

TO: All WPIAL Athletic Directors  
FROM: Tim O'Malley, Executive Director, WPIAL  
SUBJ: WPIAL Boy's Lacrosse - 2009  
DATE: September 13, 2007

The WPIAL, at the request of member schools, will add boy's lacrosse to the League's list of sponsored sports effective July 1, 2008. The first WPIAL section schedule for varsity boy's lacrosse will be produced for the spring, 2009. This initiative is a direct result of the PIAA assuming jurisdiction over the sport of boy's lacrosse effective July 1, 2008.

The PIAA through communication with Executive Director Brad Cashman has made it perfectly clear that once the PIAA assumes jurisdiction over a particular sport, the member school MUST assume the responsibility to ensure that the sport operates entirely with the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws. The purpose of this letter is to inform all member schools that may have in the past offered boy's lacrosse as a club sport that that option no longer exists effective July 1, 2008. Your decision to be included in the WPIAL schedule is somewhat irrelevant in that you are required to follow ALL PIAA rules and regulations relative to the sport of boy's lacrosse. If you are considering committing to a WPIAL schedule or are contemplating remaining independent, you should be aware of all of the following.

## **WPIAL BOYS LACROSSE - 2009**

### **1. PLAYING RULES**

The 2009 National Federation Endorsed Boys and Men's Lacrosse Rules book will govern all play. The rulebook is available through the PIAA or the National Federation.

### **2. OTHER RULES**

The PIAA Constitution, By-Laws and policies will govern all games, participants and coaches. All WPIAL policies will prevail as well.

### **3. PARTICIPANTS**

- a. Only students in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades may participate
- b. Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades may not practice nor participate with students in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- c. Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade may not be involved as a participant in any respect

- d. All participants must be certified eligible and must be listed on a PIAA eligibility list as such.
- e. There will be no sub-varsity schedules produced by the League for the first year or until there is enough interest and requests made by the participating schools. It must however be noted that as a PIAA member school teams may not at anytime compete against non-school and or community based teams. When scheduling junior high / middle school competitions PIAA member school athletic directors are encouraged to inquire as to the relationship of the school and its team, and avoid scheduling teams that are not affiliated with the member school.

#### **4. OFFICIALS**

- a. Officials used in WPIAL play must be certified PIAA Officials.
- b. This requirement potentially could be a problem. We are currently working to ensure that there are PIAA certified officials available for next spring. If you have any information that would be helpful in this area, please contact the League Office.

#### **5. SEASON**

- a. Boys lacrosse has a PIAA defined in-season and out of season. It is a spring sport.
- b. Season dates:
  - 1. First practice - Monday, March 2, 2009
  - 2. First scrimmage - Saturday, March 7, 2009
  - 3. First play date - Friday, March 20, 2009
  - 4. Last play date - Friday, May 22, 2009
- c. Number of scrimmages permitted – 2
- d. Number of competitions permitted - 20
- e. Boy's lacrosse will be subject to the same out of season rules as all other sports.

#### **6. COMPETITION**

- a. Schools may only play other schools (no competitions with non-school entities such as YMCA or church/community teams are permitted).
- b. Playing non-PIAA member schools requires that the opponent agree to certify that they will only play students in the contest who are eligible under all PIAA rules
- c. For the first year of the schedule (2009) there will be a WPIAL Championship pending the approval of the WPIAL Board of Control. There is no PIAA (state) championship in boy's lacrosse at this time.

- e. The WPIAL neither selects nor sanctions all-star teams in any sport. All-star game participation is restricted to seniors after their senior season is completed. Underclassmen may not participate in all-star contests wherein their selection is based on their high school abilities

The foregoing is not intended to be comprehensive and is meant only to be informational in terms of the significant differences between what had commonly been referred to as club and WPIAL teams. There are other considerations in sponsoring a WPIAL team. You should know them. Simply put, if the PIAA has assumed jurisdiction over a sport you as a member school MUST initiate steps to ensure that those participating in that sport meet all of the PIAA rules and regulations governing that sport regardless of your participation in the WPIAL schedule. You cannot delegate the responsibility of supervision to any other entity.

We look forward to launching this program and we hope to see it grow. Please submit in writing to the WPIAL by FRIDAY JANUARY 4, 2008 your desire to become part of the WPIAL Boy's Lacrosse schedule for 2009.

*See the PIAA Constitutions and By-Laws, PIAA Table III – Schedule for Spring Sports for further information.*