



Montana High School Lacrosse Association



To all MHSLA programs and families:

On September 22nd the MHSLA Board of Directors voted to approve the creation of Division 1 and Division 2 for both the boys and girls replacing the current model of Varsity and JV. This model creates a “small-sided” 8v8 option for programs that have fluctuating registration numbers who may not be able to field a full-size 10v10 boys or 12v12 girls team, have enough registration numbers to field 1 very large team but not enough for 2 teams, or a new program looking to join the league but don’t have large numbers.

This change allows programs much greater flexibility with regards to being able to field a team while also spurring more growth at the lower levels. By promoting growth at the lower D2 level it will become more competitive allowing players an opportunity to develop their skills further. With both divisions recognized as competitive divisions, with the size of rosters being the major determining factor, both divisions will have a State Championship and players eligible for All-State consideration.

Teams that were a Varsity team would register as a Division 1 team and be played as 10v10 or 12v12 unless your program requests to move down to Division 2. JV teams would now be a Division 2 team and would play 8v8 with the option to play 10v10 or 12v12 whenever possible.

We encourage anyone with questions to reach out to their respective programs.

Sincerely,

MHSLA Board of Directors



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Table of changes

Varsity/JV	Division 1/Division 2
Both levels played 10v10/12v12	Division 1 will be played 10v10/12v12. Division 2 will be played 8v8 unless both teams have numbers to play a normal amount of players
Varsity only had a state championship	Both Divisions will have a State Championship
Seniors were allowed to play on JV	Seniors may play in Division 2. If the program has a D1 and D2 program, the program must notify the league of seniors playing on a D2 team prior to the first game.
Varsity teams may play JV teams	D1 and D2 teams may play each other. The game would be played 8v8 unless the D2 team has a large enough roster to play 10v10 or 12v12
Players may move between Varsity and JV Varsity and JV. Must play in 4 games prior to State Championship weekend to be eligible to play.	A player may move between D1 and D2 teams
	Players lose D2 eligibility if they play (on the scoresheet) 4 D1 games
	In order to be eligible for D1 or D2 State Championship Roster, they must play (on the scoresheet) 4 games at either division.
Programs are allowed 1 Varsity and multiple JV teams	Programs may have one D1 team and multiple D2 teams as necessary.
	D2 teams can be a conglomerate mix and feed multiple D1 school teams.
Current East and West Conference	Conferences removed
Varsity players only eligible for All-State awards	D1 and D2 players eligible for All-State Awards