

November 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to November!!!

We are now just 3 months away from the start of the High School season. We have already started to receive HS schedules. Its time to pull out the gear bag, dust off the shoes that have been collecting dust in your closet check what you need to replace (hats, shorts that have faded, etc....) and start getting excited for another big season of lacrosse.

RACIAL, ANTISEMITIC & HATE LANGUAGE

This should be obvious considering the current climate in our country and around the world. However we want to remind everyone that NFHS and this association has a ZERO tolerance policy towards any language on or off the field used by players, coaches, spectators, etc. Per rule 5 Section 12, Art 1:

The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

This is a 3-minute non-releasable for a player, substitute, etc. & an ejection. For coach or other bench personnel it's 1-minute & ejection from the game and field.

While we cannot control the outside world..., THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THIS LANGUAGE IN OUR GAME.

UNIFORMS

Every year around this time we start to see the questions of 2 inch stripes. I have spoken with FHSAA and we will not be switching this season. FHSAA is in the process of redesigning their logo and when that happens we will most likely see a change.

For the most part our association, unlike others is pretty good when it comes to having a consistent look among our officials. There are, however, some officials that still do not meet the standard set by this association. There is ZERO tolerance of an official being out of uniform.

OUR REGION AND OUR ASSOCIATION

South Florida is home to some of the best lacrosse in the state. Most state semi-finalists and state champions come from our region. As such we need to be better than all other associations. We have more teams, more games and a larger geography to cover than any other state association.

Over the past 2 years we have worked very hard to increase the number of officials. This year despite losing a few officials to jobs outside of our area, old age and bad knees, we will have more High School officials than any year in our history and we are still adding and training additional new officials (more below).

IMPORTANT DATES

New Official Classroom Session	December 9 th
Zoom training sessions (see below)	December & January
Annual General Meeting (mandatory)	January 27 th
Annual Field Training (mandatory)	February 3 rd

TRAINING

This past off-season your board of directors spent a significant amount of time planning and coordinating training sessions for all new & returning officials. We are each required by FHSAA to attend a certain number of training hours.

We will be holding several online sessions for all officials. Topics will include:

- Game management
- Officiating the Faceoff
- How to recover from mistakes
- Professionalism
- 2 person mechanics & 3 person mechanics

These sessions are designed to help all officials elevate their game. Sessions will be held over Zoom. We hope most of you will attend these sessions in person, however if you are unavailable for a session, you will have a brief window to watch the recording. These are designed to be short, each session is scheduled to last 45 minutes --- about 20-30 min of a presentation followed by Q & A.

These sessions are mandatory. We are requiring all officials to attend a minimum of 4 sessions. Those officials that fail to complete the minimum will not be assigned games until they have met all requirements of the Association.

RECRUITING

We are always looking for new officials. If you know anyone that would like to join us, please have them contact Jim Gottlieb or Mark Rodwell ASAP. The next session for new officials is December 9th in Boca Raton.