

As you all know Marquette University will be having a NCAA Division 1 lacrosse program start next year (2012-2013). This causes conflict with the current Marquette Club Lacrosse which is in the MCLA. The MCLA does not allow a school to have both NCAA team and an MCLA team. When not allowing an MCLA team and a NCAA team we refer to section 1.4 of the operating policy. However, section 1.4 does not hold this to be true. 1.4 goes as follows:

MCLA participation shall be open to all intercollegiate men's lacrosse teams that are recognized organizations at their academic institutions, but that do not compete in the NCAA. Each school may only have one team per institution.

Per this section, we submit the Marquette University Club lacrosse team is:

1. Recognized by Marquette University.
2. Not competing in the NCAA
3. The only organization at Marquette University competing in the MCLA.

We recognize that this may not be the intent of the way this was written. We believe that the MCLA objects to club teams with NCAA are due to fear of players moving either dropping down to club or creating a farm team for the NCAA program, thus creating an unfair level of competition. This is a valid concern and one that does need to be addressed.

Many of you know the past of Marquette Club lacrosse and the struggles we have had to go through. We reached rock bottom in 2009 going 0-12 for the season. Since then we have been building from the ground up. In 2010 we went 5-10, in 2011 5-8, and this year 9-5, ending 4-1 in conference. This has all been the result of blood, sweat, and tears. That was without any NCAA players, coaches, or favors. We have been constructing this team on a foundation of integrity, hard work, and respect. Through our own ability we have accomplished this success. By the addition of a D1 player(s) would be us admitting defeat and thinking that by our own effort we cannot win. As dignified and self-respecting individuals we would not find it acceptable in any way to compromise our foundation.

In order to insure my word Marquette would re-write our by-laws certifying that throughout the season we will take eligibility checks; guaranteeing 100% that there is not a single player on our team that is/has been on the Marquette University Lacrosse NCAA roster. If it were to occur that there was a player we would forfeit the rest of the season and expulsion from the MCLA.

Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States spanning coast to coast. Last year Michigan went through the same process that Marquette is going through now. As lacrosse continues to grow so will the trend of schools adding an NCAA program, whether its division 1, 2, or 3. Well Marquette is one of the first to face this issue; we will surely not be the last. As teams like Marquette and Michigan are thrown to the curb not only will it be hard to satisfy section 1.3 in the operating policy, but the level of competition will decrease as well. We all want to lacrosse to grow and become a mainstream sport in the United States. We can either adapt to the current environment which we see the sport flourishing, or we can keep our current course of direction and see quality club teams leaving the MCLA and deter current and future generations from playing the game which we all have come to love.