

MPA Report on 2013 Season

Summary

Growth of lacrosse

- Collegiate level – recent new teams promote the sport
- Youth & middle school – continued strong growth
- Scholastic – steady in 2013, but new teams on horizon

Scheduling games

- Scheduling
 - 45% of MPA games on Wed & Sat – lower than previous years

Association & assigning

- Membership
 - Recruitment & training ~ 74 members; up slightly
 - Attrition ~ 15-20% of membership per year
- Geographic distribution ~ 10-15% of membership per year
- Experience level – shortages below Kennebunk & above Lewiston
- Assigning objectives – one indicator of capability
 - 45% over 5 years
 - 30% under 2 years
- Assigning objectives – current assigning priorities
 - One experienced official as Referee on every varsity game
 - Minimize repeat partners, to promote consistency & provide training
 - Minimize repeat trips to schools, to maintain objectivity
 - Control travel expense for remote schools

RECOMMENDATION – More SMAA / WMC weekday games away from Wednesdays

NFHS Rules Changes for 2014

- Continued emphasis on safety, with mandatory 2-3 minute penalties for blows to the head and for body checks to defenseless players
- Elimination of 20 seconds for substitution after sideline out of bounds
- Recommendation for 3-man officiating crews

MPA Report on 2013 Season

Growth of lacrosse

Games Played Level of Play	League none	CCC	SMMSAC	BA	MAISAD	KVAC	SMAA	WMC	MPA	Total
Rec 3/4	88									88
Rec 5/6	135									135
Middle School	222	82	51							355
1st Team	1					7	14	5		27
JV	15				15	87	96	64		277
Tournament, JV					3					3
Play day	47									47
Exhibition / preseason	8				1	8	42	25		84
Varsity				3	25	98	91	68		285
Tournament					3	8	8	7		26
Championship					1				2	3
Total	516	82	51	3	48	208	251	169	2	1330

MLOA covered 1330 games in 2013, up from 1249 in 2012, up from 979 in 2011 and 802 in 2010. The growth has been primarily driven by recreation league and middle school games. ***This growth may result in more schools adding boys' lacrosse as a varsity sport.***

MLOA covered 630 MPA sanctioned freshman, JV and varsity games (shaded above), or 47% of non-collegiate lacrosse in Maine.

Quality of officiating

In 2012, MLOA implemented an observation program to provide constructive feedback to officials. In 2013, most officials were observed once pre-season and once during the season.

In 2013, MLOA required officials to join US Lacrosse, the national governing body, which has implemented multiple initiatives to improve officiating nationwide. MLOA's Chief Referee is a member of the USL Men's Officials Training Group, which creates standardized national training materials and develops nationally administered tests on NCAA, NFHS and Youth rules.

MPA Report on 2013 Season

Scheduling games

MPA Game Distribution

Games							
League	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
MAISAD	3	2	15	1	6	13	40
JV			7	1		7	15
Varsity	3	2	8		6	6	25
KVAC	16	42	47	10	64	13	192
1st Team		2	2	1	1	1	7
JV	9	18	20	5	28	7	87
Varsity	7	22	25	4	35	5	98
SMAA	23	14	71	28	22	43	201
1st Team	4		1	4	1	4	14
JV	11	7	35	13	11	19	96
Varsity	8	7	35	11	10	20	91
WMC	28	12	34	19	24	20	137
1st Team	3		1	1			5
JV	13	6	16	9	11	9	64
Varsity	12	6	17	9	13	11	68
Total	70	70	167	58	116	89	570

29% of the high school games were played on Wednesdays. This is down from 35% in 2012, due to the KVAC initiative to schedule varsity/JV on Tuesdays and Fridays. SMAA and WMC should be encouraged to follow suit.

On the busiest days (16 to 22 varsity games scheduled), some officials worked at multiple schools. Excessive travel is common on such days.

MPA Report on 2013 Season

Association and assigning

MLOA Membership

MLOA ended 2013 with 74 members, up from 64 at the end of 2011. However, not all were available due to injury and sea duty. MLOA trained 16 new officials. On busy days, we were still stretched very thin.

Experience level	Start 2011	End 2011	End 2012	End 2013
Over 5 years	34	31	30	31
5th year	8	8	1	6
4th year	1	1	8	6
3rd year	8	8	7	5
2nd year	8	8	9	10
1st year	9	8	13	16
Total officials	68	64	68	74

Ideally, an official should have 2-3 years of experience before receiving varsity assignments. Due to availability constraints and weather impacts, some 2nd year officials work varsity games.

MLOA has been training officials from other sports and lacrosse players as lacrosse officials. MLOA continues to recruit aggressively in the southern and midcoast areas, in order to make more officials available for schools on the geographic perimeter. Expansion towards Bangor will be a challenge.

Assigning

MLOA continued to balance competing assignment priorities. In particular, we sought to have officials see more different teams and officials, without unduly increasing mileage.

Experienced Referee on every game

Every varsity game is a “big” game for the players on the field and an experienced Referee is needed to control behavior. Until more Varsity games are moved away from Wed & Sat, few games will receive two “Referee caliber” officials.

Frequency of officials working at schools

Having any official see a particular team too many times can create problems between the official and the coach. The distribution of officials across teams was similar to 2012.

Frequency of officials working together

To promote consistency of officiating across the association, MLOA again attempted to have senior officials work with a greater number of partners than in previous years.

Management of mileage costs

To reduce mileage costs, the same pair of officials are routinely assigned to both Varsity and JV games played at more remote schools.