



2019 Mars Youth Lacrosse Spring Season Registration Memo

WWW.MARSLAX.ORG

Introduction

For its eleventh season, the Mars Youth Lacrosse Association will offer boys who are in grades Kindergarten thru 8th (see “Player Age Eligibility” below) the opportunity to learn and play the great game of lacrosse. It is anticipated that for 2019 we will have two teams at each grade level; K-2nd, 3rd-4th, 5th-6th, and 7th-8th. If we have enough players, coaches, volunteers and fields, we will consider adding additional teams at each level.

Youth lacrosse plays under the rules and governance of the Western Pennsylvania Youth Lacrosse Association (WPYLA). WPYLA is structured such that K-2nd, 3rd-4th and 5th-6th grade teams are primarily considered “developmental,” and the emphasis is on instruction rather than competition (*i.e.* all participants who regularly come to practice will get plenty of playing time). You should not be concerned if your child lacks experience as many of the Mars participants will be introduced to lacrosse for the first time, and the same will be true for much of our competition, particularly at the K-2nd and 3rd-4th grade levels.

The current plan is to have one 7th-8th grade team designated as a “competitive” team and one 7th-8th grade team designated as “developmental.” If your son is a returning player, then you may elect to have him considered for the competitive team. Playing time and positions on the competitive squad will be based largely on the needs of the team. Parents should understand that body checks will be permitted for all teams at the 7th-8th grade level. Also, there is a greater likelihood that opponents will have players with multiple years of lacrosse experience.

All registration will be on-line at www.marslax.org. Registration will be coordinated by Sherri McEwen and you may email any questions to sherrimcewen@hotmail.com

Team Size

To ensure that each participant (who regularly attends practice) receives significant playing time, the number of roster spots on a team may be limited to no more than 23. Rosters will be filled on a first come basis, and a waiting list will be created in the event all spots are filled. If openings become available, either by attrition or by the addition of a team, additional roster spots will be filled beginning with those on the waiting list.

Registration

Register online at www.marslax.org

Nov. 5th: Registration opens for new and returning players (Early Bird discount of \$25 available for Early Bird registration between Nov. 5th and Nov. 30th)

Nov. 30th: Early Bird Registration ends

You can obtain registration materials on our website (www.marslax.org).

Practices & Games.

K-8th grades: Outdoor/indoor practices will start in early March or as weather and field conditions permit and run through late May/early June.

It is currently anticipated that outdoor practices will be held at Treesdale, Adam's Township Fields, Mars Athletic Complex, and the Mars New Turf Field. Pending field availability, coaches hope to hold two or three practices each week. Practice dates and times will likely be announced in February. Coaches will expect regular attendance at practice, particularly at 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade levels.

Games for the season are scheduled starting in December.

K-2nd: Typically play 4-6 play days (multiple programs in attendance)

3rd-4th: Typically play a minimum of 10 games

5th-8th: Typically play 10-12 games

We will attempt to schedule mostly weekend games; however, depending on field availability of other programs, we anticipate the need to schedule weekday games. Home games will most likely be played on Saturday afternoons. Likely opponents are Pine Richland, Butler, Seneca Valley, North Allegheny, Hampton, South Fayette and Upper Saint Clair.

US Lacrosse Membership

A membership with US Lacrosse, the sport's national governing body, is **MANDATORY** since Mars Youth Lacrosse, its players, coaches and all officials receive insurance coverage from US Lacrosse. Annual membership cost is \$30 per person, which is a separate cost from the Registration Fees, and is paid directly to US Lacrosse. If you played last year, you must renew your membership.

Registration or renewal with US Lacrosse may now be completed during the Mars Lacrosse on-line registration process. You will not be able to complete registration for Mars Lacrosse without a current US Lacrosse Membership.

Fees

K-2nd Fees:

\$100 per child (Early Bird registration by November 30th is \$75.) No sibling discounts apply. Game shorts provided with registration fees.

3rd-4th Grade Fees:

\$175 per child (Early Bird registration by November 30th is \$150. \$50 discount per subsequent child other than K-2nd) Uniform shorts are included for new players. Returning players can purchase a new pair of shorts for \$25 at registration.

5th-8th Grade Fees:

\$225 for your first child (Early Bird registration by November 30th is \$200. \$50 discount per subsequent child other than K-2nd) Uniform shorts are included for new players. Returning players can purchase a new pair of shorts for \$25 at registration.

All players must have a full uniform to participate in games.

Additionally, for all age groups, there is a **\$50 game jersey deposit**, which should be made in the form of a check dated **June 1, 2019**. This check will be cashed only if your son's game jersey is not returned to Mars Youth Lacrosse by July 1, 2019. Participants will be permitted to keep practice pinnies and game shorts for no additional fee.

All checks should be made payable to “Mars Youth Lacrosse Association” and sent to:

Mars Youth Lacrosse
c/o Jim McKenzie
4007 Old Orchard Way
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Refund Policy

If you decide after registering that your child will not join the team, 75% of the Registration Fee will be refunded if the request is made in writing prior to January 1, 2019; 50% of the Registration Fee will be refunded if the request is made in writing after January 1, 2019 but before February 1, 2019. No refund will be issued if the request is made after February 1, 2019.

Fundraising

We are always appreciative of donations from the community and, as a recognized tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, donations to the Mars Youth Lacrosse Association are tax deductible. We anticipate holding our Mulch Madness fundraising drive at the start of our Spring season. We will be looking for parents to volunteer their time as well as their great ideas for raising money. For questions regarding fundraising opportunities, please contact John Salvini at John_Salvini@ultimatesoftware.com.

Parent Involvement

All parents are expected to participate as a volunteer. This is our 11th year, and the only way this program will continue to thrive will be if we have participation from nearly everyone. We need volunteers to assist with field maintenance/setup, scorekeeping, timekeeping, and photography. We will also seek a “Team Manager” for each team to assist with volunteer coordination. If you have questions regarding volunteering, please direct them to Sallie Paracca, who is our Member Elected Director and volunteer coordinator, at Starr3@zoominternet.net.

Coaching

We are lucky to have a number of coaches with lacrosse experience for this season, however, we are interested in hearing from you (regardless of whether or not you have lacrosse experience) if you have any interest in coaching. We will provide coaches with both formal and informal training to help them learn the rules as well as the requisite skills. Please contact Brad Saver at BradSaver@gmail.com if you are interested in coaching the Alien Attack.

Equipment

Boys are required to have a stick and a full complement of equipment: helmet (Navy is preferred), shoulder pads, gloves, arm pads, mouthpiece, cup and cleats. Rib pads are recommended. Some helmets can be used as your son grows as they are adjustable. Equipment can be purchased locally or on-line. For more detailed information please see the Equipment Memo on the documents tab of www.marslax.org.

Player Age Eligibility

For Spring 2019, teams will be based on the age table below. **All new players** will be responsible for submitting a birth certificate. You will be able to scan and submit the birth certificate during on-line registration or it can be mailed with your payment. If you have submitted a birth certificate in the past, there is no need to provide it again, we have it saved in our system.

Current Grade	Graduation Year
7 th – 8 th	2023-2024
5 th – 6 th	2025-2026
3 rd – 4 th	2027-2028
Kindergarten – 2 nd	2029-2031

We are extremely excited to introduce this exhilarating sport to your child! We understand that lacrosse may be new to you, so don't hesitate to ask lots of questions—we promise our patience. Likewise, as this is only our eleventh season, we are all continuing to learn as well—and we ask for your patience. Thanks for your interest in Mars Youth Lacrosse!

Mars Youth Lacrosse Association Board