

MBGLL 2009 Survey

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2. Please provide comments about MBGLL's services that you particularly enjoyed.

1. Non-competitive learning developmental program.
2. I thought the jamboree was a little crazy running from one game to the next. Our schedule was tight. We observed some teams with girls who appeared older than our group. It seemed like some coaches had brought older girls to fill out their team, but this made the teams very uneven.
3. The opportunity the organization provides the kids.
4. Umpires – most were good/great! One was terrible and that was reported to MBGLL. Jamboree – it is a long way from home. I know that fields are tough to get. Possibly have a mist tent so that the girls can cool down.
5. I love the three pass rule.
6. MBGLL provides a fantastic venue for new and developing players. Encouraging to all levels for participation in the sport of lacrosse.
7. Game schedules, training and education.
8. This year's added MV Nantucket travel information was a big help.
9. The program tries very hard to accommodate town's needs, player's needs, coaches' needs. I am pleased that the current board puts players first, along with sportsmanship.
10. Jamboree was well organized and a great time. Rules meeting was very helpful. US Lacrosse training was very good.
11. I feel the umpires we had at the U11 level were outstanding with regard to understanding the needs of the game vs. the needs and level of our players.
12. Just the idea of an organization lacrosse league is great. Everything is above average.
13. The contact info for coaches and refs and directions to fields were terrific.
14. Excellent communication. Fun jamboree. Coaching programs. Very informative website.
15. Love the sense of teamwork, and I think MBGLL is going a long way to promote the game in a fun way!
16. I found that most of the referees were excellent and helped not only keep the games in check but also instruct the girls as the games went on.
17. The coach's clinic was very well done and helpful. We will be encouraging our new coaches to take advantage of the program.
18. The game scheduling worked great. The jamboree was awesome.
19. The web site provided good information to the parents and coaches about games locations, times and educational material for the parents. All the fields we played on were in great shape.

20. Jamboree with exception of the size of the fields used for U-11. Trying to put 14 players and 2 goalies on that space was next to impossible.
21. I thought that Jamboree was excellent and a great opportunity to generate excitement for the sport.
22. Communication is very good!
23. No major issues all season with respect to umps, games, fields, etc.
24. The leaders put their hearts into it and should be commended.
25. The umpires were excellent
Christine and Chris were always prompt in returning e-mails and answering any questions I had
26. The Jamboree is very well run and the MBGLL overall is good.
27. Christine Habermann was a great source of guidance and support throughout the season. MBGLL has done a very good job managing growth by establishing clear policies and procedures.
28. Overall I think the league is well run and appreciate all of your efforts.
29. The Level 1 coaches' clinic was fantastic. Not sure if this is MBGLL or USL, but great program nevertheless.
30. Things seemed to go much more smoothly this year--and we no umpire issues. Jamboree was good as always--though parking was more of an issue in Acton than at Fessenden.
Having a sort-of skill breakout (well, it was really how long the program has been in existence more than a skills level delineation) helped a bit--our games were, on the whole, more competitive--but there were still several that were complete wipe-outs (scores like 12-2) and I don't think that's fun for anyone (though I did get my girls all playing with their opposite hands!). I still think having an "A" league and a "B" league makes some sense.
31. I enjoyed the other teams and umpires
32. Having the coaches pay up front with personnel credit cards for the Jamboree needs to be changed. Also having to provide a volunteer at registration is wrong also.
33. I really like the overall program and the philosophy to develop players and encourage new players.
34. The game of girls lax is growing and MBGLL is growing with it. So far, so good. Also, there are good listeners on the board.
35. Coaches' training is excellent!

3. Please provide suggestions on how to improve MBGLL's services.

1. New coaches should be made to learn rules in a basic seminar. many "hockey fathers" trying to help out with coaching but hurting the game and endangering players with no knowledge of game.
2. Shorter training sessions, maybe dividing up a skill set, so that people who can not commit a whole day to training may be able to catch a half day training session.
3. Inconsistent umpire rules interpretation

4. Change the survey so that there is a N/A not applicable box. I did not answer several questions, as they are not applicable.
5. I do not like the "no keeping score" rule.
6. Continue to work on umpire training particularly focused on consistency of judgment. Also focus umpire judgment during a game in balancing making every detail call with enabling a normal flow of the game. Sometimes too many calls interrupt any flow of the game. This is a balance that the umpire needs to strike during the game based upon the feel of the teams and the play of that particular game.
7. Referee quality and consistency.
8. SportsManager is NOT user friendly, not easily compatible and seems more difficult than it's worth for the individual programs.
9. Umpires were inconsistent in what they called and some were not up to speed on MBGLL rules.
10. Improvements come down to better and consistent play calling by the refs (and coaches):
 1. Shooting Space
 2. 3-sec rules (girls hanging out around crease)
 3. Absolutely - No checking - 6th grade and under
11. Level of competition is poor. Having skilled girls with new players is not good for anyone. It's time for this league to move away from the "keep all teams equal" mentality and move to a "create competitive tiers" structure. Three years I've been coaching the girls U11 and over a span of about 30 games (including jamborees) I've had maybe 4 competitive games, the rest were lopsided blowouts. Other than Northboro-Southboro, Franklin and maybe a game against Shrewsbury there has been no teams that gave us anything that resembled a game. King Philip is an established program and should be playing against established programs. Also, A players should be playing with A players and new players should be learning the game at a slower pace with players of the same skill level. Lastly, not keeping score is a huge distraction and really an insult to the girls when it is allowed in the MBYLL. Is the message that girls can't handle losing or don't need to learn how to be good sports during a losing effort?
12. Would like more certainty on referee participation. On more than 1 occasion referees were late. Never knew if we'd have 1 or two. Would love to have referee fees handled differently. I thought we could improve referee consistency. Different referee approaches created very different games (heavy handed or laissez faire). I don't care which way they go, so long as it is consistent.
13. U11 should be full field Jamboree was awful for U11
14. It would be nice to have two divisions. It's really tough, (for everyone - coaches, players, and umpires), to have skilled players who have been playing for a few years (or more) mixed with brand new players who really need to just learn the basics of catching and throwing.

15. 1. Scheduling is far too late: the girls program loses out for fields because the boys schedule is solidified earlier.

2. We had ONE umpire call the three second rule during the season, and ONE, call it in the Jamboree. This has to be remedied: it is distorting the game. Girls don't hustle on defense because of the 3-second rule and the fact that good defense is not rewarded commensurately.

3. I am no longer directly involved with the South Boston program but discussions have been going on between the Boston teams about leaving MBGLL and forming their own league because of the amount of travel required. Some Suburban teams have also voiced reluctance about coming into Boston because of their concerns about crime.
16. I'd like to see more emphasis on the "3 seconds, closely guarded" rule for the little kids to reward good defensive positioning. With no ability to check or hold their ground, there is really no good way for the kids to play defense unless this rule is enforced. I am not suggesting checking or body contact be allowed for the little kids, for the record...
17. I believe the process of splitting of the referee fees needs significant improvement
18. I am not sure if this is covered later, but our coaches felt there was too much inconsistency on the shooting space rules and this made it difficult to teach an already difficult concept.
19. Ref's need to be consistent at the different levels. We went from refs at the U13 level who treated the girls like grade 1 -2 teams to refs who were not calling checking. There needs to be consistency.
20. The umpires varied greatly from game to game on some key rules, making the rules confusing for the girls (U11): shooting space, and stick entering the crease during a shoot
At the U11 age group some rules are in the grey area, allowing some coaches too much power in deciding how the game should be played: How the offense and defense is setup varying the number of players on def, wanting to have off sides called? I think the rules at the beginning of the season should state 1 or 2 player back for def, no off sides, and the game is all offense. I know some of the information was presented in the beginning of the season, but some coaches would still attempt to change the game. Thanks
21. Allow towns to have more say in the rules and operation of the league. It seems that the rules are decided by the board and voted on only by the board as opposed to the membership.
22. Umpires should know the rules for this division and enforce them. Player safety is key
23. Ref's need to be more consistent in how they ref. We never know what to expect unless we have had the same ref before. Kids found it difficult to play with inconsistencies on whistle blowing.

24. 1) Better guidance/scheduling/communication for refs/programs regarding u11 small sided play. I initially thought our 1 u11 team in 2008 would become two teams that played on the same field in 2009...not different teams in locations at the same time.
2) Guidance on how to schedule refs for games outside the MBGLL schedule that do not have 3-pass rule etc... there are programs that have a groups of MBGLL players also involved in tournament/select level team play outside MBGLL schedule - we lost a game that took some time to coordinate and wasted too much time because the ref coordinator would not schedule the game at our home field. In fact, many of the games we played without the 3-pass rule forced players to play better D and resulted in 7-8 passes before shots were taken. I'm not advocating for the elimination of the 3-pass rule within MBGLL
25. We must be on the edge of our geographic division which is the reason we seem to only travel in one direction. And not being able to have more than one game going on at a venue is a shame but I can understand the difficulty of having to double up on umpires. And any information coaches could get on practices and drills would be great!
26. Teams were not able to show up to games because players were not showing up; so my team lost a game for that week. What do we do?
27. You need to provide additional training for the umpires. There is inconsistency on the rules of the game from one umpire to another.
28. Different Referees calls from one game to next are very inconsistent (allowed contact,3 pass rule,3 second rule , shooting space)-its hard to coach for this in practice-you almost have to keep a book on every ref to prepare for that weeks game. No fault of the MBGLL's but I am in the south division and sometimes you have to play the same teams 2 or three times- I wouldn't mind playing a game or 2 outside the division during the season to mix it up. We also played a game in Nantucket this year and no ref was scheduled for the game, apparently this happens all the time -that needs to be fixed.
29. The training session that I was able to attend was geared towards boys' lacrosse. I would really like a training session for girls' lacrosse if it is practical to do so. We were shut out from the Jamboree which I do blame on my own town mgt team however I think the girls missed out on a great opportunity and the league should have added additional slots or dates.
30. We could use more consistency in refereeing. We played 9 games last season and had 7 different referees. 4 of the 7 were extremely good (consistent with MBGLL rules directives, communicated well with players/coaches), 2 were only OK (hesitant to call much, looking to coaches for guidance), and one appeared totally unfamiliar with youth lacrosse (didn't understand the 3-second rule, random application of 3 pass rule). This inconsistency is very confusing to the players.
31. More pre-season "open" meetings
32. The regional divisions still seem way off. Most of the teams we played were miles away (30-70 minute drives to get there)--can we not have a

- "greater Boston" league that includes towns like Arlington, Belmont, Newton, Winchester, etc--maybe within a Route 128 radius or something. I know it means a new division, but we get a lot of flack (and fewer players) for the far-away games.
33. Umpires need to be more consistent.
EVERY TOWN should be mandated to have an open restroom or port a jon. even if the MBGYLL needs to help fund
 34. My biggest issue was the broad range of rules interpretation by the umpires. One umpire for example calls most stick checks above the waist a high check. Other umpires never called dangerous stick checks around the head area unless there was contact. It is difficult to prepare a team for a lack of consistence rules enforcement.
 35. I think based on what the boys pay per team to mass bay boys' lacrosse league, that the fee is excessive for girls. Given this economy, it might be nice to consider reducing this amount so leagues will have a little extra money to put back into their town programs.
 36. I feel that for the most part referees do not make the necessary calls for good defense. Calls like charging, 3 second rule and dangerous shot are not being called as a rule. In the 8 games I coached and the others I attended only once was the 3 second rule called. When you don't call the 3-second rule you are inviting body contact and introducing the chance on injury. These no calls are counterproductive to what we teach our players. I sent these issues to the division director and I never received a reply probably brushed off and filed away with a lot of the other people's complaints but Safety should come first and these calls are not being made. The game schedule needs to be adjusted to place teams in divisions that are decided on location. I have towns that surround our city but we/they have to sometimes have to drive an hour away when there are other teams in close proximity that we have never played and are not in our division.
 37. Some of these are N/A
 38. The Jamboree should go back to Fesseden. It hasn't been the same since it was moved.
 39. Great services.
 40. Goalie training opportunities

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5. Please list any other methods that you think MBGLL should use to better communicate.

1. I have not attended all of the above so I can not comment. I do like the email blasts to coaches and parents alert them of opportunities to improve their skills.
2. Posting to get make -up games did not seem very efficient, some type of blog might be easier for updates, even from the website.....

3. It would be nice to receive emails on specific rule changes each year with an interpretation.
4. I think the communication has always been good.
5. I was very satisfied with the communication links
6. Regional meetings where the regional director communicates to the regional teams what's going on state wide with MBGLL. Programs should be allowed to vote on things at these meetings and not concentrate all voting at the board level.
7. I do not remember a division meeting
8. I think communication is very good.
9. Round table and Rules Q&A discussions need to be expanded to include web and phone conferencing. I think the same can be done for all meeting for that matter.
10. Don't have any!!
11. Facebook

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6. How can MBGLL improve the communication between the board, division directors, and member towns?

1. e-mails are great

Perhaps a monthly newsletter blast using some program like Constant Contact that way you can see who is actually reading and responding to the e-mails

2. Possibly post all changes on a protected part of SportsManager. Only coaches can get to their team rosters, maybe there could be a similar link for important info. Then interested parties could go and read the minutes, notes etc.
3. Not sure if minutes from meetings get posted but that would be helpful for towns that have difficulty traveling for meetings.
4. Same as above. Puts programs in the loop better than e-mail and websites. Allows for understanding of how/why things are done and allows input back for improvement. These meetings can then allow program directors to communicate back to their individual coaches and parents what and why things are done.
5. Website directions are not always accurate.
6. Division meetings were tough because they were so far from where we're based.
And what were the round tables? Missed that.
7. Respond to the issues that are sent. Communication is bi-directional

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8. What other forms of training do you offer your coaches?

1. We have clinics with our High School coach

2. We have our high school varsity coach do coaches' clinics for all of the coaches in our program, one for first time/lower age level and another for more experienced coaches/ U15 age coaches. We encourage our coaches to take the online and live training, many of them have, and our program reimburses them for the cost.
3. HS coach gives a primer
4. South Boston does not require USL certification or attendance at Positive Coaching Alliance programs. Hopefully that will change, as the program suffers from it.
5. We will be encouraging the US Lacrosse clinics for all of our coaches.
6. We strongly encourage and suggest they go to the trainings offered, and they usually do if it works into their schedule.
7. Hands on training , train the trainer style
8. coaches meetings
9. Basics coaching - the level one course was too long and expanded into topics that were not relevant for U10
10. We coordinate a mandatory coaches/assistant coaches session with a local prep school boys head coach and girls head coach. We start the session with everyone together and then break into different tracks boys/girls
topics include -- keeping things positive, fun, expectations (coaches, players, parents), communication, practice planning, age/skill appropriate drills, coaching points, new rules, Q&A discussion.
>>new coaches typically shadow another coach for a season
11. We will offer coaching clinics during Fall Ball this year.
12. We have coaching roundtable meetings with the coaches from each age group to discuss ideas and issues.
13. just MBGLL
14. A couple hours once a year with the local HS coach
15. In our town, our high school coach worked with US Lacrosse in writing the girls rules. She does a local training with our "volunteer" parent/coaches at the beginning of each season.
16. Reimbursement for any classes or clinics they attend.
17. I encourage Fitness!! I try to offer ideas about getting the girls in shape. Everyone has their own idea about fitness training at practice. Some coaches feel that the conditioning happens during the drills. I feel they need specific fitness work in addition to the drills. It is important to teach these young girls life long health and fitness skills. Can you tell I am a fitness instructor?
18. Pre-season training by our senior coach.

9. What other forms of training would you like MBGLL to offer to coaches?

1. See previous comment
2. There needs to be some form of training between level 1 and level 2. I've been to both trainings. I see level 1 aimed at coaches who have a brand new program. I think the level 2 training is aimed at the upper middle

school (7th or 8th graders) or jv coach.

I'd like to see a training aimed at younger kids, who have played lax for 3-4 years. How do you challenge them and not lose their friends who have never held a lacrosse stick?

3. Basic rules and perhaps a transition program for those coaches moving from U11 to U13
4. More 2-3 hr clinics. For example
 - Get the goalie from BU,BC, or Holy Cross to give coaches a 3 hr clinic on goaltending - charge \$25
 - Get the coach from a college to discuss transitions offense/defensive plays for 2-3 hrs - charge \$25
 - Get the coach from a college to discuss settled offense and defensive play for 2-3 hr- charge \$25
5. What about some refs attending local practices to help the girls with a rules Q and A session. It is always helpful for the girls to hear it from others. We also have a lot of coaches who are converted parents. How about a way to send an experienced coach -like a US Lax coach-to a practice session?
6. Maybe a more local training. Smaller groups, more individualized attention, more comfortable for coaches to ask questions.
7. More offerings. There was only one date / time for the level 2 course and it was during Feb vacation. Not doable.
8. A second course for each training level about problem solving basic techniques and other ideas for making practice fun for all levels of players
9. I think each region should put on their own coaches clinic. Makes it more convenient for coaches and builds more regional support for MBGLL. I would not limit the search for coaches to college coaches. There are some very good high school coaches in this area and reaching out to them to participate in a clinic would be quite feasible. It would only take about 2-3 coaches for some on-field clinical presentations, add a referee session, trainer session and a MBGLL session and you would have a good clinic. The US Lacrosse offering is limited in choices and to be honest, expensive as well as a full day event. Providing a clinic that takes either a full morning or afternoon (about 4 hours) is much more realistic for coaches' times as well as ability to absorb information. I've gone through the Level 1 session for the girls and by the time the afternoon hit I was like I've got to get out of here, this is way too long. An 8 hour day for level 1 just was too much.
10. although we require coach training we can't enforce it... we just would get the coaches
11. more options for level 1 and 2 courses
 - less mandatory meetings in far away locations
12. CPR should be required and offered. We are never given any of the kids medical forms to know if there are medical issues i.e. peanut allergies. I think there should be some sort of medical seminar /training for coaches since we are responsible for these kids during practice and games and if

- something happened to a player do we know what to do. Also there should be a rules manual what to do in case of issue. Why do we not fill out CORI forms. I coach for soccer and it is a requirement.
13. Materials in drills.
 14. Skill development.
 15. I am always looking for more and better drills to run during practice. There are many books for purchase, but it would be great if MBGLL could work with an experienced coach to assemble a library of drills organized by skill to be emphasized (e.g. ground balls, cradling, dodging, throwing/catching). Also warm up and cool down exercises appropriate for youth (U11, U13, U15) would be very helpful.
 16. not sure--what else is there?
 17. I would like to see broader offering of the level 2 certificate program one date is simply inadequate.
 18. Food for athletes!!! Coaches should encourage kids to take care of their bodies. Good nutrition is essential.
 19. goalie training
draw training

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12. Please tell us how well your schedule worked this year.

1. Good even caliber of play with decent travel distances
2. Our home games were grouped at the beginning. It would have been nice to have them spread more evenly.
3. Game schedule was good
4. We lost a home game due to the Boston kids playing in a Jamboree. Traveling to Boston is LONG trip for us on Cape Cod.

- The 3/4 grade team often started late, as the 7/8 or 5/6 game ran longer than expected. Maybe add some time between games?
5. 50/50 is good
 6. Games need to be changed to 1hr 15min again. It is impossible to finish a game in 1hr.
 7. The weather cooperated and our schedule for travel and home was excellent. One game was removed from our schedule for unknown reasons and we were not able to make it up. It was suggested that our home games (MV) be scheduled later in the season to catch better weather if possible....
 8. Since we have 3 teams at each level, its tough for us to block book all of our games, so not all of our teams can travel to same towns etc.
 9. Our Schedule overall was very good with the exception of one very weak team we played two weeks in a row.
 10. Our schedule in Foxboro for U 11 was fine.
 11. Games scheduled on the hour doesn't work. Even with two 20-minute halves, it's almost impossible to keep games to an hour. By the time the

- third game was supposed to start, we were about 30-45 minutes behind schedule. We didn't start a game on time all year.
12. Worked great. We would like a little more competition. I think Woburn might not be sufficiently competitive.
 13. Games before our seemed to run over the schedule, so most of our games started later than scheduled (one time we started an hour late...). It would be nice to emphasize timely start/completion of games.
 14. our schedules worked out very well
 15. I think the only tough part was the quick halftime at the jamboree. At the younger ages, we don't like having a dedicated goalie. Everyone should get to play the field and goal if they want. But, it takes the girls a lot of time to switch out the equipment at halftime.
 16. We played the same program 3 times, even though they had 3 different teams, I still think there were other teams we could have played that would have made the schedule more interesting for all.
 17. We were scheduled at home during our town's opening baseball game and we had notified the league. As a result we ended up with 5 away games and only 3 home.
 18. Our games usually started 40-50 min late since we were the 3rd game being played that day U11. Some parents had difficulty with other scheduled events secondary to late starting of games
 19. Go back to 75 minute time slots for games. EVERY U-11 game started at least 20 minutes late this year. It is not realistic to get the games completed in 60 minutes. By the time the benches get cleared after a handshake, the next game's teams have a few minutes of warm up, officials take to both coaches, do a stick check, etc. there is no way 60 minutes is enough. If the reason for the change was the officials not wanting to be at the field for 3.5 hours instead of 3 hours, their hourly rate more than covers those last 30 minutes instead of having them rush you to get the next game started.
 20. best yet
games were too close together, time wise
 21. 1 hour timing of games did not work - often due to refs with a very slow pace - eg 15 minute talks before the game - the U11 were consistently starting 20-30 minutes late
 22. Overall the schedules was good - it would be nice to have an equal balance in home and away games
 23. Tough because no time between 1st game to next so if the first game started late the last game of the day was 1 hour late in starting. Suggest you have at least 15 minutes between each game.
 24. Same number of home as away. First time in three years I wasn't away more than home so I'm happy.
 25. In the south division - we have limited teams to play because of the other league.
 26. Schedule worked out well.

27. I ranked our level of competition as "good" because with the exception of the Jamboree, we had very few competitive games. We played several teams with very new coaches who didn't know the rules which made for a lopsided game. We kept the score as close as we could, but most teams were not as prepared as we were.
28. Very well.
29. We had to ask for some changes (one U15 team had mostly home games and the other had mostly away games) but once we asked it was changed.

We expressed concern about distance traveled to games last year.

While on the whole the competition level was better (in 08 season we were undefeated and MANY games were complete wipe-outs) this year we lost 2 games but most of the rest were not competitive.

30. Our schedule was a good one. Our only issue was that we had one rain out and the opposing team declined to reschedule because they were win-less on the season. We were also win-less at the time and would have appreciated a close game.
31. This year the scheduling was much better. I think the local travel is better for teams. Also, it's nice to play the teams you will play when you get into High school
32. districts should be surrounding towns/cities
33. A few teams in CCYL had mostly away games.
Also, the games being on the hour was very difficult. Barely any warm up time (if there was not extra field space) and things would get backed up very quickly.
34. We had three home games, doesn't seem right.
35. Fine

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16. Please offer other scheduling suggestions.

1. I am happy playing most teams twice and the longer trips every other year.
2. I would be great if some one with feel for the teams could review the schedule to make sure teams are somewhat equal.
3. League play will create a more competitive environment which might create a few people to go "winning at all cost" crazy.

Keep select league out of the town - Mass Elite and CMass.org are for that

4. Might be nice to have teams play back-to-back when possible, in case we are short numbers we can more easily borrow players.
5. In general I think you do a good job.

6. Most of our coaches are coaching more than one team and it is very difficult when teams are in different towns. also, most families have multiple children playing.
7. The earlier we can get them the better.
8. There are already select leagues available -NESSLL and Mass Elite, MBGLL doesn't need to offer this, please keep things the way they are.
9. Until there is competitive scheduling please enforce the leveling of teams in towns. My team played a team in Franklin 1 week and if we were keeping score it would have been 12-2 us. The very next week, we go back to Franklin to face another team and the score would have been 11-1 them. I would much rather have lost 2 close games than have blowouts.
10. League scheduling is unclear to me--isn't that what we've got already? Or does the league play not include competitively balanced teams?
11. Dave does a great job with the scheduling.

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18. Please list any concerns that you have with current Mass Bay Girls' Lacrosse League's or US Lacrosse League's rules.

1. Rules are fine, but we found that some refs did not know all of the rules for our age group. For example in some games shooting space was called and in other games it was not. I see this as a problem with the refs not remembering the difference between the age groups.
2. The umpires all have the rules card and reviewed it with me at each game. I would like all refs to call the rules. I try to teach my kids (grades 3/4) the rules. It does no good for the game, if the ref won't call the infraction and my whole team yells that the infraction occurred. I have ref'ed myself (soccer) and I know that a ref can't see everything. But, they should be calling all covers.
3. I think we should keep score.
4. Enforcement of rules are not consistent
5. The 3 pass rule has several unintended consequences. Notably, most girls do not hustle back on defense because the 3 passes required nullify fast breaks or breakaways. In addition, because the 3 second rule is almost never enforced, one strong player will still run around with the ball until they can dish it off. Finally, some HS coaches are complaining that this is training in bad habits as the girls coming from MBGLL think too much before passing and get the ball stripped once they move up.

Referees MUST start calling the 3 second rule. That is a higher priority than the age group rules, which most of them don't know either.

6. Consistent rule between referees
7. The U-11 fields were WAY too small this year.
8. As noted earlier, I would like to have a firm consistent understanding of the shooting space rule. There seems to be some differences in the way the rule

is interpreted by the different refs. Overall though, we thought the refs were very good and helpful in reinforcing the way we were teaching the rules.

9. Umpires vary greatly in the rules they were calling each week, confusing for the girls U11
10. Enforcement of the 3 second stick rule. Way too many times a player is not moving their stick because the defender is not allowed to check. The defender is playing good defense but can do nothing to get the ball. I've seen kids walk with the ball towards the goal and just take a shot because no one can check their stick. When this happens, other players try to prevent the player from just walking in and then you have kids in the shooting space etc. If they enforced that rule, kids playing good defense get rewarded. Additionally, kids who are not moving their stick are not learning how to play the game and are being "effective" as they can just go in and shoot if they happen to be the person with the ball after the 3rd pass. Bad offensive skills develop when that 3 second rule is not enforced.

Have the refs yellow card a coach if they are yelling to their players to shoot after the 3rd pass. If they continue, kick them off the sidelines. Its ridiculous how often this happens.

11. US LAX - Large swings (rather than small taps) are allowed when checking. There used to be a "recoil required" aspect to checking. What ever happened to that...? Please bring it back so that these swings that nearly take off girls' heads are no longer allowed.
12. none they just need to be enforced
13. u11 field is too small.
3 pass rule is slowing down the game and too prohibitive for the early learners - getting the 3 passes is much more of a challenge than scoring.
14. u11 7v7 play had a few BUMPS
15. Different umpires call the game differently-there is no consistency.
16. I think the U11s should play restraining lines. We had a few opposing coaches tell us they were going to play restrained but they didn't. We had trained the girls to play restrained and it was fine.

We also had issues where games were starting late because the previous teams were not ready to take the field at their start time. Referees should enforce ending those games on time and starting the next game on time regardless of what went on.

17. we had one game with a very inexperienced ref, which was tough, but on the whole it was better than last year. Maybe refs should trail for 2 years??
18. I think the umpires know the rules from a text book level but many do not show it on the field.
19. Shooting space was called inconsistently
20. This game is an offensive sport meaning there can be a lot of scoring but if you forget about defense your not teaching them the game. Defense should not be ignored it should be encouraged. Enforce the defensive rules like charging, dangerous shot and the 3 second rule.

21. I thought the 3 second rule was a little overused at the 5/6 level by the refs. They over focused on that rule a bit.
22. I don't like the goalies to drop the ball in the crease in then allow the deputy to pick it up and clear it. I think the goalie should be encouraged to clear the ball.

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19. What other (if any) rules do you think that MBGLL should adopt?

1. See earlier comment on 3 seconds closely guarded...
2. 1. Make two out of the three passes be completed on the offensive side of the restraining line. Stops coaches from gaming the rule with a couple of players playing catch at midfield until the 3 passes are completed and then running 50 yards to go score.

2. At U-11 and 13 where there is no stick checking, if you have the ball and are marked up, you cannot walk with the ball. Similar to the 3 second rule not being enforced, let's teach the players they need to jog or run with the ball. This will develop skills needed to play the game. Any type of jog/run would be fine, just not a walk. We need to increase the skills of the players and teach them to play the game running.
3. I think the checking rules are good. I would like to see the 3 second (defense gets the ball when in proper position) rule better enforced.
4. if competitive, or select play is available for 7/8 grade players -- consider 3 pass rule optional and consider modifying checking rules to conform to club or select league play.
5. All girls should wear helmets
6. I think it's good right now.
7. I think MBGYLL should drop or modify the 3 pass rule in G 7-8. The girls are not learning the defensive skills to prepare them for HS ball unless they are not also playing some club ball. I would prefer a 1 pass rule in the offensive zone, including turnovers.
8. U9 & U11 restraining lines at midfield (25 yard line)
On court-off court company makes throw down goal creases that are much better than cones.
9. Don't be so politically correct these girls in the U13 and above know what the score is. They know when they win and they know when they lose keep the score. A win teaches them that practice and working as a team wins games and a loss teaches them they have to look at themselves and work harder it builds character for the player and coaches.
10. At 7/8 the league should transition to 1 pass required over the mid field line. Also keep score from 5/6 up. Even Little League keeps score.
11. I don't think that zone defenses should be allowed below the 5th and 6th grade level. Kids need to learn man-to-man defense first.

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21. How can we improve the jamboree next year?

1. More tents with more cold drinks
2. Schedule was a little tight getting from game to game.
3. I like the end of season Jamboree, but it is SO HOT. I would like a mid season Jamboree just so that it would be cooler.

My kids LOVED the fact that both sides of the field were lined for the crease!!

4. The volunteer thing could use more organization. A spreadsheet with specific times to sign up for. The parents who arrive early should have the opportunity to sign up for the time they want. First come first serve. That would enable them to pick a time when their child is not playing.
5. Equally competitive last year
6. Having water available would be great.
7. Teams that sign up should be certain they have enough players.
8. Large sign at the entrance to the parking lot at the head of the foot path. A drink vendor somewhere in the middle of the area instead of only at one end.
9. 50x75 fields or whatever they used this year was a complete joke. Whether they are approved by US Lacrosse or not, there was plenty of room to stretch these fields out. Also, any team not bringing a goalie to the jamboree should be banned for life (okay at least suspended from the jamboree for a year).
10. Kids love tee shirts!
11. Consistent Referees
12. Make sure that any teams that commit to play, show up.
13. We had a lot of fun. Just a bit more time at halftime to switch goalies would help.
14. Earlier communication as parents start to plan summer activities and there a lot of competing graduations and dance recitals at this time of year.
15. Field size for U-11 needs to be appropriate.
16. Friday night is a great idea.
17. I know it is difficult but keeping all games on fields within site of each other would be helpful.
18. I think the jamboree is very well run but I like the idea of a mid season jamboree, because of the nice weather in June - we usually lose a lot of girls that go on vacation, if the Jamboree could be sometime in Early May -that would be ideal-Friday and Saturday nights is also an excellent idea- although finding a site with enough fields with lights would be hard.
19. more parking
20. More consistent umpires
21. Move it back to Fessenden School.
22. Better food and bathrooms.
We had a great time though!!!!
23. More vendors would make it even better.
24. How about a beginning of season jamboree –

22. We had 6 teams on a wait list for the 2008-2009 jamboree. Do you know of a larger site that can accommodate 11 to 12 fields? If yes, where?

1. Possibly Sudbury fields.
2. Other suggestions

How about having 2 jamborees? 1 in the western 1/2 of the state and another closer to Bridgewater?? I know that this is more work and more volunteers. The 3/4 Jamboree could fit on 2 or 3 regular fields, ie any high school

3. Groton School in Groton
4. Devens possibly - they host huge soccer tournaments
5. Any chance of taking over the Lancaster MA soccer fields?
6. Ft. Deven's where the boys play
7. Fort Devens. Why this ever split from the boys a few years back was disappointing. The programs would love to go as a full group instead of boys going one spot and girls another. Builds a great sense of sport spirit having all of your players, girls and boys at one single event. I believe there is more space than what the boys use currently at Devens which could be used.
8. Fort Devens--though Maple League soccer may have that booked.
9. Fessandan & Devens.

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24. How many 8th graders play on your town's 7/8 team(s)?

1. 30
2. 6
3. 20
4. 25
5. 21
6. 20
7. 15
8. 20
9. 15
10. 6
11. 30
12. 18
13. 29
14. 6
15. 35
16. 18
17. 8
18. 54
19. 9

20.18
21.15
22.6
23.35
24.17
25.15
26.13
27.25
28.13
29.29
30.44
31.12
32.12
33.18
34.18
35.28
36.20
37.7
38.15
39.15
40.3
41.16
42.27
43.35
44.5
45.36
46.28
47.66
48.12
49.8

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32. What else would you like MBGLL to offer?

1. I earlier wrote about having top level coaches and refs visit practices. I think this could be very useful and productive.
2. information about club level leagues in our area
information about off season games/ opportunities
3. first aid
4. not sure
5. Help in establishing Massachusetts Youth Field Hockey League
6. A select type of team where the girls all play in the regular league. Then, the select girls also have a game.

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34. Other Comments/Suggestions?

1. The Youth Festival Page does not apply to me.
2. As many games as possible. If the teams are short players on any particular game day then they simply do their best.
3. Free ref training for high school players
4. I have just resigned as Director of N/Sboro Girls Lax, which is why I am not volunteering to help the league with any positions or youth festival. I will no longer be coaching or helping with youth lax.
5. Thank you for all you do for our youth girl lacrosse players!!! I know how much time you put in!!
6. We had issues this year with referees and some teams deciding the distance was too far to send 1/2 level teams, thus leaving our teams high and dry from time to time. This is very discouraging for the players, the coaches and the families. I think it is imperative that once a team commits to having a 1/2 program they live up- to their end of the bargain.
7. We think you have a big job and do it very well.
Thank you for all the hard work.
8. I am not able to volunteer more for next season, as I coach too. When time permits, I will gladly participate more fully.
9. Try and preset makeup games for a night time where a coach can go online and request it. Due to so many washouts 2 years ago it would have been easy to reschedule f we knew what nights for our town were available to sign up for a makeup game.
10. You all do a fabulous job and I can't thank you enough. I know how much time goes into making the program a success
11. MBGLL is doing a great job!!!! Thank you for everything.