

MPA Report on 2016 Season

Summary

Growth of lacrosse

- Collegiate level – losing U Maine Farmington for 2017
- Youth & middle school – significant growth continues
- Scholastic – expanding north of Waterville

Scheduling games

- Scheduling
 - Games well distributed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays
 - Difficult to cover youth games on Saturdays (addressing with Maine Youth League)

Association & assigning

- Membership
 - Recruitment & training ~ 79 active members; down 5 from 2015
 - Attrition ~ 7 new members; below replacement
- Geographic distribution ~ 12, or 15% of membership per year
 - shortages below Kennebunk & above Lewiston
- Experience level – one indicator of capability
 - 50% over 5 years – stable core
 - 17% with 1 or 2 years – difficulty recruiting during past 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

MLOA's Rob Pfeiffer Award

- Awarded to a coach who exemplifies sportsmanship and partnership with officials
- 2016 recipient is Dan Soule of Gorham High School

Youth Lacrosse

To support youth lacrosse, MLOA has trained Junior Officials (primarily high school players) since 2005. In 2016, MLOA merged their training into our adult training process; trained 17 new Junior Officials and 12 returning Junior Officials; and observed 16 Junior Officials.

Too many youth games are scheduled on Saturdays.

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Growth of lacrosse

Games Scheduled										
	none	MBYLA	MAISAD	KVAC	SMAA	WMC	MPA	Offseason	College	Total
Rec 3/4	14	233								247
Rec 5/6	9	279								288
Jamboree - Youth Half Day	5	26								31
Middle School	52	255		10	34	95				446
1st Team				4	11	8				23
JV	27	8	25	106	91	84				341
Jamboree - JV Half Day	3	4			1					8
Tournament, JV			3							3
Summer League	15	4								19
Play Day	45									45
Exhibition / Preseason	2			27	31	15				75
Varsity			28	119	84	72		4	5	312
Tournament			2	11	7	8				28
Championship			1				2			3
Total	172	809	59	277	259	282	2	4	5	1869

MLOA scheduled 1869 games in 2016, up from 1712 in 2015, 1511 in 2014, and 802 in 2010. The growth has primarily been at the elementary and middle school levels. Consequently, new officials are able to learn their craft at lower levels of play.

There were no new varsity programs, but Lincoln Academy again fielded a varsity team. 42 games (pink shaded above) were scheduled by rising programs, including AR Gould, Bangor/Brewer, Somerset area, and Sanford.

MLOA covered 679 MPA sanctioned freshman, JV and varsity games (green shaded above), or 36% 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 2016, MLOA conducted 137 specific observations, from pre-season through the MPA tournament.

Since 2013, MLOA has 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.

16 MLOA members are currently certified to officiate at the collegiate level, including 3 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

MLOA Game Distribution

Number of Games								
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
MBYLA	28	26	29	37	37	34	72	263
Middle School	28	24	29	35	36	33	70	255
JV		2		2	1	1	2	8
MAISAD		2	4	14	2	10	21	53
JV			3	7	1	4	10	25
Varsity		2	1	7	1	6	11	28
KVAC		24	51	43	55	34	32	239
Middle School		3	1	1	3	2		10
1st Team		1		1	1		1	4
JV		9	24	18	26	14	15	106
Varsity		11	26	23	25	18	16	119
SMAA		25	53	23	35	58	26	220
Middle School		14	2		16	2		34
1st Team		4		3	3	1		11
JV		4	27	10	9	28	13	91
Varsity		3	24	10	7	27	13	84
WMC		43	51	44	56	34	31	259
Middle School		29	7	18	35	6		95
1st Team			2	1		1	4	8
JV		8	23	13	11	14	15	84
Varsity		6	19	12	10	13	12	72
Total	28	120	188	161	185	170	182	1034

School administrators expect MLOA to assign only full MLOA members (adults) to all games at the middle school level and higher. This is due to the risk of injury as players become stronger / faster with age. These games were well distributed across the days of the week in 2016.

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

MLOA's biggest current challenge is covering youth (elementary) level games, which are scheduled overwhelmingly on Saturdays, when MLOA members are busy officiating and Junior Officials are usually playing. MLOA is working on this issue with the youth league.

Number of Games								
League / Level	Day							Total
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
MBYLA	45	10	10	18	23	7	399	512
Rec 3/4	10	3	3	8	11	2	196	233
Rec 5/6	35	7	7	10	12	5	203	279
Total	45	10	10	18	23	7	399	512

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Association and assigning

MLOA Membership

MLOA ended 2016 with 79 members, a slight decrease. We need to improve both recruitment of new officials and retention of officials with 3 to 5 years of experience. New officials work primarily middle school and below, to learn the craft. 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.

Experience level	End 2011	End 2012	End 2013	End 2014	End 2015	End 2016
Over 5 years	31	30	31	35	39	40
5th year	8	1	6	6	5	7
4th year	1	8	6	4	8	9
3rd year	8	7	5	7	12	9
2nd year	8	9	10	14	11	7
1st year	8	13	16	18	12	7
Total officials	64	68	74	84	87	79

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 2015.

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.