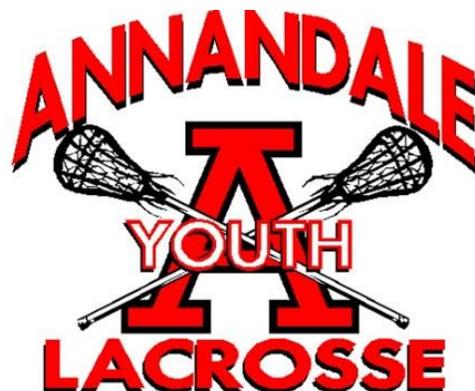


Annandale Youth Lacrosse Player Assessments and Team Structure

AYL's goal is to introduce the fundamentals of lacrosse to your son while building on those skills each and every year developing athleticism, a sense of comradery and teamwork plus a love of the game. While everyone loves to win – and we do too – we also love seeing our young athletes mature into healthy, happy and well-rounded teammates and lacrosse players. A vital part of this development is ensuring all players play at their correct age group and skill level.



Divisions

Boys divisions are based on the following US Lacrosse Youth Council (USLYC) age definitions:

Senior Division - Under 15 (U15)

Junior Division - Under 13 (U13)

Lightning Division - Under 11 (U11)

Bantam Division - Under 9 (U9)

* Ages shall be determined as of August 31, 2014 for the Spring 2015 season.

NO PLAY UP POLICY - A child shall only register and play in his correct age division for Boys U-11, U-13, and U-15. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This ensures we field the best possible team(s) in each NVYLL age or grade division. At the U9 level, Commissioners will consider advancement for players who have played 2 years at the U9 half-field level.

Skills Levels

AYL competes in the NVYLL, which breaks down each age division by skills levels. Boys teams are divided into A, UB (Upper B), and LB (Lower B) levels at the U-15, U-13 and U-11 divisions.

A - Advanced - generally players with three or more years playing experience and can demonstrate appropriate mastery of skills to play at this level. A level play is highly competitive and is for the highly motivated players. A team may practice 3 times a week and players are expected to commit to all practices and games.

UB - Intermediate - generally players with two or more years of playing experience and can demonstrate appropriate mastery of skills to play at this level. UB level play is still very competitive and is for the very motivated and for players committed to practices and games. UB level teams often have wide range of player skill level (e.g. Advance to Beginner), depending on the enrollment of players in a given year for a particular age group.

LB - Intermediate to Beginner - generally players with a year or less of playing experience or whom basic skill level is still developing. LB level play is still competitive and players are expected to commit to practices and games.

Player Assessments

AYL does not hold Tryouts. Every registered player will play. The purpose of player assessments is to match your player's skill level to the correct team (A, UB, or LB) so that they can be successful and have fun. AYL has developed age appropriate skill sets for player development that are used to assess player skill ability. During the assessment your son will be evaluated by a mix of AYL coaches (not just from your age division) on:

- (1) Fundamental skills (scoop, throw, cradle, shoot, dodge, and combination of skills),
- (2) Offense and defense development,
- (3) Transition skills and game tactics,
- (4) Game knowledge and safety.

Our experience is that parents and assessments don't always mix. Since we want to create a practice atmosphere for our players, it's often very distracting for them when parents are watching (too intently or loudly) from the sidelines. Some clubs close their assessments to parents for just this reason. While AYL isn't going to kick parents out (this year) we do ask that, if you feel the need to stay, you remain silent as observers only. This isn't a game and we don't need cheerleaders or extra coaches. Parents who insist on engaging with players from the sidelines during drills will be asked to leave. Dropping your players off for assessments (as you do for practices) is the preferred approach.

Keep in mind that not all players have the skill to play at A and UB level. This is why AYL and NVYLL have worked hard to provide opportunities for players to develop at their appropriate level, so that they can be successful and enjoy the game. Remember:

- How many years a player has played is not the deciding factor in assessments. What matters is their skills level compared with their peers and age group.
- Playing on an A team the previous season does not guarantee placement on the A team next year. In fact, it is more common for players who are transitioning to a new age division to play B their first season competing with older, bigger and more experienced players.
- Ultimately, we ask parents to please respect the assessment coaches' decisions. They truly have your child's best interest at heart. Experience has shown, players thrive when properly placed and too often parents are more worried about "not making the A team" than the players themselves.

Lastly, AYL does not always field teams at all A, UB, or LB levels. NVYLL has guidelines that we must follow. In the event that AYL fields two teams at a single level, we must fill team rosters as "balanced teams", meaning we can not stack one team with more talent or experience than another.