



Q: Does my team have to be a new team, in its first year of operation, to be eligible for the First Stick Program?

A: No. Unlike the former Equipment Grant Program, teams do not have to be in their first year of operation to be eligible for The First Stick Program. US Lacrosse recognizes that although a team may have several seasons of competition on record, they may still face challenges and barriers to participation.

Q: Is my team ready for the First Stick Program?

A: To help you most efficiently identify if you are ready to apply for the program, you will first need to complete a “to do” checklist found [here](#). If you have completed, or are in the process of completing these milestones, you are ready for the First Stick Program!

If you are still working through the milestones listed above, please refer to the US Lacrosse New Start Program before applying to the First Stick Program. US Lacrosse New Start Program offers guidance and resources to help new teams get off to the right start...click [here](#) for more info on the New Start Program!

Q: Both the New Start Program and the First Stick Program highly suggest connecting with my local US Lacrosse Chapter as a critical part in starting and developing a lacrosse team. How do I find the Chapter in my area?

A: US Lacrosse is represented by 64 regional chapters located in 43 states throughout the United States. These chapters exist to support the growth of the sport. A percentage of every US Lacrosse member's membership dues are directed back to the regional chapter of their choice to help support local lacrosse initiatives. Local chapter representatives (board members and leadership) communicate directly with the national governing body, so we may better serve the lacrosse community. Connecting with your chapter is important so that you are up-to-date with what is happening in the lacrosse community and so that you have an influence on issues that directly influence your league. [Click here](#) to find out more about US Lacrosse Chapters.

Q: What does it mean to be a self-sustaining program?

A: Creating a self-sustaining lacrosse program requires a great deal of commitment and resources. A self-sustaining program is one that operates independently without receiving benefits and resources from the US Lacrosse First Stick Program or other programs and grants. The intent of the First Stick Program is to create teams that will ultimately be sustainable on their own and that will exhibit all of the national standards and best practices outlined by US Lacrosse.

Q: The First Stick Program focuses on team cultivation in nontraditional, developing lacrosse communities. How do I know if my community qualifies as nontraditional?

A: US Lacrosse defines a developing lacrosse area as an area in which lacrosse opportunities are currently limited or absent. A nontraditional area has a limited amount of lacrosse being played but displays strong enthusiasm for the sport and a willingness to learn and work with US Lacrosse to grow the game responsibly.

Q: What equipment do the boys' and girls' packages include?

A: Boys' Package – Includes sticks and protective gear (helmet, shoulder pads, arm pads and gloves) for 24 field players and 1 goalie (helmet, gloves, chest protector, goalie pants (opt) and goalie stick)

Girls' Package - Includes sticks and protective eyewear (goggles) for 24 field players and 1 goalie (helmet, gloves, chest protector, goalie pants and goalie stick)

Q: I have a boys' and a girls' team. Can I apply for the First Stick Program on behalf of both teams?

A: If you would like both a boys and a girls' team to be considered for the First Stick Program, a separate application must be completed and submitted for each team. US Lacrosse recognizes boys and girls lacrosse as two different games. In order to compare applications fairly, girls' team applications will be reviewed against other girls' team applications and same for the boys' team applications.

US Lacrosse also recognizes that some of the questions on the application may have the same answer for both gender teams within the same organization. However, it is expected that each question will be answered specifically for the team listed on the application.

Please contact the Sport Development Department at sportdevelopment@uslacrosse.org or 410-235-6882 x150 if you have questions about submitting an application for both genders.

Q: Is demonstrated financial need the only factor that will be considered when reviewing applications?

A: Teams in which current participant and outside financial contributions cannot fully cover associated start-up costs demonstrate financial need. Financial need is just one of the factors that will be considered when reviewing applications for the First Stick Program. US Lacrosse will evaluate applications based on the following criteria in addition to financial need:

- Are participants are at the youth level (U19)?
- Does the team focus on increasing and expanding participation in the sport of lacrosse in their area?
- Has a foundation for success and sustainability been established prior to applying?
- Does the application include the required letters of recommendation in support of their team?
- Does the overall quality of the program reflect a commitment to increasing and expanding youth participation in lacrosse?
- Is the application complete and accurate and submitted prior to the July 1 deadline?

Q: What is the deadline for applying to the First Stick Program?

A: Applications must be submitted via email to sportdevelopment@uslacrosse.org by the close of business on July 1, 2012. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

Confirmation that your application has been received will be sent via email to the contact person listed on the application; therefore please provide a reliable email address that is checked often.

Q: When will I find out if my team has been selected for the First Stick Program?

A: Your team will be notified of its status upon completion of the review process. Notification will be sent via email to all applicants on August 15th. Please note, application to the program does not guarantee acceptance.

Q: When will I receive my equipment if my team is selected for the First Stick Program?

A: Awarded teams must return a signed program agreement and completed sizing sheet before equipment can be ordered for their team. Program agreements and sizing sheets will be sent along with the notification letters to awarded teams. Equipment orders will be placed upon receiving these documents and will be shipped no later than November 31, 2012.