

USA<sup>TM</sup>  
LACROSSE



# High School Awards Handbook



**USA Lacrosse Mission:** As the sport's national governing body, USA Lacrosse provides national leadership, structure, and resources to fuel the sport's growth and enrich the experience of participants.

**USA Lacrosse Vision:** We envision a future that offers everyone a lifelong opportunity to enjoy the sport of lacrosse.

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## USA LACROSSE ANTI-HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

USA Lacrosse prohibits and will not tolerate acts of harassment, discrimination, and bullying. Harassment, discrimination, or bullying means any gestures, any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Are reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical, or sensory disability.
2. Takes place in relation to any program function or team; and that a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a player or damaging the player's property, or placing a player in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property.
3. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any player or group of players or creates a hostile environment for the player by interfering with a player's participation or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the player. (N.J.S.L 18A:37-14).

Any USA Lacrosse award recipient found in violation of this policy will have all honors revoked. Individuals nominated for USA Lacrosse honors found in violation will be removed from consideration.

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This awards handbook is maintained by USA Lacrosse Games Administration staff. The awards process is administered locally by the USA Lacrosse Area Chairs<sup>^</sup>. The Games Administration staff, through the area chairs, oversees the selection of four (4) area award/recognition categories

*\*An Area is defined in many ways; it could be an entire state, part of a state, a county, regional or chapter area. All areas are approved by USA Lacrosse.*

### Area Awards

1. All-American Award
2. All-Academic Award
3. Coach of the Year (Head)
4. Bob Scott/Jackie Pitts Award

**All forms can be found online on the High School Awards Page.**

[High School Awards | US Lacrosse \(usalacrosse.com\)](http://usalacrosse.com)

**The site is updated by February 1<sup>st</sup> annually.**

<sup>^</sup>The term area chair encompasses Boys' High School Area Chairs and Girls' High School All-American and All-Academic Chairs.



## SECTION A—HIGH SCHOOL AREA CRITERIA

**All-American Formula:** **1 All-American allotted for every 6 qualified teams\***

**All-Academic Formula:** **1 All-Academic allotted for every 6 qualified teams\***

(Allotted numbers are rounded up at .5 or greater and rounded down at less than .5)

**\*Areas are encouraged to use all allotted honors; however, they MUST use at least 90% of their allotted honors.**

### **Allotment Criteria to be a qualified team**

Teams that meet **ALL** the following criteria shall qualify to count towards All-American and All-Academic awards allotment in their Area:

1. Must be a high school varsity team or scholastic club team playing a schedule of a minimum 6 games between January and June.
2. Must monitor player academic eligibility and adhere to standard eligibility criteria for the school's varsity sports in their area.
3. Must be comprised solely of students who attend that school (unless, by governing association rule, players from other schools are allowed to participate on the team).
4. Must be a team in good standing within their area.
5. Must receive recognition from the high school or equivalent administration for a scholastic club (in at least one of the following areas):
  - a. Varsity letters
  - b. Transportation
  - c. Equipment/uniform provision
  - d. Coach's stipend
  - e. Field use

**Only one team per school will be recognized for USA Lacrosse High School Awards. In turn only one coach per school may participate in the vote.**

### **Annual Contact and Allotment Form:**

The *Contact and Allotment Form* must be completed and submitted online to USA Lacrosse on an annual basis to qualify for area awards. This form must include (1) contact information for the area chair, (2) the number of qualified teams in an area and (3) a roster of qualified teams in the area that includes at a minimum the name and email of the head coach for each team.

Deadline to submit *Contact and Allotment Form*: **March 1<sup>st</sup> annually.**

### **Create/Separate/Merge New Area Form:**

A current coach or administrator within an established area who would like to create/separate/merge to a new area is eligible to submit a *New Area Form* which allows for the creation of a new area. The form must go through the existing Area Chair(s) and then submitted to USA Lacrosse ([gamesadministration@usalacrosse.com](mailto:gamesadministration@usalacrosse.com)) for approval.

1. A new area must consist of no less than 10 qualified teams
2. If a group of teams chooses to separate from an existing area, they may not leave if it would cause the existing area to have less than 10 teams.
3. Deadline to submit *New Area Form*: **December 15<sup>th</sup> annually.**



## SECTION B—AREA CHAIR<sup>A</sup>

### USA Lacrosse Area Chairs:

Area Chairs are nominated and selected by the head coaches within their Awards Area. If a formal coaches association does not exist, area chairs may be appointed by USA Lacrosse. If a chair is not appointed/registered by the required deadline, USA Lacrosse will appoint a chair.

#### **1. Chair Eligibility:**

- a. The Area Chair must be a current USA Lacrosse member.
- b. Chairs shall be a current or former interscholastic coach or administrator within the area they are serving. #
- c. Must not have a family member eligible for nomination including but not limited to child, spouse, or sibling.
- d. The Area Chair shall serve a term of 2 consecutive years and is eligible for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. They shall not serve more than 4 consecutive years. The USA Lacrosse Games Administration Staff must approve any extenuating circumstances for a chair that needs to extend their term limits.
- e. Area Coaches Associations shall nominate their Chair at the end of season meeting or as soon as the vacancy is recognized. All newly elected or returning Chairs must send their Contact & Allotment Form to USA Lacrosse via the online process. New Chairs must be recognized by USA Lacrosse no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

# Area coaches may vote to use a non-coach to administer the process.

<sup>A</sup>USAL may grant exceptions for areas which have a process in place that meets the intent of the policies above.

#### **2. Chair Roles and Responsibilities:**

- a. Chairs shall support and encourage USA Lacrosse membership and be supportive of the USA Lacrosse mission and vision.
- b. Chairs shall represent and serve as the liaison for their coaching organization to USA Lacrosse.
- c. Chairs shall administer and oversee the awards process for their area. This includes:
  1. Complete the annual Contact and Allotment Form.
  2. Compile and submit to USA Lacrosse the list of ALL High School Varsity and approved Scholastic Club Head Coaches within their area.
  3. Communicate with all head coaches concerning the deadlines and procedures for the awards process.
  4. Use the USAL portal to track nominations and submit final selections.
  5. Distribute a ballot to all eligible head coaches in their area on all the awards, prior to the meeting where voting will take place.
  6. Maintain the confidentiality of the awards process and final results. (Do NOT release honorees to anyone until approved by USA Lacrosse).
  7. Distribute awards to recipients in a timely manner.
  8. If needed, Chairs are encouraged to contact USA Lacrosse for guidance.



## SECTION C— PLAYER AWARDS

### USA Lacrosse ALL-AMERICAN Definition

USA Lacrosse All-Americans are the best players from their area. They exhibit superior skills and techniques, possess exceptional game sense and knowledge, and embody good sportsmanship.

### Eligibility for Final Nomination

- Players must be members of their varsity lacrosse team or approved scholastic club program.
- Players must have played in a majority of their teams' games for the current season.
- Players must be a starter or significant contributor to their team (plays over half a game on average).
- Players must be of outstanding character and be in good academic standing in their school.
- Any player that has received a diploma from a secondary school will not be eligible for All - American status during post-graduate study.
- Players must earn All-State, All-County, All-District, or similar type Team honors in the current season (minimum requirement shall be voted upon by the area coaches). \*
- A player who violates their school's or program's written contract or code of conduct may be excluded from consideration. Violations must be disclosed to the area chair prior to the vote.
- Sportsmanship and safe play are attributes that must be considered. In this regard, an account of the number of cards (Women's Game) or Unsportsmanlike fouls (Men's Game) attained by a player in the current season should be considered during nomination and voting. *If a player has a substantial number of cards or unsportsmanlike fouls, it is recommended that the Area Chair request testimony from the nominating coach as to how the player's fouls are not lessening of their sportsmanship.*

\*USA Lacrosse recognizes that the hierarchy of honors differs from state to state. *Chairs should contact USA Lacrosse if their coaches' association feels adjustments are necessary.*



## USA LACROSSE ALL-ACADEMIC QUALITY DEFINITION

A USA Lacrosse All-Academic Player is one who exhibits exemplary lacrosse skills, good sportsmanship on the field, and represents high standards of academic achievement in the classroom.

### **Criteria/Eligibility Guidelines: (Must meet ALL the following:)**

- Players must be a **junior or senior** on their varsity or approved scholastic club team.
- Any player that has received a diploma from a secondary school will **not** be eligible for All - Academic status during post-graduate study.
- Players must have played in a majority of their teams' games for the current season.
- Player must be a starter or significant contributor to their team (plays over half a game on average).
- Player has minimum cumulative (freshman year through application deadline) grade point average 3.7 out of a 4.0 academic scale. If in doubt, please ask the school guidance counselor for assistance determining acceptable GPAs for a 5.0 scale or weighted GPA.
- Nominations must include official transcripts with a signature from their schools Guidance Counselor.
- A player who violates their school's or program's written contract or code of conduct may be excluded from consideration. Violations must be disclosed to the area chair prior to the vote.
- Sportsmanship and safe play are attributes that must be considered. In this regard, an account of the number of cards (Women's Game) or Unsportsmanlike fouls (Men's Game) attained by a player in the current season should be considered during nomination and voting. **If a player has a substantial number of cards or unsportsmanlike fouls, it is recommended that the Area Chair request testimony from the nominating coach as to how the player's fouls are not lessening of their sportsmanship.**



## **USA LACROSSE JACKIE PITTS AWARD** **(Women's Game Player)**

This award recognizes a senior player in each area who goes above and beyond in service to her team, school, and community. An athlete, who truly honors the game of lacrosse, is invested in the development of the game in her community and is an exemplary member of her team. This player exemplifies the fundamentals of lacrosse, works hard to improve her game, and exemplifies the spirit of the game both on and off the field. Academically, she is an outstanding student and a valued role model in her school.

## **USA LACROSSE BOB SCOTT AWARD:** **(Men's Game Player)**

This award recognizes a senior player in each area who goes above and beyond in service to his team, school, and community. An athlete, who truly honors the game of lacrosse, is invested in the development of the game in his community and is an exemplary member of his team. This player exemplifies the fundamentals of lacrosse, works hard to improve his game and exemplifies the spirit of the game both on and off the field. Academically, he is an outstanding student and a valued role model in his school.

### **Criteria**

- Players must be members of their varsity lacrosse team or approved scholastic club program.
- Players must be a senior on their varsity or approved scholastic club team.**
- Player is a starter or significant contributor (plays over half a game on average).
- Players must be of outstanding character, be in good academic standing in their school (eligible) and demonstrate good sportsmanship and safe play.
- Resume and/or Letter of Recommendation referencing years of lacrosse involvement and their contributions to the game, school, and community.
- Letter of Recommendation referencing athlete's commitment to personal development within the game.
- Athlete can be but is not required to be an All-American or All-Academic candidate.

*One Jackie Pitts or Bob Scott Award Allowed Per Area (Co-winners will not be accepted)*



## SECTION D— Coach Award

### **USA Lacrosse Coach of the Year**

This award honors a boys' and girls' lacrosse head coaches in each area who exemplify the ideals of the game of lacrosse. The award is intended to recognize the individual's overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins - although they may be considered. The Selection process is to be administered by the area chair in conjunction with the player awards.

### **Criteria/Eligibility Guidelines**

1. This award is only available to Head Coaches for varsity or approved scholastic club teams.
2. **Areas may only select one recipient per game (co-award winners will not be accepted).**
3. Nominees must be members in good standing within their area.
4. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field.
5. Nominees must demonstrate excellent rapport with their players, officials, and other coaches.

## SECTION E --- AWARDS NOMINATION & PROCESS DEADLINES

1. Contact & Allotment Form submitted to USA Lacrosse: **March 1<sup>st</sup> annually**
2. Head Coach Roster submitted to USA Lacrosse: **March 1<sup>st</sup> annually**  
*(Allotment cannot be confirmed until head coach roster is received; awards will not be posted without a roster of head coaches.)*
3. USA Lacrosse **Starts** Distributing Certificate Stock: **April 1<sup>st</sup> annually**
4. Awards nominations due to Area Chairs: **See USAL website**
5. Awards results to USA Lacrosse from Area Chairs: **June 20<sup>th</sup> annually**  
***Must be submitted through the online portal***  
***(All Awards NOT submitted by June 20<sup>th</sup> will be forfeited)***
6. USAL National Announcement of Awards: **About July 1<sup>st</sup> annually**

**Note:** **Upon approval from USA Lacrosse**, areas may announce their awards locally. *This permits recognitions on a local level to coincide with end of the season banquets and varying school calendars across the country. Approval MUST be received to avoid errors in announcement or stripping of honors.*



## SECTION E—VOTING PROCEDURES FOR ALL AWARDS

### **VOTING PROCEDURE:**

#### **Required\*\***

#### **Strongly Recommended##**

1. **\*\***The Chair shall inform **all head coaches** a minimum two-weeks in advance regarding the process for the area vote including, but not limited to:
  - A. HOW: in-person, virtual, and/or electronic. (Some flexibility should be offered)
  - B. WHEN: date/ time (if in-person or virtual) or deadline (if electronic).
  - C. WHERE: location (meeting location, virtual platform, or electronic voting process).
2. **\*\***The Chair will send a list of awards to be voted upon, as well as a list of individuals who have been nominated and deemed eligible for those awards **prior** to the meeting. If a vote is not being conducted at a face-to-face meeting and is instead being conducted by electronic ballot it shall be open for at least one week or until all head coaches have returned their votes. Coaches may choose not to participate.
3. **#**Coach members will rank the players on the final ballot from 1 (highest) to X (lowest) based on the number of players on the ballot. Points will be assigned by rank (1=X and X=1).
4. **#**The Chair will tally the points per nominee and the award slots will be filled based on the points received. The top X players with the highest total points will receive the honor.
5. **\*\***TIEs which result in more than the allotted slots being filled must be broken.
6. **#**To resolve ties, do one of the following:
  - A. Hold a re-vote of the coaches or committee for only the tied players.
  - B. If players are from different grades, the honor goes to the higher grade (ie senior over a junior, sophomore or freshman, junior over sophomore or freshman, etc).
  - C. Random draw

### **ALL-AMERICAN NOTE:**

*For the All-American process selections to be determined by a committee, the following must be adhered to:*

- 1.** *A hard vote of all member coaches must be administered with a simple majority voting in favor of using a committee for selections.*
- 2.** *All member coaches must be given the opportunity to apply to serve on the committee*
- 3.** *All member coaches must have input in the selection of the committee members.*
- 4.** *The process must be revisited annually and re-voted upon every two years.*

### **ALL-ACADEMIC NOTE:**

*If the quantity of submissions for All-Academic for a given area is substantial, an area may elect to use a committee to vote OR narrow the pool of nominations to facilitate the voting process. This must be decided by a simple majority vote of the area coaches and not solely by the area chair.*



## SECTION F— GRIEVANCE PROCESS

### **USA LACROSSE GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

USA Lacrosse will review all formal grievances that have been submitted to the Area Chair and [gamesadministration@usalacrosse.com](mailto:gamesadministration@usalacrosse.com). **A formal grievance can only be submitted by a head coach or school administrator.**

Grievances must be submitted in writing to USA Lacrosse and the Area Chair no later than June 25<sup>th</sup> annually.

The following information must be included in/with the grievance.

- a) Name and Position of individual filing the grievance. (Anonymous submittals will not be reviewed)
- b) School/Club Name and Address
- c) Reason(s) for grievance:
  - 1) Process
  - 2) Ethics
  - 3) Other (please explain)

Any documented proof relevant to the grievance.