

Burnsville and Apple Valley Youth Lacrosse families,

The Apple Valley Athletic Association Community Lacrosse (VAA LAX) and Burnsville Athletic Club Youth Lacrosse (BAC LAX) are excited to announce a co-op agreement for the 2019 Spring-Summer Lacrosse Season!

The Co-op teams will be known as the **Firehawks**, which is a combination of the Blaze and Eagles mascots. Youth hockey co-op teams from Burnsville and Apple Valley began using the Firehawks name in 2017. We have been allowed to share this branding, which will strengthen our co-op community name across sports. All players will receive new Firehawks uniforms as part of registration this year.

As many of you are aware, both Burnsville and Apple Valley Youth Lacrosse Associations have been working hard to try to recruit more lacrosse players, but demographics and competition with more familiar sports and other activities make this a struggle. Joining together as a co-op offers us more geographic range to draw players from as well as more opportunities for recruitment and player development which will benefit both programs.

We have looked at projected numbers at each age level and expect the co-op will be able to bolster our younger age teams to full strength as well as offering two teams at the 12U and 14U level to offer the best fit for each player's skill level. More on team levels and numbers will be forthcoming as registration develops.

Most importantly, in recent discussions, we have found that our two associations share our core values and we feel our teams will blend well. We agree with the shared vision to grow the sport of lacrosse by teaching the game with an emphasis on fun, good sportsmanship and character development.

We are still working on many details as we plan for next season. We will share more information as registration approaches.

If you have any questions or concerns about the co-op, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Alissa Broesder, Burnsville Youth Lacrosse Commissioner

Kimi Lynn Coulson Apple Valley Youth Lacrosse Commissioner