



# Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League



## MBYLL Mission, Philosophy, Season Goals and Our History

*As Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League (MBYLL) concluded its 2013 spring season & continues to look for ways to improve the league & organization in preparation for our 2014 spring season; we'd like to reinforce MBYLL's mission, philosophy & goals to all our member towns & coaches; and share some history & key reasons why MBYLL continues to grow & thrive today.*

**Mission:** Our mission is to teach, grow and honor the game of lacrosse in your town/city and in every community throughout Massachusetts by providing leadership, guidance, training and structure to all town/city member programs participating in MBYLL's spring game schedule and the annual Mass Bay Jamboree held in June at the end of our season.

**Philosophy:** Our philosophy in the MBYLL Classic program is all players participate equally (i.e. equal playing time) in all games on evenly balanced teams based on a player's grade, age, skill, size & experience—U15 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>), U13 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>), U11 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) & U9 (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>)—playing a local game schedule in their region. There are NO 'A' or 'B' or 'stacked' teams, nor standings or playoffs, at any level playing in the MBYLL Classic program & our traditional league games on Sunday's.

Our MBYLL Select program is an additional town-based playing opportunity—NOT a replacement for—a players participation in the MBYLL Classic program. MBYLL Select team players must also participate on their MBYLL Classic team (*Why? See **Goals** below*). MBYLL Select has Divisional standings, playoffs, Championships & grade-level All-Star games.

Our coaches are certified and trained to be teachers of the game and role models focused on player development, teamwork and learning the fun•damentals—especially the 'fun' part. MBYLL is an inclusive organization open to all MA towns and cities where, collectively, we strive to always provide a safe, enjoyable, learning experience for all participants in an environment NOT swept up in the pressure filled, win-at-all-cost mania still too common in youth sports today.

**Goals:** Our primary goal is for players, coaches, parents, officials & program leaders to have a fun, rewarding experience while always demonstrating sportsmanship on & off the field as together we learn, share & teach the fundamental skills and teamwork required to play the game well. Responsible growth & greater participation at all levels are key secondary goals.

MBYLL provides training, guidance, certification & grade + age-specific rules of play for all member programs, coaches, players & officials with a particular focus on player safety, sportsmanship & fair play for a positive, fun experience for all participants.

**Honor the Game:** We honor the game by practicing positive coaching, teaching life lessons beyond the playing field and by developing a strong community among all MBYLL players, coaches, parents, officials, leaders and fans that will last a lifetime.

As MBYLL member programs, we continue to improve our lacrosse knowledge and program capabilities each season as we learn, share & teach the game based on speed, stick skills, athleticism and teamwork—and NOT physical intimidation.

**Your League:** Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League (MBYLL) represents 160+ towns split in to five geographic regions—for local game scheduling—in eastern & central Massachusetts with over 20,000 players in 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades on 950 teams and led by 2,000 active MBYLL & USL certified coaches this spring. Below are some of the services and value the organization provides its members along with a few key highlights about what Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse, **your league**, represents today:

- ✓ MBYLL is one of the largest youth lacrosse leagues & organizations in the United States w/ over 50,000 players, parents & coaches.
- ✓ MBYLL Jamboree held each June is the largest youth lacrosse event in the USA w/ over 450 teams & 25,000 players, coaches & fans.
- ✓ MBYLL Jamboree event sponsors & partners contribute over a third of our total annual operating budget—keeping member fees low.
- ✓ MBYLL funds & organizes coaching education, certification, clinics & online training for all our coaches & town leaders each spring.
- ✓ MBYLL funds & organizes our Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) partnership for workshops & online Coach, Parent, Player courses.
- ✓ MBYLL mandates all our coaches be MBYLL-certified at least every 2 years thru MBYLL & USL-integrated Level I/II/III coaching clinics.
- ✓ MBYLL funds & organizes the (8) Sunday, mid-week & MBYLL Select spring game schedule w/ over 7,000 games played each season.
- ✓ MBYLL funds & coordinates with EMLOA to contract for referee Assignors to schedule game officials for all MBYLL league contests.
- ✓ MBYLL funds & contracts with EMLOA to train, certify or re-certify all MBYLL Associate Officials (AO's) each spring for town members.
- ✓ MBYLL funds & organizes the Regional Referee Coordinators & our AO support resources in each of our five geographic regions.
- ✓ MBYLL is led by an all-volunteer board of directors who—like MBYLL town leaders & coaches—are all passionate about the game.

**Thank you for your participation and efforts in making Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League a continued success**