

MPA Report on 2014 Season

Summary

Growth of lacrosse

- Collegiate level – stable
- Youth & middle school – steady growth = slots for new officials
- Scholastic – steady in 2014, but new teams pending

Scheduling games

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 - 38% of MPA games on Wed & Sat – smoothest distribution ever – THANKS!

Association & assigning

- Membership ~ 84 members; up 10
 - Recruitment & training ~ 15-20% of membership per year
 - Attrition ~ 10-15% of membership per year
- Geographic distribution – shortages below Kennebunk & above Lewiston
- Experience level – one indicator of capability
 - 42% over 5 years
 - 42% under 2 years – strong recruiting past few 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

NFHS Rules Changes for 2015

- Defense may restart with ball inside goal area or inside crease
- Restrictions on hanging and shooting strings on crosses
- Dive (feigning a foul) rule implemented
- ***Beware discounted lacrosse balls that lack the mandatory NOCSAE stamp***

MLOA's Rob Pfeiffer Award

- Awarded to a coach who exemplifies sportsmanship and partnership with officials
- 2014 recipient is Don Glover of Brunswick High School

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Growth of lacrosse

Games Played Level of Play	League none	MBYLA	CCC	SMMSAC	BA	MAISAD	KVAC	SMAA	WMC	MPA	Total
Rec 3/4		100									100
Rec 5/6	5	183									188
Middle School	233		96	87							416
1st Team	2						3	14	7		26
JV	62					25	91	83	71		332
Tournament, JV						2					2
Play day	44										44
Exhibition / preseason	6					7	17	34	22		86
Varsity					4	27	100	84	72		287
Tournament						2	9	7	9		27
Championship						1				2	3
Total	327	308	96	87	4	64	220	222	181	2	1511

MLOA covered 1511 games in 2014, up from 1330 in 2013 and 802 in 2010. The growth has been at the recreational youth and middle school levels. Consequently, new officials are able to learn their craft at lower levels of play.

This growth may result in more schools adding boys' lacrosse as a varsity sport. 64 games (beige shaded above) were scheduled by rising programs, including AR Gould, Bangor, Erskine, Lawrence, Somerset area, Sanford and Winslow.

MLOA covered 625 MPA sanctioned freshman, JV and varsity games (green shaded above), or 41% of non-collegiate lacrosse in Maine. This should increase as rising programs are approved for Varsity competition.

Quality of officiating

In 2012, MLOA implemented an observation program to provide constructive feedback to officials. In 2014, most officials were observed once pre-season and once during the season. Observations continued throughout the MPA tournament.

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 Mens' Officials Training Group, which creates standardized national training materials and develops national tests on NCAA, NFHS and Youth rules.

18 MLOA members are currently certified to officiate at the collegiate level, including 4 at the NCAA Division 1 level. These members provide training and mentoring throughout MLOA's ranks. They are typically assigned as Referee on Varsity contests.

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Scheduling games

MPA Game Distribution

Games Played								
League	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
MAISAD	1	4	1	17	4	9	16	52
JV			1	10	2	4	8	25
Varsity	1	4		7	2	5	8	27
KVAC		24	30	49	25	41	25	194
1st Team		2	1					3
JV		12	14	23	12	18	12	91
Varsity		10	15	26	13	23	13	100
SMAA		27	30	34	24	35	31	181
1st Team		1	4	1	3	1	4	14
JV		13	13	16	11	17	13	83
Varsity		13	13	17	10	17	14	84
WMC		3	43	20	16	42	26	150
1st Team		1	1	1	1	2	1	7
JV		1	21	9	8	20	12	71
Varsity		1	21	10	7	20	13	72
Total	1	58	104	120	69	127	98	577

21% of the high school games were played on Wednesdays, down from 29% in 2013 and 35% in 2012. Consequently, the number of extremely busy days has dropped significantly.

MLOA thanks the conferences (KVAC, SMAA & WMC) for their cooperation!

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Association and assigning

MLOA Membership

MLOA ended 2014 with 84 members, reflecting strong recruiting during the past 2 years. Our challenge is to improve retention of officials with 3 to 5 years of experience, in order to replace retiring senior officials for varsity contests.

Experience level	Start 2011	End 2011	End 2012	End 2013	End 2014
Over 5 years	34	31	30	31	35
5th year	8	8	1	6	6
4th year	1	1	8	6	4
3rd year	8	8	7	5	7
2nd year	8	8	9	10	14
1st year	9	8	13	16	18
Total officials	68	64	68	74	84

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 above Lewiston 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 manage behavioral issues and unusual circumstances.

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.