

On Friday June 19th, the MN Department of Health (MDH) issued new [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#).

- The new guidance now allows for groups of up to 25, inclusive of coaches, volunteers, support persons for practices (with social distancing).
- In addition, the guidance allows for games and scrimmages, as long as the total number of participants for both teams combined does not exceed 25, inclusive of coaches, volunteers, referees.

After reviewing the new MDH guidance, Edina Lacrosse Association is modifying and extending practices to include up to 25 participants (including coaches) with social distancing. This is a nice win for players and coaches as it will allow us to add in more drills and training variety.

We will also be adding in intra-team and between-ELA-team scrimmages in alignment with the MDH guidance. Again, this will be another nice win for players and coaches to allow players to get game experiences to enhance their overall training and learning this summer. Just like practices, no spectators will be allowed per MDH guidance. Game play format will be modified due to the 25-participant limit and to include options to reduce extended closeness on the game field.

- As it currently stands, there are no league-sanctioned games planned by the governing bodies of our regional youth lacrosse leagues (MSLAX for girls, YLM for boys). Those decisions were made before the MDH released its new youth sports guidance. However, it is the intention of ELA that, where possible, we will do our best effort to organize informal scrimmages with neighboring community associations and clubs after we do our own internal scrimmages for a couple of weeks. We are reaching out to neighboring communities and clubs to determine who would be interested.

Edina Lacrosse Association is excited to have the opportunity to enhance our players' time on the field to include scrimmages and more interactive practices. The coaches will take care to continue to adhere to social distancing policies. Our guiding principle has been to follow the guidelines from governing authorities. As a result, our Social Distancing Policy, which you acknowledged prior to the June field season, has been revised to include the new MDH Guidelines referenced above. Please review the updated [Social Distancing Policy](#) to review all current elements of ELA return to play and social distancing (changes are noted in red). We will continue to revise the policy to reflect state and local guidance changes and notify you when changes occur. The link to the updated Social Distancing Policy has been added to our website.

An Evolving Journey

Our Board of fellow parent volunteers is striving to communicate effectively and with transparency to families in these ever-changing and uncertain times. We have committed extensive time to keep lacrosse going. We firmly believe that the sport of lacrosse gives so much to players with ongoing skill development, physical fitness, group engagement and sense of community.

While as an organization we are applying the guidelines from governing authorities, we understand that families may be more, or less comfortable than those governing guidelines allow. Our goal has been to make lacrosse available to our participants, in accordance with those guidelines, in the most effective manner possible. To be transparent and in alignment with

past communication, we wanted to share that some of the costs of running lacrosse this year are higher (higher coach-to-player ratio with smaller pods initially, time for sanitizing of equipment, purchasing extra equipment for sanitizing). In addition, our uniforms were a pre-pandemic sunk cost, and once June started, we were assessed the annual City of Edina Park & Rec per player fees. At the conclusion of the season (anticipated to conclude at the end of July 2020), the costs of the season will be fully assessed, and applicable refunds will be issued based on final expense analysis.

In summary:

- MDH allows an increase to 25 people per pod - inclusive of coaches.
- Scrimmages are now allowed with a total of 25 in attendance (no spectators as that would exceed the 25 person rule).
- Review the [updated social distancing policy/return to play policy](#).
- End of season expenses will be assessed upon conclusion of the of season (end of July), and applicable refund amounts will be issued at that time.
- Please communicate any concerns or questions to us at edinayouthlacrosse@gmail.com.

Best to you all,
Edina Lacrosse Association Board