



Brookfield Lacrosse Association (BLA) Overview

January 2014

Sport of Lacrosse:

Lacrosse originated from Native North Americans who often played the game as a way to train for warfare. The game may not be played for the same reasons today, but the action and intensity that is displayed is still highly competitive and exciting.

Traditionally, Lacrosse has been most popular in the Northeast, especially in hotbeds like Baltimore, New England, and New York. This is no longer the case with hotbeds now forming in the states of California, Colorado, Texas, Florida, and several other

Lacrosse continues to expand rapidly when most sports are not. And lacrosse is among the fastest growing sports that are in the top 15 in popularity. Data on school sponsorship and student participation are compiled annually by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). NFHS data shows in most cases the top 16 boys' and girls' HS sports in terms of schools and participation for 2011-2012 with comparable data for 2004-2011.

Boys' lacrosse again placed 13th in sponsorship (number of schools) and 11th in participants (number of athletes). Girls' lacrosse also finished 13th in sponsorship but was 10th in participation reflected in NFHS figures.

In response to the increased popularity of lacrosse several colleges have added programs. Nine D1 programs alone started lacrosse programs since 2012. Hundreds of D3 programs have added programs in that time.

Locally all Classic Eight conference schools have school sponsored teams, with the exception of Elmbrook School District. At the elementary level lacrosse is one of the most requested High Interest Day sessions.

Purpose:

Formed in _____ Brookfield Lacrosse Association (BLA), is a community-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed to promote the sport of lacrosse, and to provide for instruction and competition in lacrosse for the youth of the City of Brookfield, Wisconsin and surrounding areas including Elm Grove, Sussex, Menomonee Falls & New Berlin.

Association Governance:

- The Association's fiscal year runs July - June



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Brookfield, Wisconsin

- BLA is governed by a board elected by the membership in May to begin serving with the June board meeting as a transition meeting. Board positions serving staggered 2 year terms include:
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Boys Youth Level Director
 - Girls Youth Level Director
 - Boys HS Director
 - Girls HS Director
 - Fields Director
- The Association Youth Teams are part of the Milwaukee Area Youth Lacrosse Association (MAYLA)
- The Association High School teams are part of the Classic Eight League.

Playing Season: All Levels - March-June

Levels of Play:

The Association fields teams based on season registration that is conducted in January-February. In 2013 the following teams were fielded based on grade level:

- Boys Youth 3/4, Boys Youth 5/6 & 2 Teams for 7/8
- Girls Youth 3-5, 6-8
- Boys HS – JV and Varsity
- Girls HS – JV and Varsity

All youth programs are developmental programs welcoming new players at any grade level and encouraging lacrosse fundamentals over competitiveness. When there is more than one team at a given grade level, both teams are of equal caliber.

In 2014

- It is anticipated that there will be multiple teams at various youth grade levels.
- BLA has added a K-2 boys level (shortened intro program that runs April – mid June)

Current Home Field Locations:

- Boys HS – Swanson Elementary
- Girls HS – Wisconsin Hills Middle School
- Girls Youth – Wisconsin Hills Middle School
- Boys Youth – Brookfield Christian School



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Association Recent Accomplishments:

- HS Girls Team state champions in 2012 and 2013
- Started girls youth program in 2013
- 235% increase in boys youth participants 2010-2013. Further growth is anticipated in 2014.