

Illinois Not Ready To Add Lacrosse (yet), Ohio Looking At Adding In The Future



By Dave Schmidt April 16, 2015 10:58 AM



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As Lacrosse continues to grow around the US, Illinois continues to consider it as an Illinois High School Association (IHSA) sanctioned sport, but for now will wait for the right time.

In a recent Kane County Chronicle article Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) Matt Troha says:

“We really didn't do anything with it this year,” he said. “Just with so many other things going on, it wasn't something our board was considering adding.”

“The disconnect still lies in that some programs, they're sort of loosely associated with the school and not quite run like the other programs are.”

In August 2013, the IHSA Board of Directors approved state series in boys and girls lacrosse for the spring of 2013-14, but only if at least 65 boys teams AND at least 40 girls teams have officially entered the respective tournaments. If either one of these thresholds is not met, neither tournament will be held.

The IHSA Board of Directors met on December 16, 2013, where the Board heard an update on entries into the Boys and Girls Lacrosse State Series. The entry numbers were met for Girls Lacrosse with 43 schools entering, but the Boys Lacrosse entry number was 55 (10 below the required number). The Board said it required both to reach the benchmark in order for the State Series to begin.

A statement at that time by IHSA Executive Director Marty Hickman:

“We remain confident that lacrosse will become a sanctioned IHSA sport in the near future.”

Currently Illinois High School Lacrosse teams are under the guidance of the **Illinois High School Lacrosse Association**, until the sport becomes IHSA sanctioned.

The **Rockford Lacrosse Club** currently fields teams at all ages including High School.

According to the website

“We are partnering with the YMCA and Rockford Park District to utilize fields in and around Rockford

However; none of the teams are presently associated with any of the local high schools at this time.



2015 Rockford Razorback Lacrosse Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Results
Sat	4/4	Arlington	Carlson Ice Arena Field	1:00 pm	W 9-7
Sat	4/11	New Trier	Hales Franciscan	4:00 pm	L 12-2
Sun	4/19	Dubuque	Carlson Ice Arena Field	11:00 am	
Sun	4/19	Kenosha	Carlson Ice Arena Field	2:00 pm	
Sat	4/25	Dunlap - JV	Sportscore II	11:00 am	
Sat	4/25	Dunlap	Sportscore II	12:00 pm	
Sat	4/25	Antioch	Sportscore II	3:00 pm	
Mon	4/27	at Woodstock Marian	Woodstock	5:30 pm	
Mon	4/27	at Woodstock Marian - JV	Woodstock		following
Sat	5/2	at Antioch	Antioch	10:30 am	
Sat	5/9	at Dubuque	Dubuque	TBD	
Sun	5/10	Glenbard	Carlson Ice Arena Field	TBD	
Sat	5/16	Washington IL Tournament	Washington IL	TBD	
Sun	5/17	Washington IL Tournament	Washington IL	TBD	
Thu	5/21	at Arlington	Hersey High Schol	7:00 pm	

In 2010 the Belvidere Alpines were formed as a coed/combined team of players from both Belvidere and Belvidere North and played a 17 game schedule. According to Belvidere North Athletic Director Jody Flynn, the coop team played last season, but is not active this year.

One thing the IHSA does do for lacrosse is to license officials for both boys and girls.

Related story: Is Lacrosse a Part of the Stateline Future?

Ohio seems to be on the same timeline as Illinois. Ohio High School Athletic Association officials said on April 8th that lacrosse could become a sanctioned sport as early as 2017.

Speaking at the luncheon with the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association, OHSAA Commissioner Dr. Dan Ross said boys and girls lacrosse has been recommended for the first time by the association's Emerging Sports Committee. The sport could be fully sanctioned by the 2017 spring season.

In order to be sanctioned by the OHSAA, a sport must have at least 150 participating schools. Ross said lacrosse currently has 145-to-147 participating schools. Participation numbers are highest from Cincinnati to Columbus and up through the Cleveland area.

“It would be spring of 2017. We'll have the numbers by then,” Ross said. “This is as close as we've ever been with lacrosse. This is the first time the Emerging Sports Committee has made a recommendation that it be adopted.”

“Girls participation might be a little less than boys right now,” Ross said, “but we're not going to adopt one without the other for Title IX purposes.”

Ohio lacrosse, including the boys and girls postseason tournaments, are currently governed by the Ohio High School Lacrosse Association, much like Illinois..