

Orphan Placement Policy

This policy outlines procedures for placing youth and high school lacrosse players who do not have access to a team within their community or school, referred to as "orphans."

Youth Players

Youth players are considered orphans if they:

- (a) Lack a team in their geographical or municipal community.
- (b) Do not have a school team (where they attend school or a youth sport affiliated school) to join.

Orphans will be assigned to a team within a geographical or municipal community based on the following criteria:

1. **Proximity:** Mileage distance* from the player's residence in relation to receiving** team's practice facilities.
2. **Team Viability:** Teams in need of additional players to remain competitive will be prioritized.
3. **Approval:** The governing Board of Directors of the receiving geographical or municipal community must consent to the placement. Such consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Placement decisions will be made by GBYLA Operations and its Board of Directors and are final. The specific team within the assigned community will be determined by that community in accordance with its team-selection principles and GBYLA draft policy.

Once placed, youth orphans will remain with their assigned program until the completion of 8th grade, with two exceptions:

1. If their geographical/municipal community or school establishes a team for their age group, player is required to join that team.
2. If the physical address of the orphan residence changes (proof of residency required).

In either case, once a player switches programs, they cannot return to their orphan program/team.

Once an orphan player reaches 9th grade (high school level play) and the orphan's high school does not have a team, orphan policy regarding this player resets, meaning orphan placement will be reviewed and assigned as per high school orphan rules.

Registration Deadline: To be considered for orphan placement, players must register with GBYLA by **December 31**.

Skipping a Season: If a player skips a season, they will return to their original orphan assignment upon re-registration unless their original team is no longer viable. In such cases, the regular orphan placement rules will apply.

*Determined by Google Maps

**Receiving team/community program reserves the right to 'waive off' orphans who align via proximity to their programs. This could be due to several reasons including, but not limited to, player numbers.

High School Players

High school players who do not attend a school with a lacrosse team are considered orphans. These players will be assigned to a high school team based on the following criteria:

1. **Community Affiliation:** Players within a youth program that feeds multiple high schools may choose to stay with a high school program that serves as a feeder for their youth community program.
4. **Proximity:** Mileage distance* from the player's residence in relation to receiving** team's physical location of high school.
2. **Team Viability:** Priority will be given to teams needing additional players for competitive viability.
3. **Approval:** The governing Board of Directors of the receiving high school program must consent to the placement. Such consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Once placed, high school orphans will remain with their assigned program until high school graduation with one (1) exception:

1. The orphan's high school establishes a team, in which case the orphan is required to play for their school team. If player is enrolled in grade 11 or grade 12, player has a choice to stay with their current team or join their school team.

Once a player switches teams, they cannot return to their previous orphan team.

Registration Deadline: High school orphans must register with GBYLA by **December 31** to be considered for placement.

Skipping a Season: If a player skips a season, they will return to their original orphan assignment upon re-registration unless their original team is no longer viable. In such cases, the regular orphan placement rules will apply.

*Determined by Google Maps

**Receiving team/community program reserves the right to 'waive off' orphans who align via proximity to their programs. This could be due to several reasons including, but not limited to, player numbers.

The GBYLA Operations and Board of Directors have final authority on all orphan placements.