

Dear NCJLA Club Presidents, U13, U15 and High School coaches –

We are excited to announce the NCJLA sponsored travel team opportunities for boys for 2010. This year we will have more teams and tournaments than ever for our players to participate in, and we strongly encourage all clubs to nominate players to participate on these teams. The overwhelming response we get from past participants is that these programs are the highlight of their lacrosse careers to date, and are a great chance to enhance their skills and meet new friends from all around the Bay Area who share their love for the game. Great coaching, great competition, and great friendships are what make the NorCal Travel team experience such a positive element of our program. We are **looking for the best youth lacrosse players in Northern California to join these teams and represent our region.**

This year the NCJLA is sponsoring three major programs in concert with US Lacrosse sponsored national events:

U15 National Team – Orlando July 19th-22nd

Doug Appleton and Mike Emerson are again leading a team to participate in the US Lacrosse U15 National Championships. This team will compete in the National Tournament in Orlando in mid-July. Tryouts for this team are by invitation only. You should express your interest in this team via the web site indicated below. Doug and his team will select 40 players to tryout, and select 22 for the team. This year, the U15 National team will allow 9th graders who still fit within the age-based U15 definition to participate on the team, so it will be extremely competitive.

Doug has attached a flyer describing the Orlando team in more detail.

U15 Festival Teams (2) – Lake George, NY – June 18th-20th 2010

U13 Festival Teams (2) – Kings Island, Ohio – June 11th-13th, 2010

Bill Glazier is again leading several teams to participate in the US Lacrosse Festivals in mid-June. We will select two teams (Blue and Gold) for each Festival – so 44 players from each of the age groups to participate in these very popular national celebrations of lacrosse. Tryouts for the Festival teams are open – i.e. anyone nominated by their coach can tryout.

Bill has [set up a website to describe the Festival teams for 2010](#) in more detail.

Each of these teams is really more than just a single tournament. The NorCal Travel teams have really evolved into a year round opportunity to play lacrosse in local, regional and national tournaments at a very high level. Last year, all of the NorCal travel teams participated in additional tournaments, including the Palm Desert Lax Classic in November. We anticipate playing additional tournaments in the summer and fall.

Selection Process and Tryouts

Selection to these teams is competitive. We always get far more applications than we have spaces. That said, we **strongly encourage people from new programs and players in every league (A, B1, and B2) to consider trying out.** Last year we had a record number of clubs (over 25) send players on one of the travel teams. For the Festival teams in 2009, roughly ½ the players were from A level teams, and the other half were B level teams.

Tryouts begin in late March. **The U15 team tryouts are on March 28th at the fields at Treasure Island.** From 9AM-12PM will be the U15 National team tryouts, and from 1-5PM will be the U15 Festival team tryouts. **The U13 Tryouts will be in early April** at a date to be announced.

In order to be considered for any of these programs, a player must complete the following **required** steps:

- 1) Fill out the [Player Registration](#) form (this is the same form whether you are seeking to be on the U15 or U13 teams)
- 2) Have your coach officially nominate you and fill out a [Coach Recommendation form](#).
- 3) If you are trying out for the Festival teams (U13 or U15), you must [register for the tryouts](#) at Sportability. There is a \$25 fee for the tryouts to cover field expenses.

For those who apply to tryout for the U15 National team: if you are not selected to tryout (invitations to tryout will be posted on March 18th), you will have the opportunity to register and tryout for the U15 Festival teams. If you are selected to tryout and do NOT make the team, you will be eligible for the U15 Festival team if you remain interested (you do not need to stay the entire day for the Festival tryouts since Festival coaches will watch the Nation team tryouts as well).

Once you register you will receive more details about the programs and the requirements for participation. We are also aware of several tournaments and private travel teams that are forming that may also represent travel opportunities for our players, so are glad to know that more NCJLA players than ever will have the opportunity to compete this summer.

In summary, we strongly encourage Clubs to nominate players to participate on these teams. The process of trying out and getting exposure to the great talent we have here is a worthwhile reason alone to check it out. For those who are selected, it will be a first class experience.

For more questions, please get in touch with Bill Glazier at wglazier@sbcglobal.net or Doug Appleton at doug@talonlacrosse.com. The sooner players get their registrations and nominations in, the sooner we can begin to understand their capabilities and begin the challenging work of selecting the teams. Please try if at all possible to nominate all your players by March 14th.

Regards,

Blake Abbate

Boys Director, NCJLA

