

Monday, April 17, 2006

The 2006 lacrosse season will soon be underway. Many volunteers have worked many hours, behind the scenes, to ensure our season will start on schedule and that everything required is in place. A lot of familiar faces have already been spotted in the usual places including players, parents and volunteers. It is always encouraging to see new faces or even familiar faces showing up for lacrosse for the first time. Lacrosse players and parents are well known for their passion for the sport, and are always inviting friends to come and try lacrosse, assuring them that once they try it they will love it. They are rarely wrong!

With the creation of A Division leagues in the 2005 season, and the continuation for 2006, the WMLA would like all players to consider the following point. Lacrosse is a great sport to which to bring friends together to play and have fun, further strengthening our friendships. It is also a great way to make new friends. Those who come out to try Lacrosse soon come to love it and many soon discover a desire to excel at it. The A Division leagues were created, in part, to provide the opportunity for those players to achieve that goal. It may demand that one be willing to leave the comfort zone of playing with friends and familiar faces, and joining a group of strangers. Fear not, brave soul, for these strangers share the same desire as you, and probably love lacrosse almost as much as you do, and that can be the foundation on which your new friendships can be formed.

The WMLA would also like to encourage all players, parents and volunteers to constantly maintain an elevated level of mutual respect for one another. After all, we all share at least one thing in common, and that is our passion for lacrosse, and we need each other to make playing lacrosse possible.

The WMLA would also like to remind everyone that lacrosse is by design, a very competitive sport. If you believe that competition is healthy, for both body and mind, then you must strive to keep it positive. The key to keeping it positive, I think, is appreciating that it is a privilege to have the opportunity to participate in organized sports and to be involved, and that your involvement only becomes meaningful when we appreciate that we need the involvement of others as well.

The WMLA would like to assure every player, parent and volunteer that our programming has simple and attainable objectives. Development in lacrosse in a safe, fun, healthy and positive atmosphere. We believe that all these objectives can be met simultaneously, and no one objective need be exclusive of any other objective. We believe that all our programming does offer and can meet these objectives. We ask that all players, parents and volunteers support our efforts to meet these objectives, in order that our programming can meet the parents' expectations and the players' goals.

Have a fun lacrosse season!

Chuck Joyal

President, Winnipeg Minor Lacrosse Association, (WMLA)