



PRIOR LAKE ATHLETICS FOR YOUTH

WINTER, 2012

NEWS FROM THE SIDELINES...

Our new seasonal newsletter covers all of the activities in PLAY and includes highlights year-round. Watch for updates throughout the year as we highlight important dates and share thoughts from the leadership of one of the top youth athletic organizations in Minnesota.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello all P.L.A.Yers

This is my last update for P.L.A.Y. as President. P.L.A.Y. is an amazing organization which is celebrating its 40th year in 2012. It's been really inspiring to see all the terrific volunteers that have worked so hard, and devoted so many hours to make it the organization it is. It seems as if every year of the my 4 years as President we have seen a terrific volunteer step down, only to see another steps in and the program continues to provide an fabulous place for kids to have fun, compete, learn and grow. And now is the time for me to step aside as well.

Four Years ago when I started as President we on the Executive Board began to look at the needs of the program. We noticed that many of the communities who we compete against had facilities that were really an asset to their organizations communities. Thus we looked at our "wish" list and if somehow we could build a Facility that could provide year round training for our summer sports and extra court space, a field house, most of our needs would be met. Thus PLAYfest began to serve both as night for us to gather as a community to have fun and let loose a bit, and to raise money for what could be. Fast forward three years the City of Savage approves the Savage Dome project to go forward.

Now this was not just P.L.A.Y vision, but our friends at the Burnsville Athletic Club BAC and of course the leadership of the Mayor and Council Members, and City Manager of the City of Savage. It is a great lesson for what is possible when many people come together and work for a common goal.

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President's Corner (continued from page 1)

We will be meeting with our sports boards to more precisely assess P.L.A.Y.'s commitment in time and money. Savage is looking for each organization to sign a letter of commitment to determine final go ahead with the project. Because of our vision, planning and monies raised from past and future PLAYfests, we should be able to make our commitment, and thus extend our offering, without a drastic increase in our fees. In addition Chris Rooney our out going VP and myself will stay on with our Big Vision Committee and see the project through as well as assess the possible of other opportunities.

P.L.A.Y. has also had a terrific partnership with the City of Prior Lake, the Townships of Spring Lake and Credit River and of course our Schools. Currently Prior Lake is spearheading a cooperative effort of all neighbor communities to address our growing need for green space. There have been many examples of our communities coming together to serve our kids, I can't begin to list them all. But it has been a joy to see so many working to make our community better through youth athletics

Thus my final parting words will be to ask you all to get involved. You will definitely get many rewards in return

Thanks
Mark Peller
President (for a little while longer) P.L.A.Y

40 YEARS OF PLAY!

2012 marks the 40th anniversary of Prior Lake Athletics for Youth. After 40 years, PLAY is now one of the largest independent youth multi-sport organizations in the state and still growing! Look for announcements throughout 2012 as we update our logo and recognize the generations of volunteers that have built a tradition of youth sports in Prior Lake.

POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE

PLAY has recently partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) to help us provide a high- quality experience to every athlete, and to provide the support and tools for our coaches to encourage their athletes to perform at their very best. The PCA is a non-profit organization founded on the concept of Positive Coaching, a philosophy that has gained nationwide attention from top athletes, professional and collegiate coaches, and other leaders in the youth sports community.



To instill the Positive Coaching philosophy into the PLAY culture, our sports



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have started to include PCA speakers, literature, and principles into the agendas for our parent and coaching meetings, our signage and website, and eventually into uniforms and other materials where it makes sense. Look for the tagline, "Honor the Game" to start appearing wherever you see the PLAY logo.

While the focus of Positive Coaching is on the athlete's experience, it also emphasizes the competitive nature of sports and how successful athletes balance the competitive goals of an athlete with the life lessons and values of being a well-rounded player and teammate.

As we roll out Positive Coaching in our organization, PCA training will start to become mandatory for our coaches that participate in traveling sports. This training is already required and made available by some sports and PLAY will also be supporting those efforts by sponsoring training opportunities for our volunteer coaches throughout the year. Watch for more information throughout the year as these opportunities become available.

PLAY has created a Positive Coaching page on the website, visit www.playinfo.org and click on Positive Coaching on the left-side of the page. For more information about the Positive Coaching Alliance, visit www.positivecoach.org

REGISTRATION FEES

As part of PLAY's annual budgeting, many PLAY sports will see changes to the fees charged when registering for sports. While no one wants to pay fees, our volunteer-led organization continues to keep participation costs at or below the level of organizations elsewhere in our area. As always, if you have any questions about the fees associated with any sport, please contact the sport Director or VP.

Here's a summary of the changes for 2012.



Dine and Discount Cards

The Dine and Discount program was implemented as a fundraiser in 2010 to cover increased costs to PLAY resulting from cuts in city services that affected our programs. Based on member feedback, this program has been cancelled and will no longer appear on new sport registrations for 2012.

Registration Fees

Registration fees cover the costs of operating a sport, including equipment and various other in-season expenses. These expenses vary from sport to sport, but for example might include costs for the use of sports facilities, tournament registration fees, uniform maintenance, repair, and replacement costs, and end-of-season awards.



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Administration Fees

Administration fees cover the non-sport administrative costs of running one of the largest non-profit youth athletic organizations in Minnesota. These expenses include salary expenses for the Administrative Director, and expenses associated to the website, legal counsel, tax filings, and other general expenses.

Facilities Fees

Facilities fees are intended to address the costs associated with facility maintenance that PLAY is required to fund. These expenses include labor and materials for mowing, striping, grading, and equipment maintenance and have varied over recent years due to fluctuations in city budgets and the level of maintenance needed for the facilities we use.

Other Fees

Many of our sports have other in-sport fees or deposits to cover uniforms and equipment or to encourage volunteer participation.

YOUTH SPORT SAFETY

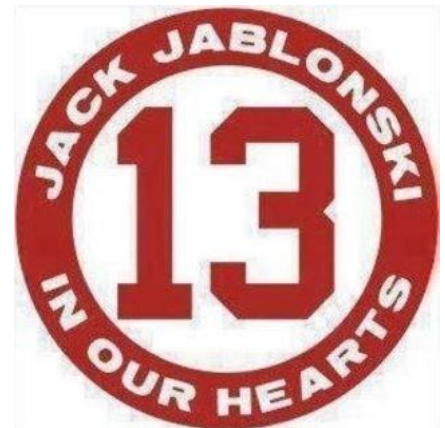
The recent news about Jack Jablonski, a local youth hockey player who suffered a paralyzing spinal cord injury during a hockey game is a powerful reminder of injury risks both large and small for our youth athletes.

In 2011, a new Minnesota state law required mandatory concussion training for all coaches involved in organized youth sports and the focus on safety is only expected to increase in the years ahead.

PLAY is committed to the safety of our youth athletes at every level and in every sport. Whether at a practice or in a competitive traveling game, it's everyone's responsibility to watch out for unsafe play or hazardous conditions. If you see anything, from spilled water on the basketball court to an unsafe player, please report the situation to a coach or official immediately.

The Benilde St. Margarets girls hockey team is selling wristbands for Jack. 100% of the profits will go directly to Jack. The link to order the wristbands for "Jabby" is wristbandsforjabby@gmail.com You can place an order by emailing. They will let you know how much your order will be (\$2 per wristband) and a timeframe and place to pick up your order.

Thank you for supporting Jack and keep him in your prayers. Jack needs a miracle.



COMMUNITY CORNER

PLAY is fortunate to be a part of a rich and active community in Prior Lake and Savage. Here are some highlights we wanted to share with the families of PLAY.

SAVAGE ATHLETIC DOME

Great news for all of our families that participate in field sports! On December 19th, the Savage City Council voted to continue moving forward with architectural plans, specifications, and bid documents for a proposed indoor sports facility planned for Community Park that could open as early as October 15, 2012.



This facility provides an incredible opportunity to extend PLAY programs and activities outside of our short summer months and provides additional relief to the space crunch facing all of our field sports. While this project is being led and funded by the City of Savage, the support of community members and planned commitments from PLAY and other local athletic associations have been critical to the project moving forward. In the words of PLAY President Mark Peller, "If it's in the community, it will be used."

Look for more information on this project in local papers over the weeks ahead as plans and commitments are finalized.

PLAY ANNUAL MEETING

The PLAY annual meeting is scheduled for January 22nd from 6-9 p.m. in the Prior Lake High School Lecture Hall and all are welcome to attend. The annual meeting agenda includes announcements from President of PLAY and other members of the Executive Board as well as the formal election of Executive Board positions for 2012.



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REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Registrations open January 10 for most Spring/Summer sports! Registrations close on the following dates:

- Spring Lacrosse 2/15
- Summer Lacrosse 4/9
- Traveling Baseball 2/13
- In-House Baseball 3/19
- Track 3/26

Check the page for any sport throughout the year for the latest information.

DID YOU KNOW???

Have a question about how to do something on the PLAY website? Check the Sports NGIN support site for help with frequently asked questions.

<http://support.ngin.com>

Still stuck or not sure where to start? Send an email to vptechnology@playinfo.org

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit www.playinfo.org for more details

January

- 10 – Registration opens for Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, and Track
- 22 – PLAY Annual Meeting 6-9pm PLHS

February

- 4-6 – In-House Basketball Tournaments
- 13 – Travelling Baseball Registration Closes
- 15 – Spring Lacrosse Registration Closes
- 18-19 – Boys Traveling Basketball Prior Lake Tournament

March

- All Summer Registrations Closed
- 19 – In-house Baseball Registration Closes (incl. In-House Plus and Traveling 15s)
- 26 – Track Registration Closes
- Traveling Baseball/Softball tryouts

April

- 9 – Summer Lacrosse Registration Closes
- Track, In-House Baseball/Softball Begins

May

- Fall/Winter Sport Dates Announced

June

- In-house & Traveling Softball Tournaments
- Traveling Baseball Tournaments

July

- Prior Lake Lacrosse Tournament
- In-house Baseball Tournament

August

- Fall Sports Begin

September

- **PLAYFest**

October

- Football Tournaments
- Traveling Basketball Begins
- Girls Traveling Basketball Tournament

November

- In-House Basketball Begins

December

- Happy Holidays!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Like what you see? Have questions or suggestions for future newsletters? This newsletter is produced by volunteers and your input is always welcome. Please send an email with any comments, questions, or suggestions to newsletter@playinfo.org, we would love to hear from you!

For more information about PLAY and its various programs, please visit www.playinfo.org.