



# TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, including back up information, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20**

**days prior to the requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

## MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: 8/31/20

Date of Meeting: 9/24/20

Submitted by: John Calabro

Time Required: 30 minutes

Department: MYA President

Background Info. Supplied: Yes  No

Speakers:

## CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public Hearing:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

## TITLE OF ITEM

**MYA Discussion of Out-of-Town Participation**

## DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

MYA Discussion regarding the use of Out-of-Town Participants to help programs thrive

## REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:
Other:	N/A:

## EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: John Calabro

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ast.net

## APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes  No

Chair/Vice Chair: Yes  No

Hold for Meeting Date:



# Merrimack Youth Association

Non-Resident Participation Proposal 2020/2021

9/10/20

## Purpose

Use non-resident participation for the benefit of Merrimack participants by allowing for more effective team roster makeup, which will enhance the overall experience of the Merrimack participant by creating a more age/grade appropriate level of play to support a safe, fun, and properly competitive environment.



# Current Concerns

- **Safety of Kids**
  - When teams operate with too limited a roster, it puts players at risk of injury, due to them having to play at the wrong size/strength level and/or maturity level, or by having to play for too long a time with no rest/recovery. All programs have minimum play time rules, so everyone plays, but some players can not continuously go longer than that without risk to their well being
- **No Fun for Kids**
  - When Merrimack players are forced to play at the wrong size/strength level and/or maturity level, they get discouraged, and are not having fun, which is what MYA is about. MYA strives to provide an opportunity for all children of Merrimack to participate in sports, based on their desire to play, and not their ability

# Current Concerns

- **Improper Competitive Environment**
  - **Future continuity of MYA programs are at risk**, because without proper competition, some Merrimack youth will not want to play due to frustration and/or lack of progression, which will force a program to fold, leaving kids who do want to play without an opportunity. By building the MYA programs, it allows more opportunity for getting qualified volunteers for coaching, mentoring, fundraising, etc., which further benefits the youth of Merrimack, and the community of our town as a whole
  - **Middle School and High School Sports will suffer**, because with a lack of MYA programs as a pre-training opportunity, it will affect our MS and HS teams' ability to be competitive



# Request

Allow non-resident players to participate in MYA programs, on an "as needed" basis.

Trial of 1 year for Football/Cheer, Lacrosse, Wrestling (Travel Programs).

## Solution Logistics

- Select non-resident players on a “First Come, First Served” basis, using a “Waitlist” methodology, and only AFTER Merrimack registration is complete
  - Leave a few roster spots available for Merrimack “Late Registration”
  - Accept non-resident players from local towns that does not offer a specific program for the age and/or grade group needed
  - No “hand selecting” or “stacking” a team for competitive advantage
- Charge a non-resident fee of \$50/player, to subsidize their use of Merrimack fields and facilities
  - Same fee charged for current Parks&Rec activities (i.e., Camp Naticook)



# Solution Logistics

- MYA Executive Board to provide oversight/approval to programs
  - Monitor each program's use of non-resident players, ensuring that it is solely and directly for the benefit of Merrimack residents
  - Maintain that no more than 1/3 of a program's roster is made up of non-resident players
  - Collect non-resident fee funds from each program, and use them for the greater good of Merrimack Youth Association (i.e., lower registration costs, improved facilities, lower town grant request)



# Program Detail (Football)

## Current Season Numbers

(16) 2nd,3rd,4th Gr Youth League (so need 7 out-of-town, 30% of roster)

(28) 5th,6th Gr Junior League 2 teams (so need 18 out-of-town, 39% of roster)

(33) 7th,8th Gr Senior League 2 teams (so need 13 out-of-town, 28% of roster)

5 teams \* 23 players/team = 115 players needed (120 max)

leave 1 spot open per team for a "Merrimack Late signup" (up until rosters are due)

need 38 max out-of-town players (33% of rosters)

- Offered to boys and girls, all skill levels, from kindergarten through grade 8
- Affiliated with [American Youth Football](#) and The [North East Junior High League](#). Both leagues have minimum playing time rules
- Typically field 3 Tackle teams (want 5), dependent on # of registrants in each age group
- An ideal team would have 20-24 players. Any less, and the athletes are playing without enough breaks
- In the past 6 years, have never had enough players to field a team at every age, causing us to make younger/smaller players to play up 1 or even 2 divisions
- Children that have to play up creates unsafe matchups due to maturity and physical differences
- Football athletes in Merrimack have decreased by 38% since 2017
- Being able to subsidize Merrimack teams with players from other local towns, who do not offer a football program at a desired age level (Amherst, Nashua, Hollis, Milford, Wilton), on an as-needed basis, will help fill our teams so Merrimack athletes are not put into an unsafe situation, and will create more revenue for the program to help defray costs from Merrimack residents

# Program Detail (Cheer)

We have 37 girls, 22 on D12 and 15 on D8. So we only have enough for 2 teams right now. Normally we field 3 teams but would like to be competitive and field all 5.

We have had girls who would like to cheer for us that have reached out from other towns.

Since there are no competitions this season, we could take more at any age, and they could do the sideline cheers for us, and make an extra team of 12s. Right now we have two teams cheering for 5 tackle football games. If we could get to 3 cheer teams that would be great.

I added Lyndsay to the email, she can answer any other cheer questions better than I can.

- Offered to boys and girls, all skill levels, from kindergarten through grade 8. (Tiny's, D8, D10, D12, D14)
- Typically field 3 cheer teams per season. Affiliated with [AYC](#)
- An ideal team would have 12-16 athletes, with a max of 20 for D10 and under and 30 for D12 & D14
- Competing Clubs in and out of town results in a loss of Merrimack residents for Cardinals Cheer teams. As a result the teams have to be formed from kids with a large age gap
- By having to merge teams, there is a large maturity difference between the athletes (i.e., 9 yr olds playing with 13 yr olds), which causes discouragement among younger kids (not enough experience) and frustration among older kids (skills being held back), as well as unhealthy non-age appropriate topics of conversation
- There is child and parent frustration, because they feel they are not getting the best experience from the program, so they leave the program, even if they really want to participate in the sport
- Allowing the out-of-town kids to participate in Merrimack would be a huge benefit to the organization. It would create a safer environment, and keep Merrimack kids active and interested in the sport (because they are having fun). It would also allow them to build friendships across town lines, enhancing a better sense of community



# Program Detail (Lacrosse)

- This program is offered to boys and girls, all skill levels, from kindergarten through grade 8.
- We are affiliated with [US Lacrosse](#) and New Hampshire Youth Lacrosse Association (NHYLEA), using the [NHYLEA bylaws](#) to govern play against other towns in New Hampshire.
- We typically field 10 travel teams each spring, dependent on # of registrants in each age group (8U, 10U, 12U and 14U).
- An ideal short-field team would have 12-15 players, and a full-field team would have 18-21 players.
- Occasionally we don't have enough to field a team, causing us to ask younger/smaller players to play up a division.
- More often we have too many players for one team, but not enough for a second team in the same age group. This results in very little playing time, our number one complaint.
- Being able to subsidize from other local towns, who do not offer a youth lacrosse program (Mason, Milford (Girls), Manchester (Boys), New Boston, and Wilton), on an as-needed basis, would be a win-win situation.

# Program Detail (Lacrosse) – Cont.

Year	Players	Girls	8UG	10UG	12UG	14UG	Boys	8UB	10UB	12UB	14UB
2020	158	78	17	18	22	21	80	12	16	38	14
2019	150	82	14	19	25	24	68	9	13	28	18
2018	173	80	16	22	19	23	93	12	25	17	39
2017	186	83	16	23	19	25	103	14	24	24	41

## 2019 Situations:

- 8UB (9 Players) - Required 10U Boys to assist, meaning 8U Boys forced to play up in an older division
- 12UG (25 Players) - Stayed with 1 team, meaning far less playing time each, our biggest complaint
- 12UB (28 Players) - Created 2 Teams, meaning players took turns playing for both teams every weekend, a scheduling nightmare for families (games held in different parts of the state at similar times)

For example, in 2019 we could have welcomed:

- 3-6 non-resident 8U Boys to field a team in their own age division
- 5-10 non-resident 12U Girls to create a second team in their age division to ensure adequate playing time
- 2-7 non-resident 12U Boys to create a true second team so families didn't have to juggle both teams



## Program Detail (Wrestling)

- Operates as a single “team”, though all competition is done individually.
- Wrestling is a one-on-one competition sport
- No league affiliation
- Past 5 year history: average annual roster typically 40-50. However, there is high turnover (40-50%) on a year-over-year basis due to lack of practice partners and ability to progress as a result
- Ideal number of wrestlers to provide appropriate practice partners: 75
- Towns we would pull from: Amherst, Milford, and others that do not have a youth wrestling program