



# Hillsborough County Lacrosse Alliance

[www.HALAX.org](http://www.HALAX.org)

## **HALAX Mission Statement**

To provide Hillsborough County high school students/athletes with the opportunity to participate in lacrosse as a Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) sanctioned sport beginning in 2014

# History of Lacrosse

- With a history that spans centuries, lacrosse is the oldest sport in North America. Rooted in Native American religion, lacrosse was often played to resolve conflicts, heal the sick, and develop strong, virile men. To Native Americans, lacrosse is still referred to as "The Creator's Game."
- Ironically, lacrosse also served as a preparation for war. Legend tells of as many as 1,000 players per side, from the same or different tribes, who took turns engaging in a violent contest. Contestants played on a field from one to 15 miles in length, and games sometimes lasted for days. Some tribes used a single pole, tree or rock for a goal, while other tribes had two goalposts through which the ball had to pass. Balls were made out of wood, deerskin, baked clay or stone.
- The evolution of the Native American game into modern lacrosse began in 1636 when Jean de Brebeuf, a Jesuit missionary, documented a Huron contest in what is now southeast Ontario, Canada. At that time, some type of lacrosse was played by at least 48 Native American tribes scattered throughout what is now southern Canada and all parts of the United States. French pioneers began playing the game avidly in the 1800s. Canadian dentist W. George Beers standardized the game in 1867 with the adoption of set field dimensions, limits to the number of players per team and other basic rules.

# Lacrosse Today

- ◎ The sport of lacrosse is a combination of basketball, soccer and hockey. Anyone can play lacrosse -- the big or the small. The game requires and rewards coordination and agility, not brawn. Quickness and speed are two highly prized qualities in lacrosse
- ◎ Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing team sports in the United States. Youth participation in the sport has grown over 77% since 2006 to nearly 400,000 in 2012. No sport has grown faster at the high school level over the last 10 years and there are now an estimated 282,000 high school players. Lacrosse is also the fastest-growing sport over the last nine years at the NCAA level with 671 college teams in 2012, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. There are more than 500 college club programs, including nearly 200 women's teams that compete at the US Lacrosse Intercollegiate Associates level.
- ◎ • According to the latest [NCAA Data](#), women's lacrosse (Division I) ranks second (to skiing) in graduation success rates (94%) and men's lacrosse ranks first in graduation success rates (88%) among men's NCAA sports.

## LACROSSE: FLORIDA PERSPECTIVE

**138** In 2011, 138 Florida High Schools will have Varsity Lacrosse Programs

**45** In the last year, 45 boys teams and 30 girls teams have petitioned the FHSAA to be added as Varsity sports ( 15 more boys teams are boys-only private schools)

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**30**

**77%** Florida HS athletes graduate at a higher rate (77%) than non-athletes (68%), so there is definitely a case for more opportunities to Participate in sports.

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Counties that added lacrosse as a Varsity sport in the past year include:

**DADE**

**PALM BEACH**

**BROWARD**

**LEE**

**COLLIER**

**JACKSON & MARTIN**

## LACROSSE: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

624,000

In 2010, over **624,000** players competed in organized lacrosse in the US (up 10% from 2009)

12%

High School lacrosse participation is up **12%** and youth lacrosse (15 and under) is up **9%**

22%

The number of college men's programs is up **22%** in the last year. The number of college women's programs is up **30%** in the last year

30%

1,350

IN FIVE YEARS

Simply put, lacrosse is the fastest growing High School sport in the US by a huge margin with

over **1,350** boys & girls varsity teams added in the

Last 5 years.

88%

94%

Collegiate Lacrosse players have the **HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE** of any sport

in the US with **88%** of **MALES** and **94%** of **FEMALES** finishing their degree program

# Sponsorship Levels

- Onondaga                 \$10,000           sponsors a team at TBT or Jefferson           4 available
- Iroquois                 \$5,000             sponsors a Boy' s or Girl' s team             8 available
- Tewaarthon             \$2,500             Buys helmets for Boy' s team                 2 available
- Toli                       \$1,000             Buys one Girl' s team uniforms                2 available
- Kapucha                 \$500                Buys pads for one Boy' s team                 2 available
- Amtacha                 \$250                Buys goggles for one Girl' s team             2 available
- Huron                    \$100                Buys gloves for one player                    50 available



# Rewards of Sponsorships

- \$1,000 and above receive exposure on HALAX website
- \$1,000 and above will be mentioned in a 1/8 page ad in Tampa Tribune and Tampa Bay Times thanking you for your sponsorship
- \$1,000 and above receive free admission to all Hillsborough County Lacrosse games
- \$1,000 and above receive a Certificate
- Once 501 (c) (3) is approved, all donations will be tax deductible