

# MPA Report on 2015 Season

## Summary

### Growth of lacrosse

- Collegiate level – stable
- Youth & middle school – significant growth = slots for new officials
- Scholastic – new teams offset by drop in JV and 1<sup>st</sup> Team

### Scheduling games

- Scheduling
  - Games well distributed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

### Association & assigning

- Membership
  - Recruitment & training ~ 84 members; up 10
  - Attrition ~ 15-20% of membership per year
- Geographic distribution ~ 10-15% of membership per year
- Experience level
  - shortages below Kennebunk & above Lewiston
  - one indicator of capability
- Assigning objectives
  - 46% over 5 years
  - 27% with 1 or 2 years
  - strong recruiting past few years
  - 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 2016

- Faceoff procedure changed to be consistent with college
- Over and back rule simplified (intent removed)
- Crosse dimensions changed (effective in 2018)

### MLOA's Rob Pfeiffer Award

- Awarded to a coach who exemplifies sportsmanship and partnership with officials
- 2015 recipient is Peter Gerrity of North Yarmouth Academy

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### Growth of lacrosse

Games Scheduled Level of Play	Leagues											Total
	none	MBYLA	CCC	SMMS	BA	MAISAD	KVAC	SMAA	WMC	MPA		
Rec 3/4	11	183							1			195
Rec 5/6	24	236										260
Middle School	273		105	87								465
Jamboree - Youth	5	15										20
Jamboree - JV	3	3					2					8
1st Team							4	7	3			14
JV	18	10				18	103	85	70			304
Tournament, JV						3						3
Play Day	48											48
Exhibition	2						10	39	22			73
Varsity					1	28	106	84	72			291
Tournament						2	10	7	9			28
Championship						1					2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1712</b>

MLOA covered 1712 games in 2015, up from 1511 in 2014, 1330 in 2013 and 802 in 2010. The growth has primarily been at the recreational youth and middle school levels. Consequently, new officials are able to learn their craft at lower levels of play.

There were 3 new varsity programs (Erskine Academy, Lawrence, Winslow). Mountain Valley dropped lacrosse entirely and Lincoln Academy only fielded a JV team. MCI/Nokomis also fielded a JV team. 34 games (beige shaded above) were scheduled by rising programs, including AR Gould, Bangor, Somerset area, and Sanford.

MLOA covered 636 MPA sanctioned freshman, JV and varsity games (green shaded above), or 37% of non-collegiate lacrosse in Maine. This should increase as lacrosse expands to the Bangor area.

### Quality of officiating

In 2012, MLOA implemented an observation program to provide constructive feedback to officials. In 2015, 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. All MLOA members must meet USL certification standards to officiate. Several MLOA members have also been certified by USL as trainers and observers.

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.

A previous MLOA President, Mark McInnis, worked the NCAA Division 2 national championship game in 2015.

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### Scheduling games

#### MPA Game Distribution

Games Played League / Level	Day						Total
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
MAISAD	8	2	14		6	11	41
JV	1	1	6		1	6	15
Varsity	7	1	8		5	5	26
KVAC	20	23	52	26	37	25	183
1st Team	1	1	1	1			4
JV	9	10	25	9	18	9	80
Varsity	10	12	26	16	19	16	99
SMAA	11	34	49	12	48	16	170
1st Team	2		2	3			7
JV	5	17	23	5	22	7	79
Varsity	4	17	24	4	26	9	84
WMC	5	45	21	12	25	25	133
1st Team	1					2	3
JV	1	22	9	5	10	11	58
Varsity	3	23	12	7	15	12	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>527</b>

There were 50 fewer high school level games played in 2015 than in 2014 (527 versus 577). This was due to lower 1<sup>st</sup> Team and JV participation and due to poor weather early in the season.

26% of the high school games were played on Wednesdays, compared with 21% in 2014, 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 2015 with 87 members, a slight increase. 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	End 2015
Over 5 years	34	31	30	31	35	39
5th year	8	8	1	6	6	5
4th year	1	1	8	6	4	8
3rd year	8	8	7	5	7	12
2nd year	8	8	9	10	14	11
1st year	9	8	13	16	18	12
<b>Total officials</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>87</b>

Ideally, an official should have 2-3 years of experience before receiving varsity assignments. Due to availability constraints and weather impacts, some 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Waterville will be a challenge.***

#### Assigning

MLOA established a deputy assigner, who handled middle school and youth assignments. MLOA continued to balance competing assignment priorities.

##### 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 2014.

##### Frequency of officials working together

To promote consistency of officiating across the association, MLOA again attempted to have senior officials work with as many partners as possible.

##### 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.