

Families of Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse,

If you are receiving an email from us for the first time, welcome to the league family! We are comprised of over 100 town programs in Eastern and Central Massachusetts. Your town is an integral part of the largest league in the United States and we're thrilled to play a part in your spring lacrosse experience.

Our membership has grown rapidly over the last few months between individual registrations and the towns who batch us their membership. To view the previous messages that were sent, you can find our email log on our website (www.mbyll.org) under the "Documents" section of the home tab.

We will only be sending periodic and important news through email. Most of our communication and notices will come from social media (such as our exclusive 20% coupon to Dick's Sporting Goods for MBYLL weekend – this Saturday and Sunday). So please remember to "Like us" on Facebook (@MassBayYouthLacrosseLeague), "Follow us" on Twitter (@mbyll) and Instagram (@mass_bay_youth_lax), and check out our YouTube Channel: Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League

The purpose of this email:

We are exactly one month away from the start of our Week 1 games! Most towns have started practicing and getting ready for opening weekend (which will be here very quickly).

We'd like to tell you a few things about the league to help make your watching, participation, and general experience more enjoyable.

- Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. We have 18,000 players and 2,500 coaches coming from 150 cities and towns in the Bay State.
- We believe in evenly balanced teams – which means that towns with multiple teams at a level do not stack one with advanced players and another with beginners
- We believe in equal playing time for all members of the team
- While we keep score during the games, we do not keep standings for the season. We believe in the teaching aspect of this game: allowing youth athletes to play without the pressures of a win/loss record, and in an atmosphere where fun, safety, and camaraderie with town peers is paramount.
- We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with a mission: "To Teach, To Grow, To Honor the Game"
- Our coaches are required to obtain a customized coaching education which includes online courses on strategy and positive coaching along with periodic in-person training run by some of the best lacrosse educators in the world (US Lacrosse, Trilogy Lacrosse, HGR Lacrosse to name a few).
- We play by an agreed upon set of rules and procedures shaped by the towns themselves through regional directors and leadership committees.
- Game rules are US Lacrosse Youth rules WITH Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League modifications. While USL Youth Rules & MBYLL rules are based on the National Federation of High School Lacrosse rules, lacrosse at the younger levels (U9 & U11) will look very different from a high school game. We use smaller fields, smaller team sizes, in some instances smaller nets, and some different rules that are more age-appropriate for youth athletes.

- We have a partnership with EMLOA (Eastern Massachusetts Lacrosse Officials Association) whose certified referees officiate our games. Every town also sponsors local high-school aged Associate Officials who play a very important role in our game.
- In addition to your Classic schedule, we offer a four-day jamboree each June, run a “Select League” for towns interested in older teams playing at a more competitive level, have special recognition scholarship awards for graduating 8th graders and AOs, opportunities to play for league-wide special tournament teams and events, discounts, deals, promotions, endorsed camps, clinics, and off-season opportunities, and a number of other experiences crafted to make your son’s lacrosse education as rewarding and all-encompassing as it can be.

As a league which operates three short months a year—but meets year-round to optimize that time—we are incredibly proud of all the work being done in this state to make Massachusetts one of the top lacrosse hubs in the country.

We cannot do it without these tremendous young athletes, the dedicated coaches, and the support of the parents who do a TON of work getting the players to-and-from the field, synchronizing your family calendar to the sport’s calendar, making sure they have plenty of water, BOTH gloves, lots of affection, a positive relationship with the coaching staff, and most importantly: washing those awful-smelling equipment bags.

So let us take this time to properly thank you, in advance, for all the work YOU do during this season, because chances are... your pre-teen will likely forget.

On behalf of the league board of directors,

THANK YOU and have a fantastic March! See you on the fields in one month!

Joey Picard, Director of Communications, Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League