



March 8, 2010

Dear Coaches and Parents,

Recently the AYLL board of directors voted and approved AYLL Rule 11 (AYLL Bylaws, Exhibit A, Section 11) to read:

**“U-6<sup>th</sup> Programs shall have players who attend the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or below. Junior high school programs shall have players who attend the 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and, where the program’s head coach deems it appropriate for any specific player, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. High school programs shall have players who attend the 12<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Following the conclusion of the JHS season, and only in specific cases where a high school program’s head coach deems it appropriate, a player who attends the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and who has completed junior high school season play, may, upon the written recommendation of his junior high school team head coach, accepted by the appropriate high school team head coach, play for the particular high school program for which that player would be eligible if he were attending 9<sup>th</sup> grade at that time; provided that such player must first be re-registered to do so by the appropriate high school program’s head coach, and provided that doing so shall not establish or determine such player’s team eligibility at the time such player actually attends the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above. For purposes of this provision, the class grade, not the age of the player, is the relevant criteria for distinguishing between playing in a high school, junior high school, or U-6<sup>th</sup> program. The restrictions of this provision apply to all games, scrimmages and practices.”**

In short, we have approved, on a case by case basis, at the conclusion of the AYLL JHS season, the ability for select 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are both physically and mentally prepared to participate in high school lacrosse. This is not an invitation to have every 8<sup>th</sup> grader “move-up” to their high school program ahead of time, or fill a void, but rather an opportunity to further the development of select players who are skilled and physically developed beyond their age.

We ask that the decision to move an 8<sup>th</sup> grader up to high school lacrosse not be taken lightly. When in doubt, we ask that you err on the side of caution--keeping the safety of the player in the forefront of the discussion and decision. It is important that each of us to hold ourselves to the highest of standards regarding this issue. The AYLL encourages open dialogue between the coach, the player and the player's family to ensure the right decision is made. The AYLL views this opportunity as a privilege which, if abused, will be revoked in favor of keeping players safe.

Players will be required to play on the High School team that they would normally participate in per AYLL boundaries as if they were already in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We do realize that some programs are closed to participants not attending their school. As a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, the player must play for their appropriate HS team per AYLL boundary requirements, regardless of where they played as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. There will be no grandfathering in future years as a result of the player's participation as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader.

The following steps must be taken in order for an 8<sup>th</sup> grader to participate in HS lacrosse:

1. The player's JHS head coach must recommend, in writing to the appropriate HS head coach, that the player be allowed to "play up."
2. The player and his parents / guardian must meet with the head coach and team administrator of the respective HS program to clearly communicate the differences between HS and JHS lacrosse, including but not limited to the increased level of physical play.
3. Player must upgrade his current US Lacrosse membership level from a "Youth" player to that of a "High School" player. \$10 upgrade fee, or \$35 renewal. A player MUST NOT participate in practices or games prior to upgrading his membership level.
4. Player must re-register with the AYLL, on-line, for the HS program. A copy of the registration will be sent to the HS program's head coach, who must confirm his approval for player to participate with the respective high school program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the AYLL board of directors.

Sincerely,

AYLL Board of Directors