## OFFICIALS CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Officials shall avoid conflicts of interest and comply with both the WWLOA Conflict of Interest Guidelines and the USA Lacrosse Conflict of Interest guidelines.

Conflict of Interest Guidelines for WWLOA Officials are as follows:

- Officials shall not accept assignments for games in which a family member is a player or coach.
- Officials who are high school varsity league coaches shall not accept assignments for varsity league games in which a team from their conference is playing.
- Officials who are coaches shall not accept assignments for games in which a team from their program is playing. (For example, a Highlander high school varsity coaches should not accept assignments for Highlander JV games. A Meridian 14Ucoach should not accept assignments for Meridian 12U or 10U games.)
- Officials who are coaches shall not accept assignments for playoff and state championship games in which a team from their league is playing.

In some circumstances WWLOA and WSLA may allow exceptions to these guidelines. These exceptions shall be granted on a case-by-case basis and does not constitute a permanent waiver of Conflict of Interest Guidelines.

Officials can avoid being assigned to games which create a conflict of interest by blocking teams in their ArbiterSports account where a conflict of interest is present or may be perceived.

USA Lacrosse Conflict of Interest Guidelines:

"A conflict of interest is present in any instance in which the actions or activities of an individual, including members, volunteers, staff and affiliates representing or acting on behalf of USA Lacrosse could result in actual or perceived personal gain or advantage, and/or have an adverse effect on the interests, mission or integrity of USA Lacrosse. Individuals who represent and serve USA Lacrosse, at the local, regional or national levels, have a duty to disclose any financial interest or personal obligation that may actually or perceptually affect the independence of their judgment." (2023 USA Lacrosse Women's Officials Manual p.10)

"Avoiding conflicts of interest is part and parcel of risk management. Although engaging in a conflict of interest rarely results in legal liability, it "exposes" officials and may be considered as evidence of poor judgment in a legal liability setting. The rules are simple. Do not engage in

anything that can give even the appearance of impropriety. For instance, despite the fact that you are confident you can officiate your ole' alma mater fairly, you shouldn't in any game of consequence." (2023 USA Lacrosse Women's Officials Manual p97: Conflict of Interests – Dos and Don'ts Considerations)