

# NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS POLICY

For Tournament and National Team Organisers

Version 2.0

14 May 2026

*Status: Approved*

## CONTENTS

<b>1. Objective</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Background</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. New Zealand National Tournament Policy</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Agreed Purpose	5
3.2 Policy Framework	5
3.3 Age Restrictions	6
3.4 Minimum Tournament Requirements	6
3.4.1 Medical Requirements	6
3.4.2 Facilities Standard	6
3.4.3 Logistical Expectations	6
3.5 Officials	7
3.6 Medals	7
3.6.1 Placings	7
3.6.2 Tournament Team	7
3.7 Code of conduct	7
3.8 Composite Team Restrictions	8

## DOCUMENT CONTROLS

### DOCUMENT HISTORY

This document has undergone the following modifications since it was created:

Revision:	Date:	Author:	Comments:
0.1	19/05/2023	Bill Hollins	Initial Release
0.2	28/09/2023	Bill Hollins	Updated after board review and decisions
0.3	14/10/2023	Bill Hollins	Updated with dates based on tournament committee decision
1.0	12/01/2026	Tegan Walmsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added References and Supporting Documents to Table</li> <li>• Updated Section 2 to align with events calendar for 2026</li> <li>• Updated wording of Section 2</li> <li>• Corrected U15 and U18 age requirements in Section 3.3</li> <li>• Added note to Section 3.3 regarding regions ability to adjust eligibility for Senior teams</li> <li>• Added Section 3.4 for Minimum Tournament Requirements</li> <li>• Added Section 3.5 for Officials Information</li> <li>• Added Section 3.6 for Medals</li> </ul>
2.0	14 May 26	Tegan Walmsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wording in Section 3.2 for “Regional Teams” updated to “NZ Regional Teams”</li> <li>• Update Section 3.2 to include placing restrictions for composite teams</li> <li>• Removed point about borrowing players from other regions, as it is covered in composite team restrictions</li> <li>• Added payment timeline for officials in Section 3.5</li> <li>• Added section 3.7 for necessitating having the Code of Conduct by all fields</li> <li>• Added Section 3.8 for Composite Team Restrictions</li> <li>• Added “NZL Tournament Organisers” to Intended Audience</li> </ul>

## REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Document	Date
New Zealand Lacrosse Guidelines for Tournament Hosting & Participation	April 2024
New Zealand Lacrosse Complaints Policy	March 2023
NZL Safe of Use of Changing Rooms Policy	October 2025
NZL Pre-Tournament Checklist	May 2026

## DOCUMENT CONVENTIONS

### INTENDED AUDIENCE AND READING SUGGESTIONS

NZL Board

Tournament Committee

NZL Tournament Organisers

## 1. OBJECTIVE

This policy is to define the purpose and structure of the various New Zealand Lacrosse (NZL) national tournaments. It is designed to provide the framework for these tournaments going forward.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Traditionally NZL has run 5 main tournaments, with the current scheduling of each tournament noted below

1. Senior Nationals – early March
2. U18 Nationals – early to mid March to align with Australian U18s
3. U15 Nationals – September
4. NZ Secondary Schools (NZSS) – beginning of July in the first weekend of school holidays

A sixes competition will be added going forward - with timing to be confirmed.

The teams involved in these tournaments are from the regions of New Zealand Lacrosse.

The events are normally hosted in a rotation such that each main region has one event a year. Some, like NZSS may be limited to only a couple of regions based on participating schools. This policy does not concern the NZSS as School Sport has strict criteria about participation. It is suggested that the NZSS still conform to the [Guidelines for Tournament Hosting & Participation](#) document.

Nationals tournaments are a time when most NZ based high performance players will be in the same place. This can make training easier and cheaper, however, there is potential for conflict with regional teams. See Section 3.2 for details regarding organised training on tournament weekends.

### 3. NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT POLICY

The NZL board has provided this policy framework to be used with all NZ national tournaments. Any variation should be requested of the board at least 2 months prior to the tournament, and approved by them prior to implementation.

This policy does not apply for NZSS competitions, as they follow the policies set by NZSS for tournaments. However, Sections 3.4 and 3.5 do apply and points 4 and 6 from Section 3.2 Policy Framework, are suggested.

#### 3.1 AGREED PURPOSE

1. To crown the national regional champion.
2. To provide a higher level of lacrosse than is provided in the regional leagues.
3. To develop the high-performance programmes for each region, especially upskilling players for national representative teams.

To enhance the level of play, and therefore improve NZL players, it is agreed that non-regional teams may participate in any tournament, including visiting international teams.

#### 3.2 POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. **National Teams** may participate in the tournaments, provided sufficient notice is provided. This is preferably at least 6 months to enable regional team selection and training to be organised.
2. **NZ Regional Teams** can ask a player from a national team that is participating to play for them, but it is the player's choice who they play for. Any conflict must be agreed well in advance of the event. If a player is asked to play for both teams, it is preferable that the Head Coaches of both teams and the player liaise about the player involvement, but if there is a conflict then **the player will be able to choose** which team they wish to play for. If there is a dispute that cannot be resolved, then the NZL board will be able to make the final decision. A player cannot change teams once the event has started.
3. **Non-Regional teams** can only compete for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. If there is a round robin amongst all teams before finals, then the non-regional team can come first and be awarded appropriately, but the final will be between regional teams only. An example of this would be an Australian Club team playing in the tournament. These teams must still abide by the Outside of Region Players Restriction regarding composite teams.
4. **Composite teams** are ineligible to place in the top three. They may compete in the 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> playoff, but cannot finish higher than 4<sup>th</sup> place. If both teams in the 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> playoff are composite teams, the highest-ranked non-composite team outside that match will be awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with the composite teams placed below them. Composite Team Restrictions are detailed in Section 3.8.
5. No training, at the tournament or camps elsewhere, for any national teams (except if participating in the tournament, but only for players in that team) is to be planned to occur **during** the tournament dates without the express agreement of ALL impacted regional teams. If the national team would like to train immediately before or during the event and there are players representing regional teams, then this **MUST** be agreed 2 months before the tournament with all affected teams' coaches. If no agreement can be found, then there shall be no training. Care must be taken in regards to youth playing time (as per [NZL U19 Player Guidelines Policy](#)).
6. Tournament organisers must comply with the [Guidelines for Tournament Hosting & Participation](#) document.

### 3.3 AGE RESTRICTIONS

- Dispensation for age must be approved by the NZL Board one month before the event.
- Aligned with Lacrosse Australia (and other NZ sports), age criteria is determined as of 1 January of the year of the tournament

#### **U15 tournament**

All players must be 14 years of age or younger on 1st January of the year of the tournament. The minimum age is 12 at the 1st January in the year of the event.

#### **U18 tournament**

All players must be 17 years of age or younger on 1st January the year of the tournament. The minimum age is 15 at 1st January in the year of the event.

For U15 and U18 tournaments, minimum age dispensation can be granted for individual circumstances, granted this decision is approved by the coach, player's parents and hosting region.

#### **Seniors**

Age will follow in line with World Lacrosse current eligibility that is defined in the Event Hosting Manual under Age Eligibility. The lower age limit that applies to all WL Events is 15 years of age for women and 16 years of age for men. These players must be 15 (W) or 16 years of age (M) on the day prior to the Event commencement.

It is up to the discretion of the region if they wish to adjust eligibility for Senior Teams to not include players under a certain age. This is to be communicated properly to members of that region.

### 3.4 MINIMUM TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.4.1 MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the safety of everyone involved in the tournament, the minimum medical requirement for a tournament is to have an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification on site, with sufficient medical equipment to treat the possible injuries that may arise. This is to be a designated person, who is at a known location to all teams.

For tournaments with 11+ teams, it is compulsory to have an ambulance on site at all times.

For tournaments with 10 teams or less, ambulance requirements depend on the proximity to an ambulance station and time to medical attention for more severe injuries. Medical requirements for tournaments shall be determined using the Medical Matrix - Care Levels as shown in the [NZL Pre-Tournament Checklist](#). This is to be submitted to the New Zealand Lacrosse Board at least 2 months prior to the tournament date.

Ice should be available in chilly bins by all fields, or at least within reasonable proximity to all fields.

#### 3.4.2 FACILITIES STANDARD

Sufficient bathrooms, water, rubbish bins and shade (for teams) is to be provided by the host of the tournament. Teams are encouraged to bring their own gazebos. If teams are travelling and are unable to bring their own, they are encouraged to liaise with host regions and the NZL Equipment Manager who may be able to support. Please refer to the NZL Safe of Use of Changing Rooms Policy when considering requirements for teams.

#### 3.4.3 LOGISTICAL EXPECTATIONS

For tournaments held for both Men's and Women's (U18 and Senior) and Boys' and Girls' (U15 and NZSS) divisions, all events should be held to the same standard and expectations. If it is not possible to offer equivalent tournaments (e.g., due to player numbers or ability levels), this must be communicated to all the affected teams at least one month prior to the tournament.

### 3.5 OFFICIALS

Officials for a tournament can either be organised by calling for expressions of interest and detailing a roster of officials, or in the case that there are not enough available at the required level who are not playing (which often occurs for Seniors tournaments), can be from assigning duties for the teams throughout the tournament. The person who holds the responsibility of appointing officials for the games is known as the Officiating Chair.

In the case of officials being assigned from duties, a head official shall still be assigned.

There is to be a proportionate amount of officials from the competing regions to the number of teams entering the tournament. This is to ensure that there is appropriate representation from regions, especially in the major games.

During the allocation of officials for matches, the Officiating Chair should endeavour to allocate a neutral team that is un-biased to the teams on the field. Whilst officiating, all officials are considered New Zealand Lacrosse Officials. It is the responsibility of the regions and the officials themselves to ensure they are at an appropriate level to be officiating the matches they are assigned to. If someone has less experience, there should be someone with more experience officiating at the same time to provide adequate levels of officiating.

For finals games, it is recommended that the timing and scoring is conducted by NZL officials who are not on field officials for the game.

The Officiating Chair's appointment of officials is final. If there is a complaint regarding the officials scheduled for a game, this should be communicated using the official NZL Complaints Policy. If someone is deemed to be behaving inappropriately regarding this, the Officiating Chair in conjunction with the Officials Team is able to penalise the associated team.

For full information regarding the organisation and responsibilities of officials, refer to the [Guidelines for Tournament Hosting & Participation](#) document.

The officials section of the [NZL Pre-Tournament Checklist](#) is to be filled out and submitted to the New Zealand Lacrosse Board at least 1 month prior to the tournament date.

Officials are to be paid for the games they are involved in. This payment can come from the entry fees to teams. Previously, officials have been paid \$20 for pool games, and \$30 for finals. This is up to the discretion of the organisers, but this is the recommended amount.

Organisers are to reach out to officials within one week post event to get payment information, and pay officials within two weeks of the event.

### 3.6 MEDALS

#### 3.6.1 PLACINGS

For tournaments that have 1-2 teams in the competition, there will be no medals. Certificates may be presented.

For tournaments that have 3-5 in the competition there will only be gold medals.

For tournaments with 6+ teams in the competitions there will be gold, silver and bronze medals.

#### 3.6.2 TOURNAMENT TEAM

Tournament teams will be chosen for all NZL tournaments and challenges. For tournaments with 6+ teams they will be presented with medals. Tournaments with less than teams will be given certificates. Members of the tournament team will be communicated with NZL through the tournament report.

### 3.7 CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct is to be printed, and placed on all scoring tables, on all fields. This should be available on request of anyone at the tournament.

### 3.8 COMPOSITE TEAM RESTRICTIONS

A team is considered to be composite, if a squad of 22 players has more than 4 non-eligible players, or for a smaller squad, has more than 15 % of the total squad size as non-eligible players

To establish if a team is composite, the following criteria is to be used:

**Primary Consideration (Guideline):**

Does the player primarily trial for the region where they are currently playing actively?

(Note: This is a guideline and does not prevent them from trialling for another region they qualify for.)

**Core Eligibility Criteria (Must meet at least ONE of the following)**

**Residency:**

Does the player currently reside in the region?

Has the player previously resided in the region for at least one whole calendar month?

Players in NZ regions that are not full region members of NZL are eligible to play for the region closest to them (ie an Otago player is eligible for Canterbury, or a Manawatu player is eligible for Wellington).

**Family:**

Does the player have a direct family member (e.g., parent, child, sibling) who currently lives in the region?

**Playing History:**

Does the player currently play lacrosse in the region (i.e., in a full local league season)?

Has the player previously played a full local league season of lacrosse in the region?

**Final requirement (mandatory)**

**Registration:**

Is the player currently registered to that specific region (either solely or jointly with another region)?

If the player qualifies via the criteria above, they are Directly Eligible and do not count towards the composite team restriction.

Preference for team selection should first be given to those Directly Eligible from the region.

If a player does not meet the eligibility requirements, they are considered a non-eligible player and are counted towards the composite team squad limit.

It is up to the manager of the team to check the eligibility of their players, and disclose any non-eligible players on entry to the tournament.