

Families of Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League,

We're about to begin the second half of our spring season. After our final four weeks of Classic (interrupted briefly the NCAA Championships coming to Gillette Stadium over Memorial Day Weekend), we are excited to host two full weekends of the Mass Bay Jamboree. Most of our towns participate in our annual end-of-season festival at Ft. Devens. We hope that you and your team are going to be a part of it this June.

As for our first four weeks of games, we hope the experience has been very positive so far with many more memories to be made.

What's Next?

Assuming that to be the case, many of you will start to ask "With town lacrosse coming to end, what else is out there for my player? How can he continue to play lacrosse between now and next spring?"

It's a great question and I hope you're relying on helpful resources to answer that – starting with your coach and town program. Our very best advice is to talk with the other families from your town to get first-hand accounts of which camps, clinics, tournaments, teams, and even leagues (fall and winter) are tried and true.

In addition to the logistical questions (where/when/how much?), ask a lot of questions to find which organizations not only have the best value, but truly focus on the athlete experience:

- Skill-centered and focused on teaching
- Good ratio of coaches/counselors to athletes
- Proper grouping of athletes by age and/or grade
- Equal attention to players of all ages, experiences, skill-levels
- Equal/fair playing time for tournament teams
- Well communicated policies and philosophies
- An overall emphasis on a fun, safe, healthy, and inclusive atmosphere to learn and play

There are a LOT of awesome organizations in Massachusetts (many in other New England states) who put together experiences of great value that do prioritize the athlete experience (development, enjoyment, growth). But there are also some organizations to be cautious of: Unorganized, only in it for profit, unequal focus and attention to athletes, delivering false promises, negatively impacting the future of our sport, etc.

To reiterate: Our best advice is to lean on familiar faces, ask a lot of questions, use your town leaders for guidance on finding the right fit for your son.

Some Suggestions from MBYLL

For more than five years, MBYLL has had an alliance and partnership with the New York-based Trilogy Lacrosse which plays a major role in the education and certification of our MBYLL coaches. Their primary focus, however, is on great player experiences including camps, clinics, and tournaments.

Three in this area in the summer include:

- New England Day Camp

- Northborough, MA
- August 7th – August 10th
- Open to all 1st – 8th graders
- New England Overnight Camp
 - Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA
 - July 10th – July 14th
 - Open to all advanced 5th – 8th graders
- Future Aces New England
 - University of Massachusetts at Amherst
 - July 23rd to July 26th
 - Recommendation required for elite 5th – 8th graders

You can visit www.trilogylacrosse.com for more details and registration. The “Aces” requires coach recommendation. But for all three, your town program can benefit with a town referral. So if interested, please start by talking with your town director. They have instructions from the league on how to officially nominate players and receive rewards that go back into the operation of your town program.

MBYLL Endorsed Organizations

Our league has put our “stamp of approval” on three other organizations who offer “Off-season” opportunities. Our Endorsed clubs are organizations who not only support community-based town lacrosse in the spring (i.e. YOUR town program), but also actively help shape this league in both service and support.

- HGR Lacrosse
- The New England Stars
- Seven Hills Lacrosse

As a league, we are eager to find and endorse all the Massachusetts-based organizations who meet our criteria, help grow lacrosse through the support of town programs, and make contributions to our mission to “Teach, Grow, and Honor” the game.

But Consider This

For the health, safety, sanity, longevity, and future-success of our athletes, MBYLL also believes in the importance of the “Multi-Sport” athlete. No child should be playing (or doing) anything for 365 days a year. We strongly believe in the importance of town lacrosse in the spring, and fully endorse a number of organizations who offer some wonderful experiences in the “off season.” But at some point, the players should hang up their cleats and put their stick away for a brief time to take-up another activity, sport, or interest.

They will be less likely to experience “athlete burn-out,” will find inspiration and motivation to improve their Lacrosse skills by tying in concepts from other sports (basketball and lacrosse are particularly compatible), and future coaches (high school and collegiate) absolutely love multi-sport athletes.

Enjoy A Lot of Lacrosse

Between your remaining game schedule, the NCAA Championships, The Boston Cannons (whose home opener is tomorrow at Harvard University), an always exciting MIAA Tournament where the former

MBYLL players from your town are competing for state championships, and our 24th Annual Mass Bay Jamboree... there is a LOT of lacrosse left before the summer even begins.

Enjoy it and stay active with us by sharing your experiences on social media!

(We love photos)

On behalf of the All-Volunteer Board of Directors,

Joey Picard, VP & Director of Communications, MBYLL