

Families of Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League,

With the Jamboree coming to an end earlier today, we have officially ended our 2017 Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League spring season. We are very honored to have been a part of your spring and that you've chosen to be a part of one of our town programs. We truly hope it was a special experience that brought great development, lots of positive memories, new friendships, and either a newly-found passion for lacrosse or an enhanced one.

To our graduating 8th graders:

Thank you for all you've given to your towns and teams. We wish you the very best of luck moving forward in high school and beyond. To the many of you who will continue to play this game at a high level, you will no doubt discover the intensity, the competition, and the pressure increase. And that's a good thing to embrace and find merit in. But please remember [arguably] the most important lesson from youth lacrosse: we participate in sports because it's fun. Keep it fun, build on old friendships, create new ones. Put-in the hard work that is required of you – but enjoy every minute. Everything else will fall into place.

We will be sending an important email to our rising high school freshmen this summer with information on the Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League Scholarship, awarded annually to a graduating youth player. We hope many of you apply.

To our returning youth athletes:

Have a terrific summer! Many of you will be playing for summer tournament teams or attending camps and clinics. Have a blast!

As a reminder, for the 2018 season, all MBYLL athletes must register with the league at www.mbyll.org. We will have our 2018 player registration open starting August 1st. The registration fee will include your required insurance as well as your league fee (not to be confused with your town fee which you must pay to your town program during town registration). Your towns will have more information for you later in the summer. Most of our towns hold their registrations later in the fall. You don't have to worry about it until then. Just putting it in your head now.

Why Town Lacrosse Matters:

Community-based youth lacrosse is not only important... it's critical for the development and growth of the athletes as well as the game of lacrosse itself. In the past decade and-a-half, lacrosse has been (and continues to be) the fastest-growing sport in America. The number of athletes starting this sport at U9 and U11 is genuinely very healthy. And while we know a number of players from each town will not continue all the way through 8th grade for a variety of reasons – most prominently because they choose another primary spring sport or activity – it is our ultimate goal to keep as many athletes playing for their town-based youth program as we can.

Town-based youth lacrosse strengthens communities, emphasizes teaching & development, prioritizes affordability and inclusivity, and allows kids to be kids – playing alongside other kids from their town and schools in an atmosphere that builds character and camaraderie.

Keeping dedicated and passionate athletes in their towns in the spring not only improves the experience for all athletes in that town, but truly serves to foster the critical leadership qualities in these future leaders.

The volunteers of Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League are passionately and unapologetically pro-town lacrosse: YOUR town lacrosse program. We truly hope you see the value of the community-based model and are proud to play for your town and will continue to do so. We are certainly very proud to do our part in helping to administer a league that brings so many diverse and vibrant town programs together each spring. It really is our pleasure and our privilege.

Wishing you all a terrific summer and offering endless thanks to all our athletes, coaches, officials, town leaders, families, friends, and supporters for this remarkable group effort to remain one of the nation's leaders in community-based youth lacrosse.

On behalf of the all-volunteer Board of Directors,

Thank you & good luck!

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