

Thank you for registering your son for the Penguin's Lacrosse program. It is the intent of the coaches to provide the best experience possible for your son this spring, with our focus towards skill improvement, competitive games and fun. In order to accomplish those goals, the placement of each player on a team that is reflective of their lacrosse and athletic skill set is very important. At this point, our enrollment levels will permit us to field the below teams for our spring IBLA season:

- Mini – 2 teams
- Junior – 1 Black Team and 1 Red team
- Minor - 1 Black Team and 1 Red Team (If numbers permit, 2 Red Teams)
- Major - 1 Black Team, 1 Blue Team and 1 Red Team

The difference between the teams are:

**Black** - Competitive lacrosse at the highest level offered in the Chicagoland area. This team is comprised of boys with experience that are committed to lacrosse as their primary sport during the spring. Attendance at practices and games are mandatory. In addition to the spring IBLA season, the Black team will also participate in season tournaments (additional cost). Field time for the players is based upon game situation and there is a high level of emphasis placed on team success.

**Blue** – Competitive lacrosse based upon the skill level of the team. The team placement in the IBLA will be against other town's better players, when they don't field a Black team. Attendance at practices and games are highly encouraged, for both the skill level development of the player, as well as his commitment to the rest of the team. The focus of the Blue team is more towards player skill improvement. Field time for the players during games will be more equitable than the Black team. This is the ideal team for boys that have other spring sport commitments and are looking for more of a casual experience.

**Red** – The focus on the Red team is the development of lacrosse skills and I.Q. The team placement in the IBLA will be against other town's newer players. Attendance at practices and games are highly encouraged, for both the skill level development of the player, as well as his commitment to the rest of the team. The focus of the Red team is player skill improvement. Field time for the players

during games will be more equitable than the Black and Blue team, however commitment at practices will drive playing time. This is the ideal team for boys that have other spring sport commitments and are looking for more of a casual experience.

### **Placement Process**

In order to ensure that your son's experience is geared towards your expectations, as well as for the success of both teams, we provide a placement process in order to match your son to the team that fits him best. This process is based upon two things,

- (1) Which team meets your son's availability and desire.
- (2) His skill set and position flexibility.

The skill set evaluation process has begun, with coaching observations at practices, clinics and tournaments over the past month, but we know that not every boy has been evaluated. If your son wants to play on the Black team, it is important that his intent be known and he must be at our practices at Falcon Park. Team selection will be communicated to you on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Practice Time**

Once the team selection process has concluded, both the Black, Blue and Red teams will practice twice per week. During March, practices will be on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, to be held indoors at Falcon Park. Once the season begins in April, practices will be outdoors on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with the site to be determined. We will look for opportunities for teams to practice together, but that cannot be guaranteed. There may be additional outdoor practices scheduled during the last two weeks in March and the first two weeks in April. IBLA league games, for both teams, can be scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, at various times during the day, but due to Referee availability, the majority of the games will be played on Sundays.

**Any questions can be brought at practices or email to [coaches@penguinslax.com](mailto:coaches@penguinslax.com)**