

State of
MAYLA

2011

This season-end summary is a synopsis of happenings past and those that will impact Milwaukee Area Youth Lacrosse Association's future.

Moving
toward the
future!

The State of MAYLA

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that the 2011 season is over. After dealing with the typical Wisconsin spring weather and so many canceled, then rescheduled games, the second half of the season seemed to pass by in blur! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable season and saw growth in all your players, both on and off the field.

The purpose of this letter is to inform all of you of the changes MAYLA has seen in the last few months. While many great things happened for MAYLA, the board also acknowledges that there were many issues this past season. The board understands there are some critical changes that must be made for next season and beyond; and we're already working toward those goals. Going forward, MAYLA feels it is important to take the necessary steps in order to keep up with our growth and expansion as well as to provide the best service and functionality for all.

I apologize for the length of this document, but we have much to share. Print a copy, pour a refreshing drink, settle in your favorite deck chair and read away! The following topics will be covered: Growth of Lacrosse, Website, Declaring Teams and Scheduling, Board of Directors (BOD), By-laws, Dues, Tax issues, Post-season meetings for all levels, Current BOD "Hot topics".

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Mary DiGiacomo
MAYLA President

Continued Growth of Lacrosse

In the ten years since MAYLA's inception, we continue to see local growth of the sport with two new boys and one girls program added at the high school level. A varsity team was added for boys due to expansion of an existing program. Two programs added girls youth teams and one expanded by two new teams for the boys level. Already in the works for next year are potential new programs in West

Bend, Kenosha, and Mukwonago at the youth level for boys. Several programs are looking at adding girls' youth, including Mukwonago, Waukesha and Northshore. At the high school boys' level, Franklin, Catholic Memorial and USM plan to add a second team. Mukwonago and USM plan to add a second girls' team.

It is so exciting to see the growth of our favorite game and to see more and more kids getting hooked on the sport! Here's our growth since 2009 for MAYLA High School Programs:

High School Program	2009 Boys	2009 Girls	2011 Boys	2011 Girls
Arrowhead	73	67	75	92
Brookfield	76	40	*NR	44
Catholic Memorial			21	
Franklin			23	
Heritage Christian	27		23	
Kenosha	26		30	
Kettle Moraine	53	25	57	32
Lakeshore	0		52	
Marquette	85		94	
Milwaukee Eastside	25		0	
Milwaukee Northshore	27		0	
Milwaukee Westside	15		0	
Mukwonago			40	21
Oconomowoc				24
SJNMA			*NR	
University School	32	20	34	38
Waukesha	30	21	43	24
TOTAL	469	173	492	275

*NR indicates numbers that have not been reported yet.

2009 Total MAYLA High School Participation: 642

2011 Total MAYLA High School Participation: 767

US Lacrosse High School Membership 2010: 255,314

MAYLA Youth Programs have seen significant growth during this same time period:

Youth Program	2009 Boys	2009 Girls	2011 Boys	2011 Girls
Blazers	25		20	
Brookfield	54		86	
Heritage Christian			16	
Kettle Moraine	54		100	35
Lake Country	83		116	50
North Shore	54		*NR	
Ozaukee			167	
Shorewood			48	
SJNMA			*NR	
Waukesha	58		65	
TOTAL	328		618	85

*NR indicates numbers that have not been reported yet.

2009 Total MAYLA Youth Participation: 328

2011 Total MAYLA Youth Participation: 703

US Lacrosse Youth Membership 2010: 324,673

Total MAYLA Participation for 2009: 970

Total MAYLA Participation for 2011: 1470

Wow! And this sport has plenty of room left to grow!

Coaches' Education

MAYLA received the PCA/US Lacrosse grant again this year and was able to Host three PCA workshops above and beyond those sponsored by WLF. New this year was the addition of workshops geared toward parents and team captains. Those who attended of these programs offered praise. One of our coordinators was so thrilled with the program for parents that she was going to refer her school district to provide such workshops for parents of all the athletes!

MAYLA also offered two additional US Lacrosse Coaches Education Program clinics. WLF decided to hold a Level 1 clinic in the fall of 2010. However, I know from past years, that there are always many new coaches that are recruited much later in the season that would benefit from the required Level 1 clinic prior to their first year as coach. US Lacrosse was contacted on MAYLA'S behalf to plead

our case and ask if they would consider hosting a second Level 1 clinic in WI. They agreed to allow this and we had 45 new coaches in attendance at a late March clinic! Wow! The November Level 2 clinic provided advanced instruction and training to 50 coaches. MAYLA is happy to be able to offer these great instructional programs to the benefit of our coaching staffs, but ultimately the kids learning to play this great game! We are still looking at the possibility of offering additional training sessions for boys and girls coaches this coming fall.

Website – New!

Stark Media has updated MAYLA's website to a new and improved format. Most of the information remains the same, with some updates. Stark Media is still looking for high resolution photos of players throughout MAYLA. As you were notified last spring, each program has a log-on access code so you are able to update the team description, contact information, field location, etc. I understand that there were issues with the posting of game results on the website this year. Most of those problems went away once Gerry Salceda became the Website coordinator and coaches emailed the scores to him. MAYLA will continue to seek out more efficient ways to post the original schedules, game results and rescheduled games before the beginning of the 2012 season.

Declaring Teams & Scheduling

The November 1st deadline to declare new and returning teams was a new timeline this past year. I had presented this idea to the Board one year ago, in hopes that teams could be formed over the summer or the early fall months with programs holding registrations in October. Several MAYLA programs already hold fall registrations. The Board was skeptical to this approach considering the growth of lacrosse in our area and due to the fact that many teams have come on board later in the pre-season planning. My suggestion was to have any later-forming, new teams who would come in at the JV level, schedule their own games. The impetus behind all this was to be able to have a schedule that would be available by November 30. I felt that this approach would allow teams plenty of time to schedule their non-conference games, work around various conflicts, and secure fields for their game dates. I am disappointed to say that my plan did not work for this year! Many programs did not hold registrations until late winter. Petitions from teams regarding levels of play were received by the board, so until a

determination was made, these teams could not be scheduled. There were teams that were unsure of the number of teams that they could put on the schedule and therefore would not declare the levels of play. Other teams has issues with securing fields, which delayed scheduling while waiting to receive available home game play dates . In the end, there were too many teams involved and too many unknowns to move forward with an earlier schedule. However, if you do not succeed the first time, we try again! So, with this June reminder, MAYLA is requesting that all HS boys and girls teams plan any recruiting over the summer and early fall. This is the perfect time to do that! If you know of new programs starting up or someone interested in starting a new program, please share this information with them and refer them to the appropriate level director or the current Executive Director.

All programs and teams will be declared by November 1, 2011. There will be no exceptions! Any petitions or requests for variances in level of play will also be due no later than November 1, 2011. The Board will address those requests by November 15, 2011. Then a schedule will be produced based on the teams declared, with an expected release date of November 30, 2011. Of course, MAYLA will not discourage any later forming teams; however, these teams will likely have to schedule their own games, with MAYLA league games having priority for referees.

Referee/Umpire

The shortage of officials continues to be an ongoing issue, especially as we add more teams and games and then have so many weather related re-scheduling issues to compound the problem. Although it is now the responsibility of the officials organizations, Badger Local Umpiring Board (BLUB) and WI Lacrosse Officials Association (WILOA), to recruit, train and retain officials as mandated by WLF, MAYLA is aware of the concerns and will continue to work proactively with these organizations and WLF to ensure that we will not have the same issues with a lack of officials for the 2012 season.

Board of Directors

Many changes have occurred on the MAYLA Board this past year:

Treasurer

Joe Botticelli had announced last fall, that he was considering stepping down as treasurer if a replacement could be found. Robin Buckley approached Curt Disrud to ask if he would fill that role. Curt volunteered his services and was approved by the BOD to replace Joe when a formal resignation and effective date was received by the BOD. Joe wished to complete the budget process that had already begun, and had requested to present it to MAYLA prior leaving the position. On January 30, 2011, he announced that he would be resigning as of March 1, 2011. This was to provide a time period for meetings and transfer of information.

Secretary

Laurie Belmer resigned as Secretary in October 2010. MAYLA was without a Secretary for several months until Emily Anderson volunteered for that position. She was approved for the position by the BOD in February.

President

In March, Robin Buckley resigned as President, but continued in his role of Executive Director. After nominations were received, I was approved by the BOD and accepted the MAYLA President's position.

Girls HS Youth Director

At about this same time, Jerry Nikolaus resigned from his position as Girls HS Director. This position remains open.

Youth Director

After many years, Ken Stark resigned from his position as Youth Director, while retaining his position as Vice-President. Due to growth, the position was divided into two so that both boys and girls would now have individual directors.

While the current Bylaws of MAYLA stipulate that the Board should fill any vacancies or new positions for remainder of the terms, open nominations were sought. The MAYLA BOD currently consists of the following 8 voting members:

President: Mary DiGiacomo

Vice-President: Ken Stark

Secretary: Emily Anderson

Treasurer: Curt Disrud
Boys HS Director: Rich Pruszynski
Girls HS Director: Open
Boys Youth Director: Keven Ringgold
Girls Youth Director: Jeannine Chatham

Robin Buckley is the current Executive Director and does not hold voting rights as a contracted employee of the MAYLA board. An annual contract is considered by the Board in the fall of each year for this position. The board has discussed the job description for this position and may be changing this job title to “League Commissioner” in the near future.

Also added to the list of MAYLA positions was Website coordinator position, which was filled by Gerry Salceda. Gerry does not hold voting rights.

Awards

US Lacrosse and WLF Man of the Year: Congratulations to Ken Stark on being name the US Lacrosse Man of the Year for the Wisconsin Chapter of US Lacrosse. Ken has worked for the past ten years at the local, conference and state level. He has personally started three separate youth programs and the Heritage Christian HS program. Ken has served on both the MAYLA and WLF boards in various capacities as well as serving on many committees. He continues to champion for the growth of the sport and seeks out innovative ways to accommodate that growth.

MAYLA Girls:

Coch of the Year: Sam Adey, University School Milwaukee
JV/Assistant Coch of the Year: Steve Meyer, Arrowhead High School

MAYLA Boys:

Coch of the Year: Erin Ennis, Arrowhead High School
Assistant Coch of the Year: Adam Caccamise, Marquette University High School
JV Coch of the Year: Eric Fernandez, Franklin

By-laws

Committees of MAYLA have been working towards a revision of the current by-laws to include a nominating and election process since August 2010, when former Board member, JoAnn Bahr volunteered to help with this project. In the interest of fairness and diversity, two more volunteers were assigned to this committee by the board: Curt Disrud and Emily Anderson. All were very qualified and had much prior experience with By-laws and Board operation. (attorney, former school board president, and CPA). Following completion of this revision, a full election was planned, anticipated for October or November of 2010. However, the committee was delayed due to various individual family crises. When JoAnn found it necessary to step down in late January, a call was put out for a replacement at the Annual Meeting. There were many volunteers that showed interested in serving on this committee. Literally overnight, the committee grew from a proposed three member, Board-appointed committee, to a nine member committee. The BOD did not have knowledge as to who the members of the committee were, and they began work of drafting new By-laws and a complete re-organization of MAYLA. While this committee did work diligently and came up with many good ideas, as time passed some members overstepped the bounds of the committees' purpose and goals, so this committee was disbanded at a special meeting of the BOD several weeks later.

Another call for volunteers yielded a five member committee, chaired by Vice-President Ken Stark. Several members from the first committee were included so as not to lose all the previous work and knowledge. This committee has presented the Board with a drafted document and the BOD is currently awaiting the accompanying Policy and Procedure document for review. It is our hope that this work will be completed as soon as possible. Elections will then be held as outlined by the by-laws.

Highlights of the new proposed by-laws include a change in the definition of the MAYLA membership. The proposal would include each program (by gender and HS/youth level) as one voting member for the annual Board of Director elections and budget approval. For example, KM had boys/girls HS and boys/girls youth and therefore would receive a total of 4 votes. This model was just approved at the June WLF BOD meeting, where MAYLA constituents voted unanimously in favor of the by-law change. Another proposed change would be term limits for MAYLA Board members.

As lacrosse continues to grow in Wisconsin, we will be seeing more definitive rules and regulations stemming from the WLF in an effort to provide consistency

between the conferences. These WLF rules and regulations will supersede any determined by MAYLA. I have requested that the WLF address the procedures for All-Conference nominations and voting, provide definitions, guidelines, voting procedures that would be used statewide for consistency prior to the All-State selections.

Tax Issues

When Curt Disrud took over the role of MAYLA Treasurer, his background as a CPA, afforded him the knowledge and expertise to discover that for many years, MAYLA had not filed the appropriate tax returns as is required by tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) status. As a result of these findings, MAYLA is currently working with the accounting firm Wegner LLP, CPAs and Consultants, non-profit specialists, to rectify the errors.

Dues

Team Dues were reduced by \$50 for 2011 and it is MAYLA's intention that there will be a further reduction for the 2012 season.

Youth Rules

Keven Ringgold, the new Youth Director, held a pre-season meeting for all coaches and program administrators to discuss the rules of the youth game and where variances existed from the NFHS youth rules. Sid Flanders was present as a representative of the officials' organization and was responsible for sharing all information with fellow officials. The purpose was to have consistent rules from both the coaches and referees standpoint. For the most part we had excellent attendance from coaches at all levels of the youth programs. However, there were programs that did not have any representatives present and then confusion ensued on game days. MAYLA encourages at least one representative from each program to attend meetings and share the information. Keven circulated a Youth Rules document to all programs.

Post –Season Meetings

Each director, at every level, will have a post season meeting to include the Head Coach (or assistant if Head is unavailable) and the Program Administrator from each program. These representatives are invited to attend their respective meeting in order to provide a forum to hear comments for things that are going well and also areas for improvement. We are only considering this as a small part of an overall assessment of MAYLA with the hope that together we can provide the best lacrosse experience possible for the young players and members that we are serving.

I have taken the time and have personally spoken with many of MAYLA's program administrators and school Athletic Directors in this post-season to aid in the future planning.

We look forward to seeing you in attendance.

More "Hot Topics" for 2011

- Sportsmanship Code of conduct for Coaches, including sanctions. This is being drafted by Rich Pruszynski and is a work in progress.
- WLF changes to HS boys' and girls' season and post-season play – WLF spelled out definitive dates that HS teams could start practice and hold try-outs. While waivers were given out in 2011 to those teams who had invested funds in renting indoor space prior to the establishment of the new guidelines, that will not be the case moving forward. Teams are not allowed to hold try-outs during Captain's Practice sessions. All teams were required to have completed 10 practices before participating in their first scrimmage of the year. WLF Rules and Regulations Committee will be addressing sanctions for those teams that do not comply with the guidelines.
- WLF Concussion Policy – WLF Board approved a concussion policy and this was passed down to all conferences and teams. It is also posted on WLF and MAYLA websites.