



Shoreline Youth Lacrosse Program Director's Statement:

We are aware that the Edmonds Eagles Lacrosse Program is having a youth player registration crisis at the outset of the 2020 spring lacrosse season. This is directly impacting the families at the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade level. While we empathize with the Edmond's families, unfortunately, Shoreline Youth Lacrosse cannot accept any Edmonds player registration for this season.

There are two primary reasons behind this position:

1. Edmonds Eagles operates in the North Sound Youth Lacrosse (NSYL) which provides a mechanism for member clubs to coordinate support for this circumstance. Edmonds Eagles Lacrosse and Mukilteo Lacrosse Club have reached an agreement within the framework of NSYL that provides the Edmond's families a temporary home for the 2020 season.
2. Shoreline Youth Lacrosse operates as an independent club playing under the rules and stipulations of the Greater Eastside Lacrosse League (GELL) guest program, which includes a schedule provided by GELL and a clear set of by-laws that we must follow. GELL rules prevent member programs from rostering players outside of their approved catchment area. Any exception to this rule would require intervention by the GELL board *in conjunction* with the NSYL board, which we have been informed, will not happen in this instance.

As you may know, the Shoreline community has recently been through a crisis similar to what Edmonds Eagles now face, so we are deeply sympathetic to the uncertainty and stress that the circumstance places on the players, their families and the club leadership. In 2017 the existing LFP/Shoreline club dissolved and no youth teams were fielded that spring, this created a diaspora of players through the metro area. The following season the club reformed under new leadership, however there existed no mechanism within the larger community and our league, at the time, to help usher those families back to our program and the effects of that systemic flaw are still ongoing. However, Edmonds Eagles and NSYL do have a mechanism in place and we must do what we can to support their efforts.

Shoreline Lacrosse now operates as a vertical program wherein Shoreline players and families are given every opportunity to grow the sport of lacrosse for the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. I was hired last year as the Program Director and high school varsity head coach primarily to help the families here rebuild their program in Shoreline and help institute the vertical philosophy that will sustain the program going forward. We are committed to this vertical program model, but we are also sensitive to the needs of our neighbors. We are happy to join forces for summer tournaments and clinics as well as partner again in the fall with free clinics, fall games, events and tournaments with Edmonds families and players.

I have personally reached out to both the Edmonds and Mukilteo Lacrosse programs and will continue to do so over the spring to assist with setting a course of action that will help all three programs recruit new players and grow stronger within the lacrosse community. We hope that the Edmonds families can rally behind their program and see it through this crisis.

Best of luck this season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Valenzuela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Valenzuela" clearly distinguishable.

Walter Valenzuela  
Program Director, Varsity Head Coach  
Shoreline Lacrosse