

We are getting to the time of year where we begin to look ahead to the Spring lacrosse season. We can all agree that 2020 was a bust and we need to move on. To help us get started on returning to play in the Spring and prior to the NCJLA Delegates Meeting on September 26, I'd like to bring you up to date on what the NCJLA Board and staff have developed for next season and ask you to think about what the future should look like for your club and our league. Overall, our plan is to organize a safe 2021 season that helps you build a better 2022.

2021 will be a challenge due to health and safety concerns related to COVID 19.

- See our website for information on what you may need to submit to local or school jurisdictions in order to obtain permits for fields. Keep in mind that the high schools will start their sport seasons in December and using their fields through June. Other club sports will be competing for any available field times.
- Your families may be suffering financial constraints due to the shutdowns. NCJLA will have additional financial aid for your club and your families. These programs are developing, and the money will be available to you sooner. We will send you information once it is finalized and will have a separate presentation about everything that is available on September 24. I can't urge you enough to take advantage of these programs.
- The cost of producing a regular season with jamborees and playoffs has increased substantially. The 2021 season is designed to help you field A and B level teams at a reasonable cost. High School and A level teams should plan to play a regular season against their usual opponents followed by playoffs. B level teams should expect to play games against local or regional clubs through the end of May. There will not be any End of Season Jamborees or Tournaments for the B teams. Given all the COVID related restrictions, they're just too expensive.
- Pre-season Play Days and Referee Training events will not be centralized. Instead, NCJLA will work with your club and the officials organizations to assist in bringing coaches education and officials training directly to your club. This is a developing program and more information will be available later in the Fall.

Looking ahead to 2022, the NCJLA Board and staff are committed to using our resources to help you succeed in our return to a full and normal season. As we look ahead, please put some thought to the following:

- We may need to help our member clubs who may not be able to field any teams in 2021. I would like you to consider suspending the rules that punish teams who can not field teams in 2021.
- The NCJLA is your league. We were established in the 80's to help build lacrosse in Northern California and establish both boys and girls lacrosse as CIF recognized sports. Well... we've done that, and it is possible that the NCJLA, in its current form, needs to modify its current structure. I believe the league may better serve its members by creating autonomous conferences with their own leadership that operate under the umbrella of the NCJLA. To that end, the Board is beginning to look at a Commissioner structure that is regionally based. As Delegates, you decide the shape of the league and how member clubs interact with one another. Please think about how we might use 2021 to form a better and more efficient league structure for 2022.

Thanks for taking the time to read through all of this. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Laura or me.

Respectfully,

Steve Walker

President

NCJLA

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