

Dear 5th Grade Lacrosse Players,

I get a lot of questions from our 5th graders from year to year because 5th grade is where spring lacrosse takes a big step forward.

As 5th graders you are moving up to what is called "Youth" lacrosse from "Bantam" and there are a lot of changes which I will list below:

Paid Coaches: The biggest difference is you are now being coached by paid coaches, many of whom are on the Jesuit lacrosse staff. Please read this excerpt below from the website: [At the 5th-8th grade levels, the Deuces employ highly qualified lacrosse coaches with plenty of lacrosse experience and coaching knowledge. Many of our coaches are also Jesuit Lacrosse coaches. The Deuces are taught the same fundamentals and team lacrosse philosophies that the Jesuit players are taught, therefore making it easier on the Deuces players once they reach the high school level.](#)

Practices: We may be able to begin our practices earlier than we usually have this year because of the new fields. We are honestly entering new territory after 17 years of doing things one way. This is what I usually say here but please bare with me this season as we learn the new ropes of the new fields and how they will get scheduled....All of your practices are at Jesuit now and are usually directly after the Jesuit Lacrosse practices. Practice schedules are released in 2 phases. We release a practice schedule in late January that takes you up to spring break and then another one after spring break. We usually practice 2x per week unless there are alot of Jesuit game conflicts in any given week with their spring sports. Please take a look at last year's practice schedule attached as a reference for 2023. I will not be able to give out the practice schedule this year until around the third week of January.

Team Formation: This is a big change too. We no longer divide by school at 5th-8th grade. At the 5/6 and 7/8 level we have 2 teams each at D1 and D2. Typically D2 players are in 5th grade and D1 players are in 6th grade for that age level. If you open the attached practice schedule, we do have an evaluation at the first few practices to determine what team you are on. Last year we only had a few 5th graders play on D1 and it was positionally as needed. At 5th grade and up you play 10 v 10 lacrosse, which is a change from 7 v 7 with a goalie.

Playoffs: There are playoffs at 5th-8th grade for all D1 and D2 teams. There is a D3 level where there are no playoffs.

Games: Because there are playoffs for 5th-8th grade, each team is placed in a pool so there are mandatory games we have to play based upon our pools each season meaning if games get canceled they need to be made up to be seeded for playoffs. I have attached last season's D2

game schedule so you can take a look at it for reference (Counter Games were highlighted in yellow). We play all of our home games for 5th-8th on the Jesuit Turf. We plan on an 8 game season with at least 1 playoff game but as you can see from the attached schedule, I usually try to schedule more games.

Parent Help: We still use Team Managers at the 5th-8th level for communication purposes because our coaches coach multiple teams during a season. Parent help is also used at the scorers table (potentially that will not be the case this season).

Swing Players: I don't want to confuse you too much on this but we have swing players at 5th-8th meaning you can sometimes be rostered on 2 teams (D1 and D2). The swing players can change from game to game and don't have to be set. There are other rules surrounding the swing player that we have to abide by as well.

Aside from all of the above, Jesuit is very excited as always to have us out on the field.

I hope this helps you understand the big differences from what you are used to in the spring lacrosse world.

Regards,

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