed an automatic 1 game suspension. 3rd occurrence they will be assessed a 3 game suspension. 4th occurrence, 5 game suspension and a hearing.

J)Additional Suspensions will also be assessed for Game Misconduct Penalties

(assessed as per CLA Rule Book)

1st Game Misconduct – no further action

2nd Game Misconduct – Two (2) game suspension.

3rd Game Misconduct – Minimum three (3) game suspension and up to the remainder of the season and playoffs pending a review by TOJLL. A Player is not eligible to play until this meeting has occurred.

4th Game Misconduct – Five (5) game suspension up to the remainder of the season and playoffs pending a review by the BCLA Senior Directorate. A Player is not eligible to play until this meeting has occurred.

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k) If a player is given an instigator penalty as the clear aggressor, additional suspensions will be applied as follows:

Instigation Penalties:

- 1st Instigation – one (1) game suspension
- 2nd Instigation – two (2) game suspension
- 3rd Instigation – three (3) game suspension
- 4th Instigation – five (5) game suspension and review by BCLA Senior Directorate

L) Major Penalties (Butt Ending/Face Masking/Headbutting/Spearing*)

*If assessed a 5-minute Penalty

- 1st Occurrence – one (1) game suspension
- 2nd Occurrence – two (2) game suspension
- 3rd Occurrence – three (3) game suspension
- 4th Occurrence – five (5) game suspension and review by BCLA Directorate

Major Penalties in the last 5 minutes of play Automatic one (1) game suspension

M) Subsequential suspensions are not concurrent but in addition to any assessed suspensions.

N) A suspended player shall have no interaction with their team for the period of time beginning 90 minutes prior to scheduled game start and ending immediately after the end of game handshake. A player found not adhering to the above, will have their game served be discounted, and will be required to serve their suspension at the next scheduled game. Leniency may be granted by the Commissioner in cases where travel delays have caused a travelling team to arrive later than 90 min prior to the start of a game. If this occurs, the suspended player shall exit their transportation, and avoid any interaction with their team from that point in time, up to the game ending handshake. (added Nov 2024)

Section 18: Abuse of Game Officials

For striking, verbal abuse or throwing any material at a game official, by a player, team staff or executive, during or after a game there will be a fine of up to \$250.00 and a 3 game suspension. The 2nd occurrence, will be a fine of \$500.00 and a 5 game suspension. In addition to the fine, the Commissioner will review the situation which may result in a suspension of up to the remainder of the playing season & playoffs by the TOJLL and a report to the corresponding BCLA group for review.

Section 19: Game Procedures

TOJLL shall maintain a Game Procedures working document, the purpose of which is to address the safety of officials, players, team personnel, spectators, and anyone else in attendance at a TOJLL game. This document shall be reviewed yearly at the AGM, and may be amended as necessary by a simple majority vote of team Governors, with the Commissioner casting vote if necessary to break a tie. This document may also be amended at any regularly scheduled league meeting to address a specific instance(s) that can occur during a playing season. (added Nov 2023)

Section 20: TOJLL Spectator Admission Rates

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At the first general meeting of the new year following the AGM, TOJLL admission rates will be discussed as an agenda item, and set for the current season by a majority vote of the governing body. These rates will be valid for the current season only, and addressed each year. (added Nov 2024)