

2011-2012 WPIAL GIRLS LACROSSE SCHEDULE

May 23, 2011

First Practice Date ~ March 5, 2012
First Scrimmage Date ~ March 10, 2012
First Play Date ~ March 23, 2012

Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2
Maximum Contests ~ 18

A copy of this schedule must be given to your coach. The WPIAL girls' lacrosse section play will begin on **March 27, 2012** and must be completed according to the schedule. Please check your schedule carefully and notify the League Office of any errors at (412) 921-7181 or 1-800-297-9553.

Coaches are advised that the PIAA By-Laws Article XIV, Section 3 requires that the head coach attend a minimum of one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation prior to each season. Mandatory rules meeting dates and times are available on the PIAA website. www.piaa.org

1. Varsity games may be played prior to the JV game if a JV game is scheduled. Schools are responsible for the scheduling of all junior varsity games.
2. All games are to be conducted under the rules of the USLacrosse Rule Book.
3. Duration of the game shall be a maximum of fifty (50) minutes played in two equal halves.
4. With regard to playing teams not on this schedule, the following rules are in effect:
 - WPIAL teams may only play school affiliated teams.
 - WPIAL teams may only play teams that adhere to the PIAA eligibility requirements – age, attendance, academics, residence, etc.
5. All games that end in a tie will have the tie broken by the tie breaking procedure outlined in the PIAA Girls Lacrosse Bulletin.
 - 1) When the score is tied at the end of regular play, both teams will have a five (5) minute rest period and toss a coin for choice of ends.
 - 2) The winner will then be decided on a **SUDDEN VICTORY** stop-clock overtime period of no more than six (6) minutes in length, with the teams changing ends after three (3) minutes (with no delay for coaching). The game will be restarted by a center draw. The team scoring the first goal wins.
 - 3) If the six (6) minute overtime period expires without either team **SCORING A GOAL, THE GAME REMAINS A TIE.**
 - 4) **If eighty percent (80%) of the playing time has elapsed and the game is tied and cannot be completed that day, the game remains a tie.**
6. Please make sure that both teams and the officials know the correct starting time. This should be established by the home team and communicated to the visitors in a timely manner. It is recommended that afternoon contests do not start **before 3:30 pm**, unless the competing school principals agree.
7. Coaching and sideline decorum must be above reproach. Coaches must adhere to professional behavior standards as established by the PIAA. Officials have been instructed to enforce this code. The PIAA player/coach ejection rule will be in effect. Players and coaches who are disqualified from any game by the game official will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled game played by their team at the same level of competition. Repeated offenders will be subjected to more severe penalties.

8. Only PIAA Lacrosse officials may officiate. The WPIAL recommends the use of two officials for all league matches.
9. A WPIAL section plaque will be awarded to each of the section winners. Those winners will be the teams who have the best record against all schools in their section. Teams that tie for first place will not have the tie broken and each will be declared co-champions and will receive a section winner's plaque. All ties in section record will be broken by head-to-head competition.
10. **The top four (4) teams in each section will enter the WPIAL tournament. Teams that qualify for the WPIAL Tournament may not play games after May 15, 2012 but may scrimmage any team that has qualified for, and remains alive in the WPIAL Tournament** All playoff entries will be determined by section record only and will be determined by the best section won/lost record. Teams that tie for first place will not have the tie broken and **ALL** of the tied teams will be declared section champions, will receive section winner's plaques, and will be entered into the WPIAL Tournament. **The top 2 teams from each section will play at home in the first round of the playoffs.**

In the event of a multiple team (two or more teams) tie for a playoff position head to head competition will be the first determinant. If head-to-head does not break the tie, the following tie-breaking system will be used. If three or more teams are tied for third place and the tie breaking system identifies one team as the third place team, the remaining teams will then be tied for fourth place and the process begins all over with head-to-head competition being the first determinant for establishing the fourth place team. If a tie cannot be broken all tied teams will enter the playoffs.

TIE-BREAKING SYSTEM

1. Section records of the tied teams will be compiled.
2. The team(s) with the best numerical head-to-head section record among the tied teams will be the qualifier.
3. If the tie cannot clearly be broken, all tied teams will enter post-season play.

EXAMPLE:

- a. Teams A is clearly first, Team B is clearly second, and Team C is third. Teams D, E, and F have identical section won-loss records and are tied for fourth. In this situation Team D is 3-1 against E and F. Team E is 2-2, and Team F 1-3. Team D is entered as the fourth place team.
 - b) Team A is first, Team B is second. Team C, D, and E are tied for third place with identical section records. Team C is 3-1, Team D is 2-2, and Team E is 1-3. Team C is now third and Teams D and E are tied for fourth. To break this tie we go back to head-to-head. If these two teams split they both go into the playoffs as the fourth place team.
 - c) Keep in mind that **ONLY** the top four teams qualify for the playoffs, unless ties for a playoff spot cannot be broken. If Team A finishes first, and Teams B, C, and D tie for second, Teams A, B, C, and D are the only qualifiers. The second place tie will be broken for the assignment of a home playoff game. If the tie cannot be broken the **WPIAL WILL ASSIGN THE HOME PLAYOFF GAME BASED ON SITE SUITABILITY.**
11. **Teams that qualify for the tournament should be aware that they may be placed in a preliminary round and may be assigned to play beginning on Wednesday May 16, 2012. Section winners and second place finishers will be awarded home games in the first round with the third and fourth place teams playing away. In the event of a tie for first and or second place the WPIAL will determine the home site assignment based on availability and suitability.**

Please note that the first round of playoffs will be contested at the home sites. The WPIAL semi-finals and finals will be contested at a neutral site.

12. **Teams should be aware that PIAA tournament entry is reserved for Division I Teams. The WPIAL will however crown a Division I and Division II Champion. The Division I WPIAL Champion and Runner Up will qualify for the 2011 – 2012 PIAA Girls Lacrosse Championship.**

13. Schools are advised that protective eyewear is mandatory for all girl participants.

14. **REPORTING SCORES:**

The home team is obliged to phone all scores to:

Don Rebel @ MSA Sports Network (412/539-0360) drebel@nauticom.net

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) highschool@post-gazette.com

Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) pschofield@tribweb.com or GRBSB (1-800-690-8047)

Washington Observer Reporter (1-800-222-6397) orsports@observer-reporter.com

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.