Dear Parents:

WFYL will be changing the format of our fall season for our boys program this year.  We are very excited about how these changes will benefit our program.

**Highlights – Read below for ALL the fun details for each age group!**

WFYL is excited to try something new for the fall of 2017.  These changes make our offering similar to the fall offerings at several other successful programs in our area.

* We will not participate in Newtown League play this fall.
* We will work with professional coaches to develop our players and coaches through practices,  special events, and activities focused on FUN development of skills and lacrosse knowledge.
* We will have regular practices, as normal, in addition to a series of new, structured events on the weekends of 9/9, 9/16, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21 and 10/28.  These events will include a combination of game play, clinics and jamborees.

**JOIN US on Monday to ask questions and learn more about our plans**

* Midway Park Community Building
* 7-8:30 – Open house format.  Stop for a few minutes to ask questions and learn more!

**WFYL's Goal**

Our mission is to “Grow the Game of Lacrosse”!  In order to support that mission, we’re focusing our fall season on player/coach development and FUN.  We’re going to worry less about winning games and more about instilling a love for the game in all our boys.

**What’s driving the changes?**

The introduction of the September school break compressed the fall lacrosse season.  There are only 6 possible weekends for games, resulting in multiple weekends with double header games in order to fit in all the games scheduled by Newtown.  We are left with less time for player development, less time for coach development, too many overlapping events for parents with multiple children, and player burn out.



**We will have 6 weekends of structured events (green boxes above)**

Our 6 weekend events will be structured to include a balance of games and player development – all with a focus on having fun with the game of lacrosse.  We will be finalizing plans in the coming weeks and have already secured some exciting opportunities.  We will be including a combination of the following - all included in the registration fees, which will remain the same as last season:

* Internal 7:7 games - This format is used by both Lambert and South Forsyth in the fall season.  The advantages are a much faster game with more touches, playing time and room for instruction.
* Clinics run by college coaches.  We are very pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Georgia Tech clinic!  Coach Ken Lovic, Head Coach of Georgia Institute of Technology Lacrosse, will host a clinic EXCLUSIVELY for our WFYL players.  We are working on securing a second college (or professional organization) to host a clinic.  These clinics will be included in the fall season registration fees.
* Jamboree -   We are organizing a jamboree that will be held in conjunction with WFHS where we will play in a jamboree format against other teams from other programs.
* Possible games against other programs.  In additional to the above, we will work with other local programs to coordinate games if schedules and field space allow.

**Middle School Boys Details**

**Our middle school boys will be coached by WFHS Head Coach John Laden and WFHS Assistant Coach Devin Laden.**  Our WFYL coaches will be integral to the program and will serve as assistants to John and Devin, while themselves benefiting from an unprecedented opportunity to work directly with these coaches using their program.  This training and exposure is an extraordinary value for our organization.

The player development focus will be:

* Individual skill development for offense - Dodging, shooting, feeding, etc.
* Individual skill development for defense - Agilities, approach, stick skills, slide and recovery.
* Small group offensive and defensive skills. 2 v 2, 3 v 3, 4 v 4.
* Offensive and Defensive transitional work. 3 v 2, 4 v 3, 5 v 4.
* Riding and Clearing Drills and technique
* Faceoff concepts with wing play
* Goalie technique in cage and clearing and riding game

The coach development focus will be:

* Teaching the WFYL coaches new skills
* Preparing the WFYL coaches to carry on these concepts in future seasons to help create a seamless transition from youth league to high school lacrosse for our players.

What to expect:

* 2 Practices a week with Coach Laden and our WFYL coaching staff
* 6 structured weekend events

**2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Details**

**Our elementary school boys will be coached by our WFYL coaches with Coach Mike Hannon leading a new curriculum that focuses on proper development of fundamental skills.** Coach Hannon brings a wealth of knowledge and fundamental skills which our WFYL players and coaches need to learn.  This is an extraordinary opportunity for our players and coaches to work with Coach Hannon and will lay the foundation that allows us to develop our players.

The player development focus will be:

* Proposer throwing and catching techniques
* Proper shooting techniques
* Proper dodging techniques
* Proper individual defense techniques

While some of these items may seem “basic”, our coaches have shared the following feedback:

* "I could spend a whole season just teaching proper shooting technique"
* "Due to pressure to win games, I can't spend time to adequately teach some of  these skills, I need to get ready to play games"

Proper fundamental skill development will make the game safer and more fun for all our players.

The coach development focus will be:

* Teaching the WFYL coaches new skills
* Preparing the WFYL coaches to carryon these concepts for years to come

What to expect:

* 2 Practices a week with Coach Hannon and our WFYL coaching staff
* 6 structured weekend events

**Little Shooters & 1st Grade Details**

WFYL has been supporting Little Shooters since the Fall of 2012 and we have had great success with this program  Our U7 team will not participate in weekly games, as they did in the spring, but there will be opportunities for game play through organized weekend events along with the rest of our boys program.

What to expect:

* 1-2 Practices a week
* Controlled scrimmages against other programs

**Other opportunities coming in addition to our exciting Fall program**

*Youth Camp*

We and Us Lacrosse will offer a youth camp prior to the start of our season. Look for more details to come!  The fee for this optional camp will be $150 and registration will be done through the weanduslacrosse.com website.

Details – August 14-17 at Sawnee Mt Park – U9-U11 5:30-7:00 and U13-U15 7:00-8:30

*Semi Private Small Group Instruction*

We and Us Lacrosse will offer optional small group/semi-private instruction this fall for our players who want additional instruction.  Look for further details on this NEW program!  For $185 your son will receive (8) 90 minute sessions with John Laden and Devin Laden with no more than 12 other participants.  These sessions will be scheduled around Fall practices.