City League Final Report – 2026

2026 City League began on with 11 teams across 5 divisions of U7, U9, U11, U13, & U15. We also ran a U5 Peanut division.

City League grew by an amazing 70% this year. For the first time since 2015(?) we had teams in every division, although other than U7 with 3, there were only two teams in each division. The players and coaches did not seem to mind!

U5 – Peanut: 44 registered, an increase of 21 registrants over last year. However, there were about 30 regular attendees on any given week and Championship Day saw about half the kids. Overall, another successful year with a lot of smiles. I'm still amazed that a 3 & 4 year olds were running, scooping, and shooting with such proficiency!

U7 – Paperweight: we had 21 U7 players in 2025, this year we had 38 players! North Ridges was the team to beat this year – they finished first in their division and won the Championship over East End. Thank you to our U7 convenor Billie-Marie Hunter and coaches Kyle Lindsay, Joe Ferguson, & Jeff Pigott for a great season!

U9 – Tyke: 2026 saw the U9 registration doubled, 23 players this year as opposed to 10 in 2025. This meant that we could have 2 viable teams. The rationale for this was to allow the U9 players, mostly minors, to develop with kids their own age. Unfortunately, we had a very good player depart the league midway through the season and the resulting roster changes left this division unbalanced. In the end North Ridges coached by Tyler Stephens won the Championship. Two important things to note: 4 U9 girls players, including goalie Lucy, were on the Lakeview roster coached by Joey Maderia. This allowed us to have two exhibition games between the U9 All-Stars and the "911" Girls team made up of girls in the U9 & U11 divisions. The U9 All-Stars won the first game, but the second game ended in a very exciting, end-to-end, last minute tie.

U11 – Novice: 20 U11 players this year, 2 more than last year. However, we did make viable teams, even though we played some 4v4 and players certainly got their exercise in!

The regular season was back and forth with the West Side coming out on top with a couple more wins. However, the Championship Final was amazing with both teams playing shorthanded. The game was decided in overtime! And the decision was to leave the score as a tie and all players received a gold-medal for their effort. A big thanks to coaches Sarah Jeynes, Jake Powless & Rob Insley for keeping this division on the rails!

U13 – Peewee: With the influx of the OBK U13-2 players to this division, we went from 8 players in 2025 to 23 this year. East End was the team to beat, winning the division, but a surprising and spirited effort from West Side got the win in the Championship Final. A big thanks to all the parents who helped make this a fun learning experience for the players and thanks to coaches Jake Powless and James Low!

U15/17 – Bantam: As with the U13 division, the OBK U15-2 players joined City League and more than doubled the registration from last year, 28-11 respectively. Coach Jack Quinn's Lakeview team dominated the regular season, even though some games were close. However, in the Championship Final, North Ridges was game to pull out a convincing win. Thank you to convenor Steffano Cortellucci and coaches Jack and Jake Powless.

LacrosseShift Live Scoring: City League used the online scoring system from LacrosseShift this year. After a few hiccups, the system worked perfectly. Essentially Live Scoring allows the games to be scored using an online form and a tablet. Scorekeepers found the interface as easy – or even easier – than Gamesheet. With online scoring patrons could access the game score live as the game was played. For a small monthly fee for the league, only when the system is in use, Live Scoring is a viable option going forward.

Referee Issues: As in previous years City League had to pivot in situations where referees were not available for games. In some cases, games were changed to War-on-the-Floor stye and some games were cancelled. Some games were reffed by one referee, Jake Powless, and the Peewee & Bantam finals were reffed by Sue Finnen and Todd Powless. Despite full schedules in advance and repeated requests to our RIC, the situation devolved to the point where remediation outside the club was necessary.

For City League to be a viable sector, referees are essential. Failure to secure referees can result in loss of income & prestige for the club and frankly, it's embarrassing. No other youth sport would tolerate this. I recommend that this issue is brought to the Zone and, once again, back to the OLA for the development of a community referee position.

Championship Day Issues: the date for Championship Day is known well ahead of time. In fact, the date is known before the season begins. Despite this, Rep teams were scheduled for tournaments on Championship Day leaving the U13 & U15 divisions to play on the Thursday, and the remaining teams on the Saturday. In addition, since families tend to play, siblings of Rep players away in tournaments affected overall attendance at finals games. The club should develop a policy whereby Rep teams are not scheduled on Championship Day and even include Rep out-of-Zone exhibition games to take place during the City League finals to showcase the Blue Knights.

Yours in Lacrosse

Todd Powless,

VP Recreational Lacrosse