
I want to thank all of you for both your patience as we are putting together a season and for your responses to our survey. The survey results were great. They were both clear in most cases as far as what you'd like to see the season look like, and the comments were largely well thought-out and helpful in making decisions.

There are still some questions remaining to be answered. In a year full of sudden changes such as this has been, that's inevitable. Part of the purpose of this email is to let all of you know where things stand as of now, what things still need to be figured out and what questions we can answer. We are working with US Lacrosse among others to be as clear and definitive as possible.

On January 28, at 8:00pm, we will have a town hall style league-wide meeting. This will be our annual meeting. At this meeting we will talk through a handful of things to the extent possible, including:

1. Updates as applicable to the information in this email.
2. A discussion around the viability and implementation of a contact tracing system if necessary.
3. A conversation around what constitutes a virus 'breakout' that would change these plans, both within a club and within OYL.
4. US Lacrosse's Flex 6 ideas as an alternative if necessary.

As far as the season itself is concerned, we are looking at the following:

1. The schedule will mirror OSAA's schedule. This is a somewhat complicated issue as there is still some debate around where lacrosse will fall in their rubric. The hope is that it will be counted among the spring sports and played in April and May. There is a chance that it will be later than that. Either way, there is some time between now and then, as the earliest the season could start is April 12.
2. The structure of the season will be one week of practice followed by 6 weeks of games and practices.
3. Any tournaments could be organized after that regular season but would not be held under OYL.
4. OYL will require a waiver from each player's family regarding participation in the season.
5. We will need each club to demonstrate an insurance policy sufficient to cover claims for COVID 19 as a communicable disease. US Lacrosse has such a policy available, and while US Lacrosse insurance is not required, an insurance policy substantially similar to what they offer will be required.
6. Masks will be required for coaches, players and officials. The plastic face shields are not likely to be sufficient on their own.
7. OYL will provide clubs with mandatory safety procedures for games. This will be a topic for the town hall meeting. These procedures will need to be managed by adults rather than the high school referees.

8. Referees are likely to be a challenge, as HS teams will also be dealing with a compressed schedule. There are a number of college players who have been referees in prior years that are doing their college studies from home. They might be used as a resource to keep games officiated and safe.
9. The rules around sports from the state government are subject to change. Obviously, that would impact what we are doing. One alternative to the full-sized game is a small-sided game. There are some areas where there are limitations on how many players may be on the field at any given time that permit 6-8 players but not 20. If such rules come to Oregon, OYL is putting together resources to accommodate this eventuality.

We on the board are also fully aware that there are issues faced by clubs that aren't related to this season's unique challenges. Many people have asked us about club development, growth and improvement to coaching. We have thoughts and resources that we will be happy to share with anyone interested. Our focus has been getting something viable on the field this season, and our statewide lacrosse development plans have been delayed a bit. Once we get the season going, we will be returning to that focus and will welcome all of you to that effort.

Alex Tillson, President
Oregon Youth Lacrosse